

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by

FINAL DECISION

Nicole Dykstra,

Complainant

against

Docket #FIC 2024-0753

Chairman, Board of Education, Oxford
Public Schools; and Board of Education,
Oxford Public Schools,

Respondents

September 25, 2025

The above-captioned matter was heard as a contested case on April 14, 2025, at which time the complainant and the respondents appeared and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found and conclusions of law are reached:

1. The respondents are public agencies within the meaning of §1-200(1), G.S.
2. By email dated November 14, 2024 and filed November 15, 2024, the complainant appealed to this Commission alleging that the respondents violated the Freedom of Information (“FOI”) Act by holding a special meeting on October 15, 2024, which was not properly noticed.
3. Section 1-225(a), G.S., provides, in relevant part, that “[t]he meetings of all public agencies, except executive sessions, as defined in subdivision (6) of section 1-200, shall be open to the public....”
4. Section 1-225(d), G.S., provides, in relevant part, that:

Notice of each special meeting of every public agency... shall be...given not less than twenty-four hours prior to the time of such meeting by filing a notice of the time and place thereof...in the office of the clerk of such subdivision for any public agency of a political subdivision of the stateThe notice shall specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be transacted....

5. Section 1-225(g) provides, in relevant part, as follows:

In determining the time within which or by when a notice [or] agenda... of a special meeting or an emergency special meeting are required to be filed under this section, Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays and any day on which the office of... the clerk of the applicable political subdivision ...is closed, shall be excluded.

6. It is found that on October 14, 2024, at approximately 6:00 pm, the respondent board posted a notice on the Oxford Public Schools' website indicating that it would convene a special meeting on October 15, 2024, at 6:00 pm. It is further found that, later in the day on October 14, 2024, the respondent board posted a second notice on the Oxford Public Schools' website indicating that the meeting scheduled for October 15, 2024 would be convened at 6:30 pm instead of 6:00 pm.

7. The Commission takes administrative notice that October 14, 2024, commonly referred to as Columbus Day or Indigenous Peoples Day, was both a Connecticut state and federal holiday.

8. Accordingly, it is found that, by posting notice of the special meeting on a legal holiday, the respondents failed to provide the public with the required twenty-four hours' notice, as set forth in §1-225(d), G.S.

9. The respondents' argument that the complainant was not entitled to file a complaint with the Commission regarding the respondents' failure to post timely notice of the October 15, 2024 special meeting because she saw the untimely postings on October 14, 2024, is without merit. There is no provision in the FOI Act that suspends a public agency's obligation to post a public meeting notice in a timely manner simply because a particular citizen saw an untimely posting.

10. It is therefore concluded that the respondents violated the notice requirements of §1-225(d), G.S., as alleged in the complaint.

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

1. Henceforth, the respondents shall strictly comply with the notice provisions of §1-225(d), G.S.

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission at its regular meeting of September 25, 2025.



Linda Fasciano
Acting Clerk of the Commission

PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-180(c), G.S., THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF EACH PARTY AND THE MOST RECENT MAILING ADDRESS, PROVIDED TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION, OF THE PARTIES OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.

THE PARTIES TO THIS CONTESTED CASE ARE:

NICOLE DYKSTRA, 221 Park Road, Oxford, CT 06478

**CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF EDUCATION, OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND
BOARD OF EDUCATION, OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**, c/o Attorney Zachary D. Schurin and Attorney Kimberly Catala, Pullman & Comley, LLC, 90 State House Square, Hartford, CT 06103



Linda Fasciano
Acting Clerk of the Commission