

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

ROBERT JONES,	:	
<i>Petitioner,</i>	:	
	:	
vs.	:	RIDE No. 23-019 A
	:	
NORTH KINGSTOWN SCHOOL	:	
DISTRICT,	:	
<i>Respondent</i>	:	

**ORDER DENYING PETITIONER'S REQUEST
FOR A HEARING AND REQUESTED RELIEF**

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2023, the Petitioner, ROBERT JONES, emailed the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s Law Office and requested a hearing before the Commissioner or her designee pursuant to chapter 39 of title 16 of the Rhode Island General Laws alleging that the Respondent, NORTH KINGSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT, had failed to provide him with certain financial information which Respondent was legally required to post on its website pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-2-9.1(5) and the North Kingstown School Committee Policy Manual; and

WHEREAS, the information requested included a “line-item budget figures by object code of the current school year along with anticipated end of year expenditures, and a budget category listing of actual expenditures for at least each of the two preceding school years,” and

WHEREAS, Respondent admitted that it was not in compliance with its School Committee Policy Manual, but claimed it was doing “everything possible” to post the requested information on its website as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, Petitioner admitted that he had no children attending any school in the North Kingstown School District, but claimed he was legally entitled to the requested information as “a taxpayer in the [local educational association’s] community,” and

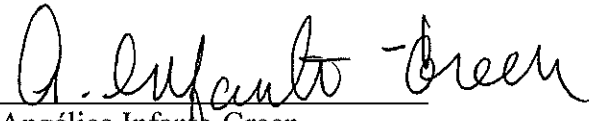
WHEREAS, whether or not Respondent was in violation of either R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-2-9.1(5) or its own School Committee Policy Manual, Petitioner has failed to meet the minimum constitutional requirements for legal standing under either state or federal law, which: (1) requires that a petitioner establish a “concrete and particularized personal injury that is actual or imminent, not conjectural or hypothetical;” and (2) absent special circumstances, legal standing cannot be based on a petitioner’s mere status as a taxpayer;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Petitioner's request for a hearing, as well as his requested relief, are hereby denied.

Entered as an ORDER of the Commissioner of Education on this 9th day of May, 2023.

ENTER:



Angélica Infante-Green,
Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

I certify that on this 9th day of May, 2023, I caused a true copy of the within document to be emailed to Robert Jones at rjones10@bryant.edu and to Andrew Henneous, Esq. at ahenneous@hcllawri.com.