

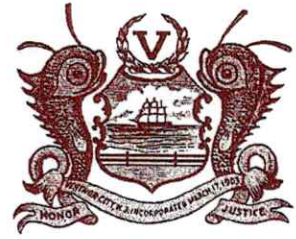


Commissioner
Maria K Mento

City of Ventnor City

City Hall
6201 Atlantic Avenue
Ventnor City, New Jersey 08406

Mayor
Lance B Landgraf Jr



Commissioner
Tim Kriebel

May 15, 2024

Atlantic City Board of Education
1300 Atlantic Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Attn: ACBOE President Shay Steele
Ref: Atlantic City BOE Superintendent Position

Dear Mr. Steele:

Ventnor, as a sending district to the Atlantic City High School, is extremely concerned by the inaction of you and the other members of the ACBOE concerning the criminal charges against both the high school principal and superintendent. These criminal charges include allegations of child abuse by your superintendent. The high school principal is also involved in allegedly failing to report same and engaging in what appears to be, at a minimum a dereliction of her ethical duties to the children of the district. While we recognize that the high school principal has been put out on a leave of absence, which we believe to be paid, your board has met twice since the charges were filed back in April and you have done nothing in regard to the status of the superintendent.

The principal and superintendent are responsible for protecting our youth and the importance of the superintendent's role is clearly recognized by the ACBOE's own policy which states that, "The Board of Education vests the primary responsibility for the administration of this school district in a Superintendent of Schools and recognizes the *appointment of a person to that office is one of the most important functions this Board can perform.*" The ACBOE's allowance of the Superintendent to continue to administer Atlantic City schools at the highest level is of significant concern to the community of Ventnor who send their children to school there.

Our community sends both our students and millions of dollars each year to Atlantic City High School (ACHS) and have no representation on the Board of Education. We have requested to be included on the Board, even as a non-voting member, but have been denied that ability. We are asking that your board act appropriately and remind you of the statute detailing the Code of Ethics at 18A:12-22 which states, in pertinent part:

a. In our representative form of government it is essential that the conduct of members of local boards of education and local school administrators hold the respect and confidence of the people. These board members and administrators must avoid conduct which is in violation of their public trust or which creates a justifiable impression among the public that such trust is being violated.

b. To ensure and preserve public confidence, school board members and local school administrators should have the benefit of specific standards to guide their conduct and of some disciplinary mechanism to ensure the uniform maintenance of those standards among them.

The administration of the Atlantic City school district directly impacts Ventnor and other sending district students, specifically at the high school level, and the public confidence in these administrators is very low at this time. We believe the superintendent should not be allowed to continue in a leadership role, with influence over our children while these charges are pending. This is a liability to both Ventnor and other sending districts and someone must step in to have her removed, until this case is resolved. We implore you to do the right thing by the students which you are sworn to serve.

This letter is being jointly signed by Ventnor City Mayor, Ventnor Board of Education and President. We ask that the ACBOE take these matters seriously and act accordingly.

Sincerely,



Lance B. Landgraf, Jr., Mayor
Ventnor City



Douglas Biagi, President
VCBOE