



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

BRET SCHUNDLER
Commissioner

August 23, 2010

Mr. Paul T. Beisser, Board President
Berkeley Heights Board of Education
345 Plainfield Avenue
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922

Dear Mr. Beisser:

SUBJECT: Berkeley Heights School District – Charitable Donations by the Board of Education
OFAC Case #INV-016-10

The Department of Education, Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance, has investigated complaints regarding the Berkeley Heights School District. The complaints alleged that the district gives a yearly donation to a foundation for construction of a turf field. The review disclosed violations of educational statute and code.

Utilizing the process outlined in the attached "Procedures for LEA/Agency Response, Corrective Action Plan and Appeal Process," the Berkeley Heights Board of Education 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 corrective action plan which addresses the issues raised in the undisputed findings and/or an appeal of any findings in dispute. 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. Direct your response to my attention.

The bidding violation noted herein requires a refund of state aid to the Department of Education. The General Fund state aid that must be refunded by the Berkeley Heights School District is \$4,724.65. If there is no appeal to this recovery finding, the Division of Finance will notify the school district regarding the recovery of the state aid.

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 Mr. 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: Thomas Martin
Janet McNerney
Carmen Centuolo
Judith Rattner