



Request for comment

From NJ21st Team <team@nj21st.com>

Date Wed 6/11/2025 10:24 AM

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Cc Dr. Kim Feltre <kfeltre@bhpsnj.org> <kfeltre@bhpsnj.org>

Dear Members of the Berkeley Heights Board of Education,

I'm reaching out on behalf of NJ21st regarding an article we are publishing on how the district has handled recent OPRA requests. Over the past two months, we've submitted multiple requests and encountered a troubling pattern: vague or incomplete replies, anonymous email responses, and delays in providing public records—particularly regarding police spending and school-level budget documents.

Given that Board members have been copied on much of the communication surrounding these issues, we are offering a final opportunity to provide comment or clarification.

Specifically, we're seeking responses to the following:

1. Why has the district refused to identify the individual(s) responding to emails from the opra@bhpsnj.org account, despite repeated direct requests?
2. What is the justification for withholding school-level budget files for 2025–2026, and why are these still being characterized as “drafts” months after the district-wide budget was adopted?
3. Why was a request for police spending records—information that should, for the most part, already be compiled for the ACFR—deferred as a “summer project”?
4. Does the Board support the current approach to handling OPRA requests, and what accountability measures are in place to ensure timely and lawful compliance?

Please note: the deadline for comment is **tomorrow, Thursday, June 12 at 7:00 AM**. We understand this is a short turnaround, but it reflects the fact that Board members have been copied on most of the relevant correspondence and have had ample opportunity to address these concerns over the past several weeks. If we do not receive a response by the stated time, we will indicate in the article that the Board was given the opportunity to comment but declined.

Thank you,

John Migueis, Editor

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