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ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 26, 2022

Mr. Joseph E. Hoffer
Attorney for IDEA Public Schools
Schulman, Lopez, Hoffer & Adelstein, LLP
845 Proton Road
San Antonio, Texas 78158

OR2022-11895

Dear Mr. Hoffer:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 944181.

IDEA Public Schools ("IDEA"), which you represent, received a request for minutes and video recordings of specified meetings during a specified time period. You state you have released some information to the requestor. You claim some of the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.107 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted representative sample of information.¹

We note the submitted information consists of video recordings of public meetings. Recordings of a governmental body's public meetings are specifically made public under the Open Meetings Act, chapter 551 of the Government Code. *See* Gov't Code § 551.022 (minutes and tape recordings of open meeting are public records and shall be available for public inspection and copying on request to governmental body's chief administrative officer or officer's designee). As a general rule, the exceptions to disclosure found in the Act, such as section 552.107, do not apply to information that other statutes make public. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 623 at 3 (1994), 525 at 3 (1989). Accordingly, IDEA must generally release the submitted information pursuant to section 551.022 of the Government Code.

¹ We assume that the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

However, we note some of the submitted information may consist of video recordings of closed or executive sessions. Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure “information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision.”² Gov’t Code § 552.101. This section encompasses information protected by other statutes, such as section 551.104 of the Government Code, which provides, in part, “[t]he certified agenda or tape of a closed meeting is available for public inspection and copying only under a court order issued under Subsection (b)(3).” *Id.* § 551.104(c). Thus, such information cannot be released to a member of the public in response to an open records request. *See* Attorney General Opinion JM-995 at 5-6 (1988) (public disclosure of certified agenda of closed meeting may be accomplished only under procedures provided in Open Meetings Act). Section 551.146 of the Open Meetings Act makes it a criminal offense to disclose a certified agenda or tape recording of a lawfully closed meeting to a member of the public. *See* Gov’t Code § 551.146(a)-(b); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 495 at 4 (1988). Therefore, to the extent the submitted information consists of recordings of a lawfully closed meeting, IDEA must withhold this information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 551.104 of the Government Code.

In summary, to the extent the submitted information consists of recordings of a lawfully closed meeting, IDEA must withhold this information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with section 551.104 of the Government Code. IDEA must release the remaining information pursuant to section 551.022 of the Government Code.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public/what-expect-after-ruling-issued> or call the OAG’s Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Public Information Act may be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the OAG, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

Meredith L. Coffman
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

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² The Office of the Attorney General will raise a mandatory exception on behalf of a governmental body, but ordinarily will not raise other exceptions. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 481 (1987), 480 (1987), 470 (1987).

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Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)