

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by	)	
Curtiss H. Clark and the Bee	)	Report of Hearing Officer
Publishing Company,	)	
Complainants	)	Docket #FIC77-226
	)	
against	)	January 25, 1978
	)	
Regional School District No. 14,	)	
and the Superintendent of Schools	)	
Regional School District No. 14,	)	
Respondents	)	

The above captioned matter was heard as a contested case on January 5, 1978, at which time the complainants and the respondents appeared and presented testimony and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found:

1. The respondents are public agencies within the meaning of §1-18a(a), G.S.
2. By letter dated November 4, 1977, the complainants requested from the respondent superintendent a copy of a certain self-evaluation report.
3. Having failed to receive a reply within four business days, the complainants filed a complaint with this Commission on December 5, 1977.
4. The administration of the Middle School of the respondent school district has decided to seek accreditation for that school with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, hereinafter referred to as NEASC, an independent accrediting agency. The self-evaluation report in question is required by NEASC as part of its accreditation process.
5. The self-evaluation report consists of twenty-three sets of documents prepared by twenty-three subcommittees of the Middle School of the respondent school district.
6. In the self-evaluation report, the faculty of the Middle School looked at the philosophy and objectives of the school and described how those criteria have been met.

7. The data recorded in the self-evaluation report will be used by NEASC in its determination of whether or not to grant accreditation to the Middle School.

8. A copy of the final self-evaluation report forwarded in NEASC is kept in the safe of the principal of the Middle School.

9. Such report is found to be a public record as defined by §1-18a(d), G.S.

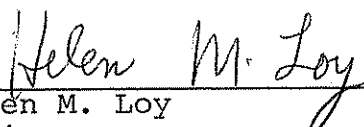
10. Because such report was not placed in the personnel file of any individual and serves a function quite distinct from the recording of data for personnel purposes, it cannot be found to be a personnel file or similar file within the meaning of the exemption provided under §1-19(b)(2), G.S.

11. Such report is further found not to constitute a preliminary draft or note within the meaning of the exemption under §1-19(b)(1), G.S. but rather stands as a separate, distinct and completed document in and of itself.

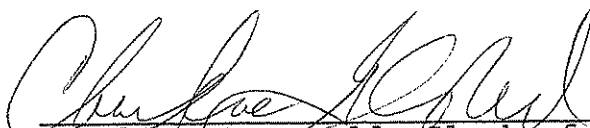
12. It is therefore concluded that the complainants have been denied their right to receive upon request a copy of a public record.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above captioned complaint:

1. The respondents shall forthwith provide the complainants with a copy of the requested self-evaluation report.

  
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Helen M. Loy  
Chairman

Approved by order of the Freedom of Information Commission on  
January 25, 1978.

  
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Charlene G. Arnold, Clerk of the  
Freedom of Information Commission