

Jim Schlessinger

From: Lamonte, Rosalie <Rosalie.Lamonte@doe.nj.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 1:49 PM
To: Allamuchy - Joe Flynn
Cc: Allamuchy-Jim Schlessinger; 'Ari Schneider'; Minus-Vincent, Daryl; Bloom, Paula; Poch, Bill
Subject: Allamuchy board vacancy
Attachments: Allamuchy board vacancy ECS letter 12.03.20.doc
Importance: High

Dear Dr. Flynn,

Please review my attached letter regarding the recent actions of the Allamuchy board of education in filling the vacant board seat that disregarded my directive. The board is directed to rescind the appointment of Ms. Lisa Strutin, and proceed to send resumes of interested parties to my attention.

The board secretary is directed to read the attached letter in public session at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Should you need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rosalie Lamonte

Rosalie S. Lamonte, Ph.D.

Interim Executive County Superintendent

Sussex (973) 579-6996

Warren (908) 689-0497

rosalie.lamonte@doe.nj.gov

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ANGELICA ALLEN-MCMILLAN, ED.D.
Acting Commissioner

ROSALIE S. LAMONTE, PH.D.
Interim Executive County
Superintendent

December 3, 2020

Dr. Joseph Flynn
Allamuchy Township School District
20 Johnsonburg Road
Allamuchy, NJ 07820

Dear Dr. Flynn:

It has come to my attention that, at its meeting on November 23, 2020, the Allamuchy Township Board of Education (Board) took action to appoint Ms. Lisa Strutin to the seat vacated by William Cramer in September 2020. This action deliberately disregarded my directive, conveyed via Board counsel, that resumes of interested parties were to be forwarded to me so that I could fill the appointment pursuant to my statutory authority as set forth in *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-15*. Not only did the Board's action deliberately disregard my directive, it also violated *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-15* by usurping my statutory authority as the Interim Executive County Superintendent.

Although I previously indicated that I would grant an extension to the Board beyond the statutory timeframe (i.e., 65 days) so it could appoint a person of its choosing, I rescinded this extension when I became aware that Ms. Strutin, who was not re-elected in the November 2020 election, intended to resign her current seat, with an expiration of December 31, 2020, so she could pursue the vacancy. This action, in my opinion, was a means to circumvent the results of the election, resulting in a lack of transparency and violation of the public's trust.

With the above in mind, the Board must immediately rescind its appointment of Ms. Strutin to the vacant seat, no later than by its December 21, 2020 board meeting, and follow my directive to send resumes of interested parties to my attention so that I may fill the vacancy consistent with my statutory authority. I am further directing the Board Secretary to read this letter during the public session of the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rosalie S. Lamonte".

Rosalie S. Lamonte, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Warren County Superintendent

C: James Schlessinger, School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary
Ari Schneider, Board Attorney
Daryl Minus-Vincent, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Field Services
Paula Bloom, Acting Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Field Services
Bill Poch, Executive County Business Official