

*“What isn’t in the newspapers is often more newsworthy than what is”*

**Lincoln Parish News Online**

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Walter C. Abbott III, Editor & Publisher

March 8, 2017

Custodian of Records  
Lincoln Parish School District  
410 South Farmerville Street  
Ruston, LA 71270

Re: Public Records Request

To Whom It May Concern:

We formally request to inspect and/or copy the **minutes, agenda, and public notice** for any meeting of the Lincoln Parish School Board Executive Committee that was held to discuss and vote on the salary of the district’s superintendent.

At the 03/07/17 meeting of the full board, a recommendation by that committee’s chair was acted upon by the board to award the superintendent a \$10 thousand annual raise.

Your attention is directed to Title 44 of Louisiana Revised Statutes, Public Records and Recorders, specifically, RS44:1, which states:

*A.(1) As used in this Chapter, the phrase "public body" means any branch, department, office, agency, board, commission, district, governing authority, political subdivision, or any committee, subcommittee, advisory board, or task force thereof, or any other instrumentality of state, parish, or municipal government, including a public or quasi-public nonprofit corporation designated as an entity to perform a governmental or proprietary function.*

And,

*(2)(a) All books, records, writings, accounts, letters and letter books, maps, drawings, photographs, cards, tapes, recordings, memoranda, and papers, and all copies, duplicates, photographs, including microfilm, or other reproductions thereof, or any other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, including information contained in electronic data processing equipment, having been used, being in use, or prepared, possessed, or retained for use in the conduct, transaction, or performance of any business, transaction, work, duty, or function which was conducted,*

*transacted, or performed by or under the authority of the constitution or laws of this state, or by or under the authority of any ordinance, regulation, mandate, or order of any public body or concerning the receipt or payment of any money received or paid by or under the authority of the constitution or the laws of this state, are "public records", except as otherwise provided in this Chapter or the Constitution of Louisiana.*

And RS44:31,

*B.(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter or as otherwise specifically provided by law, and in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter, any person of the age of majority may inspect, copy, or reproduce any public record.*

*(3) The burden of proving that a public record is not subject to inspection, copying, or reproduction shall rest with the custodian.*

And RS44:32,

*A. In any case in which a record is requested and a question is raised by the custodian of the record as to whether it is a public record, such custodian shall within three days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays, of the receipt of the request, in writing for such record, notify in writing the person making such request of his determination and the reasons therefor. Such written notification shall contain a reference to the basis under law which the custodian has determined exempts a record, or any part thereof, from inspection, copying, or reproduction.*

Sincerely,

Walter C. Abbott III