From: Bruder, Candace L
To: Ivie Szalai
Cc: Cartledge, Wendy B; Godley, Molly D; Cushingberry, Robyn L
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request Form
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 11:23:11 AM
Attachments: image003.png

Dear Ms. Szalai-

Request #1- We previously communicated that "There are no public documents responsive to your request," indicating that no such records exist. (You are however, welcome to review the Board policy documents you referenced which are publicly available online: https://boardpolicyonline.com/?b=beaufort.)
Request #3- The Board office does not maintain a compiled attendance log or tracking document which is why we communicated that "This information can be found in individual meeting minutes that are publicly available online: https://www.beaufortschools.net/about-us/board-of-ed/board-meetings." As previously communicated, you can view the meeting minutes that provide this information online. Members present can be found at the top of the meeting minutes that are easily accessible on the website page provided.
Regards,
Candace

Dr. Candace Bruder | Chief Communications Officer
Beaufort County School District | Beaufort, SC 29902
Office: 843-322-2432
Cell: 843-941-9178
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BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS

From: Ivie Szalai [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 9:52 AM
To: Bruder, Candace L <Candace.Bruder@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Cc: Cartledge, Wendy B <Wendy.Cartledge@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Godley, Molly D <Molly.Godley@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Subject: Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request Form

Thank you for your response to my February 19, 2026 request submitted pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. Please forgive this response for not being timely. I have been out of town for some town and am just now able to follow up

I would like to clarify Requests #1 and #3.

Request #1

Your response indicates that no public documents responsive to this request exist and suggests contacting the South Carolina Elections Commission.

To clarify, Request #1 did not seek election procedures administered by the Elections Commission. Rather, it sought any Board policies, governance manual provisions, administrative regulations, or other governance documents maintained by the District that address Board member eligibility or residency requirements, including continued eligibility to serve during a term of office.

Because the Beaufort County Board of Education operates under a Coherent Governance model, such provisions would typically be contained within the Coherent Governance Manual, Board Policy Manual, or similar governance documents maintained by the District.

If such provisions exist within those materials, please provide the relevant sections.

If the District maintains no policy, governance manual provision, or administrative guidance addressing Board member residency or continued eligibility for service, please confirm that no such records exist.

Request #3

Request #3 sought records sufficient to show all meetings that Board Member Chloe Gordon did not attend between February 18, 2025 and February 18, 2026, including the attendance status recorded for those meetings.

Your response directed me to the Board meeting minutes page on the District's website. While I appreciate the link, directing a requester to search through publicly posted materials does not satisfy a request under the South Carolina FOIA when the responsive records are identifiable and within the possession of the public body.

This request does not require the creation of a new record, and therefore S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-30(A)(2) does not apply. The request simply seeks the existing records that document board member attendance.

Accordingly, please provide either:

• Any records maintained by the District that track Board member attendance for the period February 18, 2025 through February 18, 2026; or

• The official meeting minutes for Board meetings during that timeframe that reflect attendance.

If the District does not maintain a compiled attendance log or tracking document, please confirm that no such record exists, in which case the meeting minutes themselves would constitute the responsive records.

If any portion of the requested records is withheld, please identify the specific statutory exemption relied upon as required by S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-30(c).

Thank you for your attention to this request. I look forward to receiving the responsive records.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ivie Szalai

Ivie Szalai

On Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 1:44 PM Bruder, Candace L <Candace.Bruder@beaufort.k12.sc.us> wrote:

> Dear Ms. Szalai,
>
> The district is in receipt of your February 19, 2026 FOIA request.
>
> Request #1- There are no public documents responsive to your request. You may wish to reach out to the SC Elections Commission.
>
> Request #2- Please see the publicly available information online in Policy GC-2 Governing Commitments.
>
> Request #3- This information can be found in individual meeting minutes that are publicly available online: https://www.beaufortschools.net/about-us/board-of-ed/board-meetings.
>
> As per SC Code Ann. Section 30-4-30 (A)(2),*"A public body is not required to create an electronic version of a public record when one does not exist to fulfill a records request."*
>
> Regards,
> Candace
>
> Dr. Candace Bruder | Chief Communications Officer
> Beaufort County School District | Beaufort, SC 29902
> Office: 843-322-2432

Cell: 843-941-9178
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BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS

From: Jotform <noreply@jotform.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 10:00 PM
To: Bruder, Candace L <candace.bruder@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Cartledge, Wendy B <wendy.cartledge@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Godley, Molly D <molly.godley@beaufort.k12.sc.us>; Middleton, Angela D <angela.middleton@beaufort.k12.sc.us>
Subject: Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request Form

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.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request Form

Name:	Elizabeth Szalai
Address:	[redacted]
Home Phone Number:	[redacted]
E-mail Address:	[redacted]
Are you requesting thisinformation for commercial solicitation?	No
Public Records Requested (Description of Documents or Information Requested):	Pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, I respectfully request access to and/or copies of the following public records in electronic format (PDF preferred): 1. Board Member Residency / Eligibility Policies

Please provide the current and any prior versions (including effective dates) of all Board policies, governance manual provisions, administrative regulations, or guidance documents that address:

• Board of Education member eligibility requirements, including residency/domicile requirements for election and for continued service in office (including district-based residency, if applicable);
• The effect of a board member relocating outside of the district they represent during their term;
• Procedures for declaring a vacancy, forfeiture of office, resignation requirements, or removal related to loss of residency or eligibility.

If these provisions are contained within the Coherent Governance Manual or Board Policy Manual, please provide the specific policy sections and policy numbers.
2. Board Member Attendance Policies
Please provide all policies, governance provisions, administrative regulations, or written standards that address:

• Board member attendance requirements;
• Definitions of excused vs. unexcused absences (if applicable);
• Any thresholds for excessive absences;
• Any procedures for addressing prolonged or repeated nonattendance, including whether absences may trigger review, vacancy declaration, or removal processes.

3. Attendance Records – Chloe Gordon (District 2)

For the 12-month period from February 18, 2025 through February 18, 2026, please provide records sufficient to show all meetings that Board Member Chloe Gordon (District 2) did not attend, including whether each absence was recorded as present, absent, excused, or unexcused (if tracked).

This request includes:
• Official minutes reflecting roll call/attendance for all regular, special, called, work session, and committee meetings where attendance is recorded;
• Any attendance logs, sign-in sheets, roll call sheets, or internal tracking documents used to document Board member attendance.

If compiling full minutes is unnecessarily duplicative, a summary list or spreadsheet reflecting meeting dates, meeting type, and Ms. Gordon's recorded attendance status for each meeting will satisfy this request, along with the source record relied upon.

This request is made in the interest of public transparency and governance accountability. Questions regarding attendance are relevant regardless of residency status.

Format / Fees
I request electronic delivery. If fees are anticipated, please provide an itemized written estimate consistent with SC FOIA, including identification of the employee classification used to calculate any hourly rate and confirmation that the rate does not

exceed that of the lowest-paid qualified employee capable of fulfilling the request.

Response Time
Please provide the written determination within the time required by SC FOIA for records less than 24 months old.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Ivie Szalai

You can edit this submission and view all your submissions easily.