

September 22, 1997

Dear :

Having reviewed the Petition for Declaratory Judgment filed in connection with the matter entitled *Richard Chambers v. Board of Education of the City of Pleasantville, Atlantic County*, Agency Dkt. No. 299-8/97, please be advised that I decline to entertain such request for declaratory judgment in that the educational issues raised in the request, *i.e.*, those which implicate *N.J.S.A.* 18A, have been raised in the Petition of Appeal filed on August 14, 1997, and are more appropriately addressed through that process. Moreover, those matters which do not concern education statutes or regulations, such as issues involving the Public Employment Relations Commission and general tort law claims, are matters which are not within my jurisdiction.

Accordingly, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6:24-2.1, I decline to entertain the Petition for Declaratory Judgment. The Petition of Appeal as already filed in this matter, however, shall proceed in accordance with 6:24-1.1 *et seq.*

Sincerely,

Leo Klagholz
Commissioner

c: James L. Jackson, Esq.
County Superintendent