

December 9, 2010

Dear Governor Christie,

The Hoboken Board of Education has been without a permanent superintendent for 16 months. The Board of Education recently completed an extensive search for a new superintendent, and there is unanimous consensus within the board and agreement among the community that we have found an excellent candidate - Dr. Mark Toback, the Principal and Superintendent of the Sussex County Technical School District. Beyond his impressive résumé, his experience as a business administrator will be crucial as we look to contain budget costs.

The problem we face is that our interim superintendent has informed us that he cannot serve past January 31, 2011, while the new superintendent we wish to hire needs to provide his employer with 60 days notice before beginning a new job. I understand that the Commissioner of Education has instructed the County Superintendents to refrain from approving any new contracts. This is a serious concern because by State statute our City cannot be without a superintendent.

While I am not privy to the negotiations that have taken place between the Board of Education and Dr. Toback, I do feel that it is important that Hoboken have a permanent superintendent in place and that we have a decision on whether or not we can proceed with the process of hiring a new superintendent.

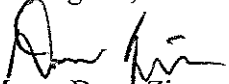
As my early support of both the tax cap and tool kit make clear, I understand and support the need for a cap on salaries. However, I respectfully request that consideration be given to Hoboken's unique situation that has put our town in an untenable position.

I also want to let you know that Hoboken was one of the only school districts in the state that did not raise taxes last year despite a significant reduction in State aid. Our School Board is fully committed to the principles of fiscal responsibility that you have championed so effectively.

I strongly hope that we will be able to get approval for Mr. Toback's contract.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Best regards,


Mayor Dawn Zimmer

CC: Rochelle Hendricks, Commissioner of Education
Peter E. Carter, Acting Superintendent
Hoboken Board of Education