

## Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L

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**Subject:** Bruder reply to November 15 2022 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request  
**Attachments:** Emails for Deckard FOIA 11.15 - Deckard Search Redacted ITEM 1.pdf; Emails for Deckard FOIA - Deckard Search Redacted ITEM 4.pdf

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**From:** Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2023 10:48 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Cartledge, Wendy B <Wendy.Cartledge@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Rowland, Gillian C <Gillian.Rowland@beaufort.k12.sc.us>  
**Subject:** Bruder reply to November 15 2022 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request

Dear Ms. Deckard,

We have asked repeatedly that you please provide the specific search terms that you would like the district's IT department to use for your FOIA request in order that we can provide you with the appropriate information you are requesting. In an average month, the district sends and receives almost 2.9 million emails. Thus, broad combinations of search terms frequently pull emails unrelated to the requestor's intended search. The more explicit the request is, the more accurate the results will be. The IT department cannot attempt to narrow down the searches as to not unintentionally eliminate any emails that you as the requestor may want. For example, a list of terms should be in an "AND" or "OR" statement, but can also include both terms. AND/OR statements should also be included in the request for email addresses and dates requested. For example, if more terms are listed in an "OR" statement, then more emails will be retrieved. And by contrast, the more terms in an "AND" statement, the more the search will limit results. We hope this explanation from our IT department will assist you if you want to further modify your request.

Please see the below information regarding each of your itemized requests dated November 15, 2022:

1. Any/all emails, either to/from/between, any BCSD employee, and/or Board Member, as it pertains to [my] written challenge/appeal of the 97 Book Removal submitted to the District November 1, 2022;

In response to item #1 in your FOIA request, the IT department as ran a specific search with your name OR email AND BCSD employees OR Board members. As a result of this search, two different last names came up for you, Deckard and Baracco. Please let us know which name or names are the correct terms to be searched and if there are any other names that we should have searched for to complete your request. The result of this search is attached; however, please note that we ran this search to the best of our ability without specific search terms from you. Thus, the possibility exists that some emails may not have resulted from this search which are still pertinent to your request. Again, please provide us the exact search terms you would like us to use to mitigate this possibility and the IT department will run an additional search. We want to provide you all of the information you have requested.

2. Copies of the Agendas for the October 18, 26 and November 1, 2022 Executive Sessions;

Information responsive to item #2 of your FOIA request was provided on November. 29, 2022.

**3. Copies of all emails to/from/between the following individuals, and/or groups, as it pertains to the subject of challenged school library materials, from August 15, 2022 – today:**

**Any/all School Board Members, Dr. Frank Rodriguez, any BCSD employee(s), Elisabeth Ivey Szalai, Joseph Castagnino, and any member of any group, including, but not limited to, “Moms for Liberty”;**

In response to item #3 in your FOIA request, the IT department ran a search for Dr. Rodriguez’s email address OR Board members’ email addresses AND the three email addresses we are aware of for Mr. Castagnino and Ms. Szalai, along with the terms “challenge” OR “ban” OR “bans” OR “book” OR “books” OR “library” for the requested dates. This search returned a total of 156 emails. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-30(B), the BCSD estimates search, retrieval, and redaction, if necessary, of documents to respond to your request will require approximately 2 hours, for an estimated cost of \$89.92 (plus 6 cents per copy if printed). Costs may increase or decrease. A 25% deposit of the total reasonably anticipated cost is required before work will begin on your request. Please make all checks out to the Beaufort County School District and send to my attention. Please note that we ran this search to the best of our ability without specific search terms from you. Thus, the possibility exists that some emails may not have resulted from this search which are still pertinent to your request. Again, please provide us the exact search terms you would like us to use to mitigate this possibility. If you know of more individuals who may be a “member of any group” as you request, we can run another search as well, but we need specific names and/or emails from you to do so. To reiterate, please provide further specificity as to “any member of any group” as we are unable to make assumptions in our search terms.

**4. Any/all documents and/or emails, to/from/between Dr. Frank Rodriguez, and/or any BCSD employee(s), and/or any School Board Member, as it pertains to any changes or proposed changes to the BCSD policy and procedure below, from June 1, 2022 – today:**

**Procedures for Handling Questioned or Challenged School Library Materials,**

In response to item #4 of your FOIA request, our IT department ran a specific search for IS-38.1 OR procedures for handling questioned or challenged library materials AND BCSD employees OR Board members. Please see the attached document as a result of this search. Again, please note that we ran this search to the best of our ability without specific search terms from you. Thus, the possibility exists that some emails may not have resulted from this search which are still pertinent to your request. To reiterate, please provide us the exact search terms you would like us to use to mitigate this possibility and the IT department will run an additional search. We want to provide you all of the information you have requested.

**5. Copy of the written criteria for the review of the 97 challenged books;**

Information responsive to #5 of your FOIA request was provided on November 29, 2022 and December 28, 2022.

**6. Copy of the projected cost of reviewing these 97 challenged books.**

We responded on November 29, 2022 that the district does not have any documents that are responsive to item #6 of your FOIA request.

We have redacted personal emails and cell phone numbers to protect the privacy of individuals. Please notify me if you have additional search terms for your FOIA request.

I see that you have copied two attorneys on your response. Perhaps Attorney Smith or Attorney Malkin can assist you and us in clarifying your request so that we may provide the appropriate information to you. Please let us know if you have legal representation in this matter. If you are being represented by legal counsel in this matter, the District's practice is that the communication and correspondence from that point forward is between the attorneys. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,  
Candace

Candace Bruder, Ed.D.  
Communications Officer  
Beaufort County School District  
843-322-2432 (office)  
843-941-9178 (cell)  
[candace.bruder@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:candace.bruder@beaufort.k12.sc.us)



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**From:** Mare Deckard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 9, 2023 3:19 PM  
**To:** Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <[Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Candace.Bruder-Brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Cc:** Cartledge, Wendy B <[Wendy.Cartledge@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Wendy.Cartledge@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>; Rowland, Gillian C <[Gillian.Rowland@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:Gillian.Rowland@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>; [taylor@harrisonfirm.com](mailto:taylor@harrisonfirm.com); [jmalkin@aclusc.org](mailto:jmalkin@aclusc.org)  
**Subject:** Fw: Bruder reply to November 15 2022 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request

**\*\* WARNING:** This email originated from outside of Beaufort County School District's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. \*\*

Dear Ms. Bruder,

I haven't yet received a reply to my email of December 29, 2022, thank you. Mare Deckard

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Mare Deckard <[maremail59@yahoo.com](mailto:maremail59@yahoo.com)>  
**To:** Bruder-Brasseur, Candace L <[candace.bruder-brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:candace.bruder-brasseur@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>  
**Cc:** Cartledge, Wendy B <[wendy.cartledge@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:wendy.cartledge@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>; Rowland, Gillian C <[gillian.rowland@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:gillian.rowland@beaufort.k12.sc.us)>; [taylor@harrisonfirm.com](mailto:taylor@harrisonfirm.com) <[taylor@harrisonfirm.com](mailto:taylor@harrisonfirm.com)>; [jmalkin@aclusc.org](mailto:jmalkin@aclusc.org) <[jmalkin@aclusc.org](mailto:jmalkin@aclusc.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 29, 2022 at 09:57:27 AM EST  
**Subject:** Re: Bruder reply to November 15 2022 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request

Dear Ms. Bruder,

Please see my reply to your email from yesterday, attached, and please confirm receipt. Thank you,  
Mare Deckard

