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EDUCATION - PUBLIC INFORMATION -
SALARIES OF SCHOOL BOARD
EMPLOYEES - COUNTY COUNCIL
ENTITLED TO SALARY INFORMATION.

Dear Mr. Thompson:

You have requested our opinion on whether the Talbot County Council, as part of its review of the county school board's annual budget request, is entitled to receive supporting detail on the salaries paid to school board employees. We think it is.

Under the Education Article of the Maryland Code, the school board is required to submit its annual budget request to the county council [§5-102(b)(1)], together with "any reasonable supporting detail that the county fiscal authority may require" [§5-101(b)(2)]. In our view, information concerning the salaries paid by the school board is "reasonable supporting detail" within the contemplation of this requirement.

Our conclusion is supported by the fact that, under the State Public Information Act [Article 76A, §§1 through 5 of the Maryland Code], "the salaries of all employees of the State, of a

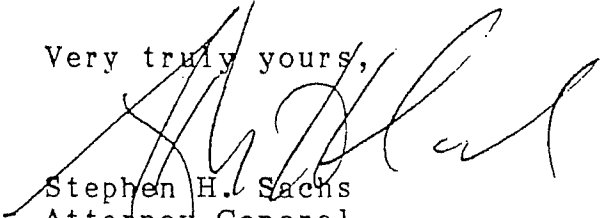
OPINION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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political subdivision, and any agency or instrumentality thereof" are considered to be "public records" [§1(b)] and, as such, "shall be open for inspection by any person at reasonable times" [§2(a)]. See Opinion of the Attorney General No. 76-030 (March 3, 1976) (unpublished), which held that the salaries of individual employees of a community college, as distinct from confidential personnel records, are subject to disclosure under the Public Information Act. Certainly, the Talbot County Council has no less right to such salary information than does any other interested person.

For these reasons, it is our opinion that the Talbot County Council is entitled to receive from the county school board supporting budgetary details that include the actual salaries paid to school board employees.

Very truly yours,



Stephen H. Sachs
Attorney General



Avery Aisenstark
Principal Counsel
Opinions and Advice

Enclosure

cc County Superintendent of Schools