

February 21, 2006

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Dear Counsel:

ROSALIE BACON, individually and on behalf of G.P., Z.P., J.B., J.B., M.B., D.B., AND Z.H.; JOSEPH BARUFFI, individually and on behalf of J.B.; ELIZABETH CULLEN, individually and on behalf of T.C.; EDIE RILEY, individually and on behalf of S.R.; ARNETTA RIDGEWAY AND CHRISTOPHER GLASS, individually and on behalf of J.G., F.G., AND D.G.; AND BUENA REGIONAL, CLAYTON, COMMERCIAL, EGG HARBOR CITY, HAMMONTON, FAIRFIELD, LAKEHURST, LAKEWOOD, LAWRENCE, LITTLE EGG HARBOR, MAURICE RIVER, OCEAN, QUINTON, SALEM CITY, UPPER DEERFIELD, WALLINGTON, AND WOODBINE SCHOOL DISTRICTS V. NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, STATE BOARD DOCKET #4-03

In its decision of January 4, 2006, the State Board of Education directed the Commissioner to develop a design for a needs assessment to be performed in each of the districts involved in the litigation before the Commissioner. It directed the Commissioner to present her proposed design to the State Board by its February 1, 2006 meeting and to include in her proposal a timetable for conducting the needs assessment that gives priority to the appellant districts. The State Board also directed the Commissioner to report the results of the remedial measures which the Commissioner had directed to be taken with respect to Buena Regional, Commercial, Fairfield, Salem City and Woodbine. In addition, the State Board directed the Commissioner to provide by its March 1, 2006 meeting her findings and recommendations as to the educational components essential to the establishment of a unified system for public education that "will

equip all of the students of this state to perform their roles as citizens and competitors in the same society.” Abbott v. Burke, 119 N.J. 287, 389 (1990).

Please be advised that at its meeting on February 1, 2006, the State Board, upon request by the Acting Commissioner, voted unanimously to grant the Acting Commissioner a 90-day extension for reporting to the State Board as directed in its decision of January 4, 2006. Hence, the reports that were due by February 1, 2006 are now due by May 2, 2006, and those due by March 1, 2006 are now due by June 1, 2006.

Sincerely,

Dr. Arnold G. Hyndman, President
State Board of Education

Debra Casha, Chairperson
Legal Committee of the State Board