February 1, 2010

Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
ATTN: ISBE Agents
Matt Vanover and Mark Wancket

RE: DENIAL OF FOIA REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Mr. Matt Vanover, Director of Public Information
and Mr. Mark Wancket FOIA Agent, ISBE,

Thank you for your response to my FOIA request dated 1.20.2010.
I received by U.S. Mail today from ISBE
February 1, 2010 the following response:

My request (2):
I am asking for the public details of how the 5% of the 1% set-aside for parental involvement and all of the expenditure information including the District 299 documentation indicating how parents of Title I students were included in the decision of how the 5% set-aside grant funds were allotted.

All information is in accordance with the terms of public law, Title I - Part A subpart one Section 1118 3. A.B. C.

Your response to number (2):
The source for this information would be the CPS budget - or you could contact CPS.

My request (3): I am also requesting the exact amount of money that District 299 was "fined" for school year 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 for allowing the Title I - Part A subpart one Section 1118 Parental Involvement funds derived from the terms of Section 3 Reservations A.B. C. funds to be used to pay the expenses and up front cost of "community residents" using the funds for their conference and training expenses.

As the funds were only to be expended for parents of District 299 Title I - ESEA students per the terms of Section 1118.

Your response (3):
We have no information responsive to this request. You should direct this request to CPS.
My request (4)
I would like a copy of the letter indicating that ISBE informed District 299 that they were in violation and the exact fee's they were fined for violating the terms of Title I - Part A subpart one Section 1118 and in closing, I would also like a copy of the last current AUDIT REPORT for District 299.

Your response (4)
We have no documents responsive to the first part of your request. You are provided a copy of the most current completed audit, which is for FY2006.

I respectfully state that under the terms of the FOIA of January 2010, referring me to CPS is quite baffling as I made a request for public information from the Illinois State Board of Education, if it is not readily accessible to you, under the terms of FOIA you would ask for additional time, to obtain the public information.

IF you are stating that no report exist, then I would understand, but your response indicates that you have no response is confusing. Under the reauthorization of the ESEA Act and the mandates of the NCLB Act, it states under Section 1118:

(h) REVIEW: The State educational agency shall review the local educational agency's parental involvement policies and practices to determine if the policies and practices meet the requirements of this section.

Your answers indicate that the District is not being reviewed or that they review themselves since you are indicating that you have no response.

Especially as it is all relative to the mandates of Section 1118 being complied with and then to add insult to injury you give me a 2006 AUDIT as the most current?

The District receiving a "fine" is public information and if the current AUDIT is from four years ago (4) and ISBE is stating they have no information on a "fine" that was issued to the school district, I am quite concerned.

I will proceed accordingly in the next venue to address your statements as a denial for public information.

Respectfully,
O’Kema Lewis

Chicago, Illinois