

255 Oak Grove Road
Pittstown, NJ 08867
June 6, 2017

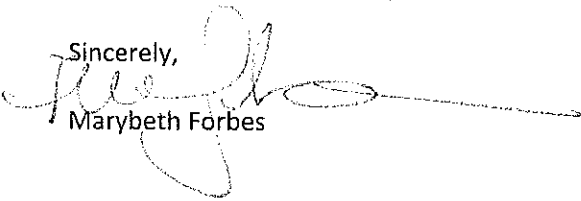
George Burdick, President
Franklin Township Board of Education
226 Quakertown Road
PO Box 368
Quakertown, NJ 08868

Dear Mr. Burdick,

The purpose of this letter is to document my position on the following matters, as I made clear at the May 22, 2017 Franklin Township School BOE meeting.

1. Reconsider the appointment of the school guidance counselor as the anti-bullying specialist. There are students at FTS who have shared their concerns about going to Mrs. McVerry for guidance and support in fear of being caught up in the inordinate number of HIB investigations. Her ability to provide positive behavioral support at our school has been outstanding, but being, as the students now call her, "the investigator", they are not comfortable going to her and that is a loss for our children.
2. Revise the FTS HIB policy to allow the superintendent or his/her designee to exercise discretion in determining whether allegations of bullying meet the threshold definition of HIB – as stated in the State of NJ DOE Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13 et seq.).
3. Not rehiring Mrs. Gerth as the FTS integrated pre-school teacher is great loss for our school and our community. As a child development specialist who works for the NJ Early Intervention system I have had the opportunity to see, first hand, the developmental growth of children who have had her as their teacher. Parents in our community know her as "that wonderful and caring preschool teacher at FTS" and some of my clients in other districts wish their school had a teacher as great as Mrs. Gerth.
4. As an active FTS parent I feel that the significant increase in the number of HIB investigations is due to:
 - a. An increased awareness among the students of what harassment, intimidation and bullying is.
 - b. The inability for the FTS Anti bullying team to exercise discretion in determining whether allegations meet the threshold definition of HIB.
 - c. The school's (administration, teachers, staff, parents, school lawyer, BOE) understanding of and interpretation of the State of NJ DOE Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.

Sincerely,


Marybeth Forbes

Reka Huebscher
87 Sky Manor Rd.
Pittstown, NJ 08867
(908) 240-7672

May 23, 2017

Franklin Township School
Board Of Education Members

Dear Board Members,


Please let this letter serve as a follow up and formal summary of my public comment at the May 22nd board meeting public session - Privilege of the floor Agenda item 6. I ask that the board please include my comments in the public records of the meeting. With regards to the matter which I have addressed I ask that you accept this letter along with my verbal complaint and understand that I could not have met the regular chain of commands route as I personally felt unsafe approaching the administration office directly.

It is my opinion as well as many other parents some of whom commented at last night's meeting that there is a level of hostile educational environment within our school created by our school administration, and superintendent. We feel that her actions place students, staff and parents in reasonable fear from speaking up on matters of importance, as well as approaching the administration office in fear of being wrongfully investigated, punished, losing their jobs, or their children being harassed.

As a result of this situation we have qualified, motivated and outstanding teachers leaving with and without of their own will and without reasonable explanation, and fair evaluation, resulting in instability in student education. Many parents whom experienced first hand dealing with such situations are looking to move their children out of district to protect their children's education, as well as their emotional safety.

I ask the board to assist me and the community in conducting a thorough investigation of our superintendent on the possibility of HIB violation, ethics code violation, and violation of public trust.

Sincerely,



Reka Huebscher