



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

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

ANGELICA ALLEN-McMILLAN, Ed.D.  
*Acting Commissioner*

May 19, 2022

Ms. Chrissy Skurbe, Board President  
Monroe Township Board of Education  
423 Buckelew Ave.  
Monroe, NJ 08831

Dear Ms. Skurbe:

SUBJECT: Appending Certain Letters to Personal Name  
OFAC Case #INV-02-22

The New Jersey Department of Education (Department), Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance (OFAC), received information concerning the current Monroe Township School District (District) Acting Superintendent, Chari Chanley (Ms. Chanley) with respect to appending the "Dr." designation in front of Ms. Chanley's name within school yearbooks without having earned the title.

N.J.S.A. 18A:3-15.3 Appending certain letters to personal name - states the following:

"A person shall not append to his name any letters in the same form designated by the Commission on Higher Education as entitled to the protection accorded to an academic degree unless the person has received from a duly authorized institution of higher education the degree or certificate for which the letters are registered. For the purposes of this section, a duly authorized institution of higher education means an in-State institution licensed by the Commission on Higher Education or an out-of-State institution licensed by the appropriate state agency and regionally accredited or seeking accreditation by the appropriate accrediting body recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Education or the United States Department of Education."

The OFAC review confirmed the title "Dr." was placed before Ms. Chanley's name while she was Principal of the Monroe Township Middle School, appearing in the school's yearbooks over a five-year period. The title first appeared before Ms. Chanley's name in the 2012-2013 yearbook and continued up to and including the 2016-2017 yearbook.

There was no evidence disclosed which confirmed the use of the title beyond those years or included on any other District documents bearing her name. Nor was there evidence Ms. Chanley received an enhanced salary by the appendage of the title.

May 19, 2022  
Ms. Chrissy Skurbe  
Page 2

Ms. Chanley did confirm that although she is diligently working toward a Doctor of Education degree, that degree has not yet been conferred. Ms. Chanley stated the title was appended in the 2012-2013 yearbook in anticipation of having received the degree by the time the yearbook was issued. However, the degree was not conferred during that time and due to yearly oversights, the title remained appended to her name, up to and including the 2016-2017 yearbook.

Although the District School Board (Board), prior to this time, was made aware of the improper use of the title and has internally corrected the matter, the Board is directed to submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) identifying the procedures it will develop and implement to ensure compliance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:3-15.3 throughout the District. Please provide a copy of this report to each member of the Board for review.

Utilizing the process outlined in the attached "Procedures for LEA/Agency Response, Corrective Action Plan and Appeal Process," the Board 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 CAP to address the issues raised in the findings and/or submit an appeal of any findings in dispute. A copy of the resolution and the approved CAP and/or appeal must be sent to this office within 10 days of adoption by the Board. Direct your response to my attention.

Also, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.6(c), you must post the findings of this report and the Board's CAP on your district's website. Should you have any questions, please contact Thomas C. Martin, Manager, Investigations Unit, at (609) 376-3606.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jamar E. Purnsley, Director  
Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance

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Attachment

c: Acting Commissioner  
Julie Bunt  
Jorden Schiff

Michael Yaple  
Kyle Anderson