



Mike McGiles <mmcgiles@jsd117.org>

Fwd: FOIA Request - 1619 Project Curriculum

1 message

Steve Ptacek <sptacek@jsd117.org>
To: Mike McGiles <mmcgiles@jsd117.org>

Thu, Sep 16, 2021 at 12:20 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Vince Espi** <news@news.locallabs.com>
Date: Thu, Sep 16, 2021 at 11:56 AM
Subject: FOIA Request - 1619 Project Curriculum
To: <sptacek@jsd117.org>

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you on behalf of LocalLabs which is an online publication that reports on and informs the public about local government activities. If you are not the FOIA officer please forward it to the FOIA officer or reply to this email with the correct FOIA contact.

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting electronic records (preferably non-PDF such as CSV, Excel) of the following:

- A list of all materials in your district that fall under the 1619 project.

For reference, the 1619 project contains works with the following titles and authors: "America Wasn't a Democracy Until Black Americans Made It One", essay by Nikole Hannah-Jones

- "American Capitalism Is Brutal. You Can Trace That to the Plantation", essay by Matthew Desmond
- "How False Beliefs in Physical Racial Difference Still Live in Medicine Today", essay by Linda Villarosa
- "What the Reactionary Politics of 2019 Owe to the Politics of Slavery", essay by Jamelle Bouie
- "Why Is Everyone Always Stealing Black Music?", essay by Wesley Morris
- "How Segregation Caused Your Traffic Jam", essay by Kevin Kruse
- "Why Doesn't America Have Universal Healthcare? One Word: Race", essay by Jeneen Interlandi
- "Why American Prisons Owe Their Cruelty to Slavery", essay by Bryan Stevenson
- "The Barbaric History of Sugar in America", essay by Khalil Gibran Muhammad
- "How America's Vast Racial Wealth Gap Grew: By Plunder", essay by Trymaine Lee
- "Their Ancestors Were Enslaved by Law. Now They're Lawyers", photo essay by Djeneba Aduayom, with text from Nikole Hannah-Jones and Wadzanai Mhute
- "A New Literary Timeline of African-American History", a collection of original poems and stories
 - Clint Smith on the Middle Passage
 - Yusef Komunyakaa on Crispus Attucks
 - Eve L. Ewing on Phillis Wheatley
 - Reginald Dwayne Betts on the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793
 - Barry Jenkins on Gabriel's Rebellion
 - Jesmyn Ward on the Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves
 - Tyehimba Jess on Black Seminoles
 - Darryl Pinckney on the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863
 - ZZ Packer on the New Orleans massacre of 1866
 - Yaa Gyasi on the Tuskegee syphilis experiment
 - Jacqueline Woodson on Sgt. Isaac Woodard
 - Joshua Bennett on the Black Panther Party
 - Lynn Nottage on the birth of hip-hop
 - Kiese Laymon on the Rev. Jesse Jackson's "rainbow coalition" speech

- Clint Smith on the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina

- A list of all books written by authors Ibram X. Kendi (aka Henry Rogers) or Robin DiAngelo that are used in curriculum or libraries in your school district.

The purpose of the request is to access and disseminate information as a matter of public interest and is not for the principal purpose of personal or commercial benefit. I qualify as media under the definition in Section 2 (c-10) ("Commercial purpose"), Section 2 (f) ("News media"), Section 2 (g) ("Recurrent requester"), and Section 2 (h) ("Voluminous request") of the Freedom of Information Act, for the purposes of being exempt to the provisions of Section 3.1 (Requests for commercial purposes), Section 3.2 (Recurrent requesters), Section 3.6 (Voluminous requests), and Section 6 (Authority to charge fees). Therefore, I request you furnish any responsive documents and items without charge.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance. Please let me know if you have questions.

Vince Espi

LocalLabs



Mike McGiles <mmcgiles@jsd117.org>

JSD 117 FOIA request response

1 message

Mike McGiles <mmcgiles@jsd117.org>
To: news@news.locallabs.com

Thu, Sep 23, 2021 at 2:42 PM

Mr. Espi,

Attached please find Jacksonville School District's response to your FOIA request.

Please respond to acknowledge receipt. Also, please let me know if you have any questions.

Mike McGiles

Mike McGiles
Director of Operations
Jacksonville School District #117
(217) 243-9411 ext. 1124
mmcgiles@jsd117.org

 **FOIA Response - Espi- curriculum materials and books.pdf**
91K

JACKSONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #117

211 W State Street
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650
Office: (217)243-9411
Fax: (217)243-6844



Mike McGiles, Director of Operations

September 23, 2021

Dear Vince Espi,

Thank you for writing to Jacksonville School District 117 with your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.

On September 16, 2021, JSD 117 was in receipt of your request for the following records:

- A list of all materials in your district that fall under the 1619 project
- A list of all books written by authors Ibram X. Kendi (aka Henry Rogers) or Robin DiAngelo that are used in curriculum or libraries in your school district.

As the FOIA Officer for Jacksonville School District 117 I am writing to inform you that your request is denied for the following reason:

- No responsive documents or records exist pertaining to your request

You have a right to have the denial of your request reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to:

Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
Fax: 217-782-1396
E-mail: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us

You also have the right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in the State circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of this denial. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this denial letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike McGiles'.

Mike McGiles
Director of Operations
FOIA Officer
Jacksonville School District 117
(217) 243-9411
mmcgiles@jsd117.org