



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

ANGELICA ALLEN-McMILLAN, Ed.D.
Acting Commissioner

May 13, 2022

Mr. Vito A Gagliardi, Jr.
Counsel to the Monroe Township Board of Education
100 Southgate Parkway
PO Box 1997
Morristown, NJ 07962

Dear Mr. Gagliardi:

I am in receipt of the Monroe Township Board of Education's (Board) letter requesting an extension of Ms. Chari Chanley's service as the district's Acting Superintendent. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-13.1, the Commissioner of Education may grant approval for a non-certificated staff member to serve as a district's superintendent for up to three months at a time. This is the second extension requested by the Board.

When I approved the extension in February, it was with the expectation that the Board would hire a full-time, permanent superintendent who would begin work with the district before the extension expired on May 11, 2022. Based on the information provided by you and by Executive County Superintendent (ECS) Kyle Anderson, a superintendent search process opened in the fall of 2021 yielding a field of 19 candidates. The Board interviewed three finalists on February 16, 2022 and decided none were acceptable. The Board has now contracted with the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) to conduct a new search and will begin reviewing applications on May 19, 2022.

Since the appointment of Ms. Chanley as Acting Superintendent, members of the public have expressed concern to my office as well as to the Governor's office. It has been my office's position to support the Board's right and responsibility to select the superintendent they feel will best serve their district's students, staff, and community.

I am approving Monroe Township Board of Education's request to extend Ms. Chanley's service as Acting Superintendent from May 12, 2022 to August 11, 2022 with the following conditions:

1. By 5:00 pm on Friday, May 20, 2022 the Board will send Kyle Anderson a complete timeline of the NJSBA search process. Please note that this process

Mr. Vito A Gagliardi, Jr.

May 13, 2022

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must be transparent and include opportunities for public engagement and comment on candidates.

2. Beginning on June 10, 2022, the Board will submit a biweekly report to the ECS detailing progress on the search process (June 24, July 8, July 22, etc.).
3. The Board shall nominate and have a signed contract with a new full-time superintendent within the timeline of the NJSBA search process.
4. Any additional request for a three-month extension must be made to the ECS no later than August 1, 2022.

Good luck with your search process. Please continue to keep your ECS informed as detailed above.

Sincerely,



Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D.

Acting Commissioner

AAM/JS/Is

c: Julie Bunt

Jorden Schiff

Paula Bloom

Kyle Anderson



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Acting Commissioner

May 19, 2022

Ms. Chrissy Skurbe, Board President
Monroe Township Board of Education
423 Buckelew Ave.
Monroe, NJ 08831

Dear Ms. Skurbe:

SUBJECT: Appending Certain Letters to Personal Name
OFAC Case #INV-02-22

The New Jersey Department of Education (Department), Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance (OFAC), received information concerning the current Monroe Township School District (District) Acting Superintendent, Chari Chanley (Ms. Chanley) with respect to appending the "Dr." designation in front of Ms. Chanley's name within school yearbooks without having earned the title.

N.J.S.A. 18A:3-15.3 Appending certain letters to personal name - states the following:

"A person shall not append to his name any letters in the same form designated by the Commission on Higher Education as entitled to the protection accorded to an academic degree unless the person has received from a duly authorized institution of higher education the degree or certificate for which the letters are registered. For the purposes of this section, a duly authorized institution of higher education means an in-State institution licensed by the Commission on Higher Education or an out-of-State institution licensed by the appropriate state agency and regionally accredited or seeking accreditation by the appropriate accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Education or the United States Department of Education."

The OFAC review confirmed the title "Dr." was placed before Ms. Chanley's name while she was Principal of the Monroe Township Middle School, appearing in the school's yearbooks over a five-year period. The title first appeared before Ms. Chanley's name in the 2012-2013 yearbook and continued up to and including the 2016-2017 yearbook.

There was no evidence disclosed which confirmed the use of the title beyond those years or included on any other District documents bearing her name. Nor was there evidence Ms. Chanley received an enhanced salary by the appendage of the title.

Ms. Chanley did confirm that although she is diligently working toward a Doctor of Education degree, that degree has not yet been conferred. Ms. Chanley stated the title was appended in the 2012-2013 yearbook in anticipation of having received the degree by the time the yearbook was issued. However, the degree was not conferred during that time and due to yearly oversights, the title remained appended to her name, up to and including the 2016-2017 yearbook.

Although the District School Board (Board), prior to this time, was made aware of the improper use of the title and has internally corrected the matter, the Board is directed to submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) identifying the procedures it will develop and implement to ensure compliance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:3-15.3 throughout the District. Please provide a copy of this report to each member of the Board for review.

Utilizing the process outlined in the attached "Procedures for LEA/Agency Response, Corrective Action Plan and Appeal Process," the Board is required, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.6, to publicly review and discuss the findings in this report at a public board meeting no later than 30 days after receipt of the report. Within 30 days of the public meeting, the board must adopt a resolution certifying that the findings were discussed in a public meeting and approving a CAP to address the issues raised in the findings and/or submit an appeal of any findings in dispute. A copy of the resolution and the approved CAP and/or appeal must be sent to this office within 10 days of adoption by the Board. Direct your response to my attention.

Also, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.6(c), you must post the findings of this report and the Board's CAP on your district's website. Should you have any questions, please contact Thomas C. Martin, Manager, Investigations Unit, at (609) 376-3606.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jamar E. Purnsley, Director
Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance

JEP/o:\investigation\tmartin\monroe\Append Letters. INV 02-22.docx

Attachment

c: Acting Commissioner
Julie Bunt
Jorden Schiff

Michael Yapple
Kyle Anderson



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

ANGELICA ALLEN-McMILLAN, Ed.D.
Acting Commissioner

May 2, 2022

PETITIONER/ATTORNEY

Robin Soriano
[REDACTED]
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

RESPONDENT/ATTORNEY

Michael Gorski, Board Secretary
423 Buckelew Avenue
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

Dear Parties:

Robin Soriano v. Board of Education of the Township of Monroe, Middlesex County, and Chari Chanley, Acting Superintendent

Agency Dkt. No.: 96-5/22

Document filed by: XX Petitioner Respondent

This will acknowledge receipt of the following document(s) filed with the Commissioner on April 28, 2022 in the above-captioned matter:

- XX Petition of Appeal
N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.5, requires respondent within 20 days from receipt of Petition to file an Answer with proof of service upon petitioner.
- XX Documents submitted with phone number.
- XX Proof of Service
- XX Verification or Certification
- Residency Appeal -- **SEE BOX AT RIGHT**
- Answer -- Transmitting file to OAL
- Motion for Emergent Relief

RESIDENCY APPEALS ONLY

Where a petition of appeal is filed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 within 21 days of the board's decision (residency dispute), no child shall be denied admission to the district during the pendency of proceedings. Where a petition of appeal is filed after the 21-day period, an order on a motion for emergent relief will be necessary for admission during the pendency of the proceedings. However, if in the judgment of the Commissioner the evidence does not support the claim of the petitioner, the Commissioner shall assess the petitioner tuition for the student prorated to the time of the student's ineligible attendance in the schools of the district. Orders assessing tuition are enforceable in Superior Court.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3-8.1, *pro se* petitioners may effect service through the Office of Controversies and Disputes. Upon receipt of any *pro se* residency appeal which has not been served on the Board, the Office will transmit to the Board, together with this acknowledgement, a copy of the letter petition via fax, whereupon the Board is considered served for purposes of obligation to answer the petition and effectuate the child(ren)'s attendance (if the petition was filed within the 21-day period).

A REVIEW OF THE PLEADINGS REVEALS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION HAS NOT BEEN PROVIDED. PLEASE NOTE AND FILE WITH THIS OFFICE:

 No proof of service included (N.J.A.C. 6A 3-1.3).

 No notarized verification (N.J.A.C. 6A 3-1.4(a)).

 Other: _____

IF ANY DEFICIENCIES ARE NOTED ABOVE, THIS MATTER MAY NOT MOVE FORWARD IF THOSE DEFICIENCIES REMAIN UNADDRESSED. If you have any questions, please contact this office at (609) 376-9079.

If possible, please submit all filings by email to ControversiesDisputesFilings@doe.nj.gov. If you are unable to file by email, please send hard copies by mail to the address above, Attention: Office of Controversies and Disputes.

Jennifer Killough-Herrera, Director
Office of Controversies and Disputes

JKH/JS/096-05-22 Acknowledgement (Petition).docx



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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PHILIP D. MURPHY
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ANGELICA ALLEN-McMILLAN, Ed.D.
Acting Commissioner

May 19, 2022

PETITIONER/ATTORNEY

Robin Soriano

Monroe Township, NJ 08831

RESPONDENT/ATTORNEY

Vito Gagliardi, Jr., Esq.

Porzio, Bromberg & Newman

100 Southgate Parkway

P.O. Box 1997

Morristown, NJ 07962-1997

Dear Parties:

Robin Soriano v. Board of Education of the Township of Monroe, Middlesex County, and Chari Chanley, Acting Superintendent

Agency Dkt. No.: 96-5/22

Document filed by: Petitioner XX Respondent

This will acknowledge receipt of the following document(s) filed with the Commissioner on May 18, 2022 in the above-captioned matter:

 Petition of Appeal

N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.5, requires respondent within 20 days from receipt of Petition to file an Answer with proof of service upon petitioner.

 Documents submitted with phone number.

 Proof of Service

 Verification or Certification

 Residency Appeal -- SEE BOX AT RIGHT

XX Answer -- Transmitting file to OAL

 Motion for Emergent Relief

RESIDENCY APPEALS ONLY

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A REVIEW OF THE PLEADINGS REVEALS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION HAS NOT BEEN PROVIDED. PLEASE NOTE AND FILE WITH THIS OFFICE:

 No proof of service included (N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.3).

 No notarized verification (N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.4(a)).

 Other:

THIS MATTER MAY NOT MOVE FORWARD IF ABOVE-SPECIFIED DEFICIENCIES REMAIN UNADDRESSED. If you have any questions, please contact this office at (609) 376-9079.

If possible, please submit all filings by email to ControversiesDisputesFilings@doe.nj.gov. If you are unable to file by email, please send hard copies by mail to the address above, Attention: Office of Controversies and Disputes.

Jennifer Killough-Herrera, Director
Office of Controversies and Disputes

JKH/JS/klm/096-05-22 Transmittal (Answer).docx