



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

KIMBERLEY HARRINGTON
Acting Commissioner

May 18, 2017

Ms. Carla Thomas, Board President
Pleasantville Board of Education
801 Mill Road, PO Box 960
Pleasantville, NJ 08232

Dear Ms. Thomas:

SUBJECT: Pleasantville Public Schools – Administrator Conduct – OFAC Case #INV-043-16

The Department of Education, Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance (OFAC) completed an investigation of the Pleasantville Public Schools (District) compliance with educational statute and code. Based upon the evidence obtained during the investigation, the OFAC concluded the District did not violate any educational statute or regulation. As such, the OFAC file on this matter will be closed.

Although no corrective action plan is required, the Pleasantville Board of Education (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. A copy of the resolution and the approved corrective action plan and/or appeal must be sent to this office within 10 days of adoption by the Board. Please direct your response to my attention.

Also, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.6(c), you must post the findings of the report and the Board's corrective action plan on your District's website. Should you have any questions, please contact Thomas C. Martin, Manager, Investigations Unit, at (609) 633-9615.

Sincerely,


Robert J. Cicchino, Director
Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance

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Attachments

c: Karin Garver
Robert Bumpus
David Saenz
Richard Stepura
Garnell Bailey
Constance Bauer ✓
Stephen Eells

www.nj.gov/education

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE
INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

PLEASANTVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ADMINISTRATOR CONDUCT
OFAC CASE #INV-043-16

REPORT OF EXAMINATION

MAY 2017

**PLEASANTVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUSINESS PRACTICES**

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

The New Jersey Department of Education (DOE), Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance (OFAC) received complaint emails and written letters alleging various violations of the Pleasantville Public Schools (District) personnel practices. The complaints received from November 2016 to April 2017, alleged the following: an administrator utilized the District's tax ID number for personal use; an administrator used District personnel for personal use, the District hired without conducting criminal background checks; the District failed to provide IEP/504 services and; District personnel are being hired without certificates. The complaints also cited other allegations which are outside of the OFAC's jurisdictional authority to investigate.

The OFAC initiated an investigation to determine the validity of the information received and interviewed individuals thought to have knowledge of the incident. The investigator reviewed relevant documents including board minutes, District policy, and other pertinent District documents. The investigator also conferred with the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office.

An administrator utilized District's tax ID # for personal use

The above allegation was referred to the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office which investigated the above incident under case #170107. The Prosecutor's Office investigation disclosed no evidence the above allegation occurred in the time frame of the statute of limitations and subsequently closed the case file.

An administrator utilized District personnel for personal use

The complaint alleged that a District employee picked up furniture for an administrator and delivered it to the administrator's private residence during working hours. The investigator reviewed the furniture purchase receipts and the District's calendar which disclosed on the date in question, the school was in closed. The employee named by the complainant did pick up the furniture, but the action was not during District work hours.

Hiring without Criminal History Records Check

The complaint alleged in March of 2015, the District hired an employee with a criminal record as a part-time custodian. The investigation revealed that the employee in question was hired by the District in 2008. The employee was arrested in 2014 and suspended by the District. The charges were vacated and the employee was subsequently cleared to return to work by the DOE Criminal History Review Unit.

The District failed to provide IEP/504 services

The above allegations were referred to the Atlantic County Office of Education.

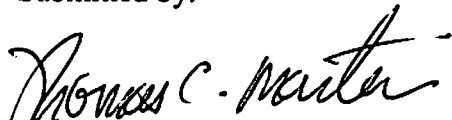
The District hired personnel without certificates

The complaints provided the names of District personnel who were hired or promoted allegedly without the required certification. The investigator reviewed the status of the said employees and found all who were required to be certificated were holders of the appropriate credentials.

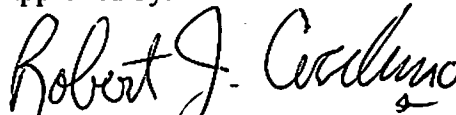
CONCLUSION

Based upon the evidence obtained during the investigation, the OFAC concluded the District did not violate any educational statute or code. As such, the OFAC file on this matter will be closed.

Submitted by:


Thomas C. Martin, Manager
Investigations Unit

Approved by:


Robert J. Cicchino, Director
Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance

Investigator(s):

Francesco Frangella