



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BERGEN COUNTY OFFICE
ONE BERGEN COUNTY PLAZA, SUITE 350
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601-7076
201-336-6875
FAX 201-336-6880

PHILIP D. MURPHY, GOVERNOR
SHEILA Y. OLIVER, LT. GOVERNOR

LAMONT O. REPOLLET, ED.D., COMMISSIONER
JOSEPH ZARRA, INTERIM EXECUTIVE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

April 1, 2019

**Ms. Lara Rodriguez
President
Hackensack Board of Education
191 Second Street
Hackensack, NJ 07401**

Dear Ms. Rodriguez:

It has come to my attention that the Hackensack Board of Education did not approve the annual budget for the 2019-2020 school year at its public hearing held on March 26, 2019 and did not approve the budget at its subsequent emergency meeting held on Friday, March 29, 2019 which was the last date to approve your budget.

Regulations at N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-1.1 require the financial accountability of district boards of education and ensure that each district board of education adopts an annual budget that provides all potential efficiencies in administrative operations. In addition, these rules set forth the roles of the Commissioner of Education and the Executive County Superintendent (ECS) in overseeing district board of education budgeting and expenditures. Regulation further provides that the ECS has been delegated the powers, tasks and duties that support efficiency of district operations in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-43, et seq. and N.J.S.A. 18A:7-1.

As a result of the Hackensack Board of Education's failure to adopt a budget as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5 and 6 within the required timeframe by law, I have no choice but to approve the budget as previously submitted with a general fund tax levy of \$84,522,752. This figure is to be used by the district to certify and forward to the clerk of the county no later than Tuesday, April 2nd.

Lastly, please let me emphasize that failure of the Hackensack Board of Education to adhere to any New Jersey Statute and/or regulation is a serious matter. By copy of this letter, we are

notifying Glenn Forney, New Jersey Department of Education, of your failure to approve and are asking that he review whether there is a need for installation of State Monitor in the Hackensack School District.

This action has been taken out of necessity by the Interim Bergen County Executive County Superintendent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Zarra", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Joseph Zarra
Interim Executive County Superintendent

- C: Hackensack Board of Education**
Ms. Rosemary Marks, Superintendent
Dr. Dennis Frohnafel, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mr. Kevin Dehmer, New Jersey Department of Education
Mr. Glenn Forney, New Jersey Department of Education
Ms. Jeanette Makus, Interim Executive County Business Official
Ms. Stephanie Gorman, New Jersey Department of Education