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September 6, 2011

Dr. Jacqueline A. Brooks
Superintendent
Macon County Board of Education
P. O. Box 830090
Tuskegee, Alabama 36083-0090

RE: AUGUST 29, 2011 LETTER FROM FRANKLIN DILLMAN

Dear Dr. Brooks:

I have reviewed the August 29, 2011 letter that you received from Mr. Franklin R. Dillman of Notasulga, requesting copies of out of state travel vouchers for you and all five board members.

The question is whether or not these travel vouchers are public writings, pursuant to the Open Records Act, Section 36-12-40 Code of Alabama. This section provides that "Every citizen has a right to inspect and take a copy of any public writing of this state"

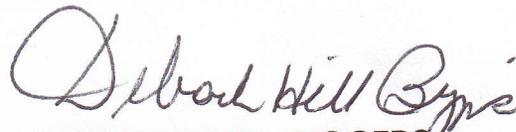
Alabama Code Section 41-13-1 defines "public records" as all written, typed or printed books, papers, letters documents and maps made or received in pursuance of law by public officers of the state, counties, municipalities and other subdivisions of government in the transactions of public business.

The Alabama Supreme Court has defined a "public writing" as a record "reasonably necessary to record the required business and activities of a public officer so that the status and condition of such business and activities can be known".

Since the travel vouchers do not fall within one of the four (4) exceptions to the Open Records Act, the vouchers can be disclosed. But any personal information like Social Security Numbers should be redacted or excluded before making such records available. You may also charge Mr. Dillman the cost for reproducing the records.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Hill Biggers".

DEBORAH HILL BIGGERS
School Board Attorney

DHB/tvs