

## RESOLUTION

### Henry Hudson Regional Board of Education

*Whereas*, on September 22, 2023, the Acting Commissioner of Education issued a decision in which she stated:

If the referendum [seeking approval to join Atlantic Highlands and Highlands Elementary School Districts and convert Henry Hudson to a preK-12 district] passes on September 26, 2023, Sea Bright **and the newly formed school district may refile a joint request for from [sic] an enlarged regional school district. The joint request** should address the requirements of *N.J.S.A. 18A:13-47.1 et seq.*, including revised feasibility study, if necessary, and revised resolutions reflecting this new request." (Emphasis added)

and;

*Whereas*, without first obtaining approval of the Henry Hudson Regional School Board to file a joint request that would permit Sea Bright to join the Regional District as a constituent member, the Boroughs of Sea Bright and Highlands unilaterally submitted a Petition to the Commissioner of Education on July 31, 2024, seeking authorization for the withdrawal of the Borough of Sea Bright from the Shore Regional and Oceanport School Districts contingent on Sea Bright's joinder with the Henry Hudson Regional School District as a constituent member; and

*Whereas*, the Monmouth County Executive Superintendent, Dr. Lester Richens, by letter dated October 2, 2024 addressed to each President of the Henry Hudson Regional, Oceanport and Shore Regional School Boards, respectively, requested a response to the Petition; and

*Whereas*, Dr. Tara Beams submitted a Certification, accompanied by correspondence from the Board Attorney (both of which are annexed hereto), to Dr. Richens on November 25, 2024 in which Dr. Beams identified a number of issues that have yet to be resolved before proceeding to address the question of filing a joint petition with Sea Bright; and

*Whereas*, by correspondence dated December 5, 2024, counsel for Sea Bright and Highlands Borough, Vito Gagliardi, Esq., submitted a reply to Dr. Richens, with copies to Ambrose Duckett, Acting

Assistant Commissioner Field Services and Samantha Price, Esq., Assistant Commissioner Legal and External Services of the New Jersey Department of Education; and

*Whereas*, the above referenced December 5<sup>th</sup> correspondence by Mr. Gagliardi posits three

points:

- I. The Board's Response Should Not be Considered Because the Points it Raised, Even if True, are Irrelevant [sic] to the Relief Sea Bright and Highlands Seek;
- II. The Board's Response and Dr. Beams' Certification Should be Disregarded in Their Entirety Because They Raise Irrelevant Issues Based on False and Misleading Information, and Because Dr. Beams in Particular Maintains and Impermissible Conflict of Interest;
- III. The Board's Response Should Not Be Accepted Because The Board Has Not Passed a Resolution Stating Its Opposition to Sea Bright's Withdrawal From Oceanport and Shore Regional;

and;

*Whereas*, the Board has reviewed all of the above cited correspondence;

*Now, Therefore, be it Resolved* that the Board endorses the Certification of Dr. Beams and accompanying letter by Board Counsel and rejects their characterization as false, misleading and irrelevant.

*Be it Further Resolved* that the Board rejects the scurrilous *ad hominem* attack levied against Dr. Beams, largely predicated on the basis of her status as an Oceanport resident and taxpayer, as well as the unwarranted accusations of false and misleading statements and hereby expresses its confidence in her unbiased and competent leadership; and

*Be it Further Resolved* that the Board does not authorize the filing of a joint petition with Sea Bright, pending further consideration upon satisfactory resolution of the open items explained in Dr. Beams' Certification; and

*Be it Further Resolved* that Board Counsel, The Busch Law Group, is authorized to file this Resolution together with such other documentation and correspondence it deems necessary with the Executive County Superintendent and the NJ Department of Education.