

Richard E. Shapiro, Esq.
Richard E. Shapiro, LLC
5 Mapleton Road
(609) 919-1888

Special Counsel For Intervenors-Movants
Boards of Education of City of Bridgeton,
Burlington City, City of East Orange,
City of Perth Amboy,
Town of Phillipsburg and
City of Trenton

RAYMOND ARTHUR ABBOTT, ET AL.,

Plaintiffs

v.

FRED G. BURKE, ET AL.,

Defendants

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

DOCKET NO. 42,170

CIVIL ACTION

CERTIFICATION OF DR. PATRICIA DOLOUGHTY,

Paricia Doloughty, Ed.D., of full age, hereby certifies as follows:

1. I am the Superintendent of the City of Burlington Public School District ("District"), an Abbott district under this Court's Abbott rulings. I make this Certification in support of the Motion of the Movants-Intervenors to intervene in this action in support of the Education Law Center's motion in aid of litigants' rights and to provide the Court with information on the specific impact of the severe reduction in

State aid on the City of Burlington Public School District's programs, services and positions in the 2010-2011 school year.

2. I have overall responsibility for implementing the programs and reforms in the District to enable all students to achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards ("NJCCCS").

3. The District has a total enrollment of 1,890. The student population is 54% Black, 36% White, 6% Hispanic, and 3% Asian. 50% of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch.

4. If the formulaic State aid funding categories in the School Funding Reform Act ("SFRA") had been fully funded in FY2011 in accordance with the SFRA's provisions, the District would have received State formula aid in the amount of \$16,953,788. Because of the reductions in formulaic aid in the FY2011 budget, the District will receive State aid in the amount of \$15,494,205, or a reduction of \$1,459,583 below the formulaic amounts required by the SFRA and deemed necessary under the SFRA to provide our disadvantaged students with a Thorough and Efficient Education.

5. As a result of this reduction in SFRA aid, the District had to eliminate twenty-six (26) positions: eight (8) regular education teachers; two (2) special education teachers; two (2) teachers in the Alternative Day program designed to

keep students in school; one (1) 3rd and 4th grade science special teacher; one (1) elementary art teacher; two (2) teachers of wood, metal and auto classes; one (1) music teacher; one (1) substance abuse counselor; five (5) elementary tutors and literacy coaches; one (1) home-school parent liaison; one (1) media center assistant; and one (1) Vice Principal.

6. The reductions in regular education teachers will require an increase in class size beyond the class size limits established by the Department of Education ("DOE") regulations for classes in high poverty school districts. The District has been designated as a High Needs school district, but will not have the resources to meet class size and other regulations relating to such districts.

7. The elimination of three (3) Language Arts Literacy Coaches and two (2) Elementary School Tutors will prevent the District from meeting the Language Arts/Literacy requirements in the DOE regulations for small group instruction in reading and writing. The District will also have to eliminate the small group instruction provided by the Writing Lab program.

8. The elimination of the three (3) vocational/technical programs will adversely affect the ability of many District students who are not college-bound to learn essential trade

skills necessary for good employment opportunities. The District is concerned that without the auto, metals and wood classes, these students are much more likely to drop out of high school, without receiving a basic high school education, in order to find opportunities elsewhere to develop a trade or skill and lacking the educational skills necessary for better job opportunities.

9. The elimination of an elementary art teacher and of a music teacher at the junior/senior high school will limit the ability of the District to provide appropriate and necessary instruction in art and music for our students, whose poverty prevents their exposure elsewhere to such enriching academic opportunities.

10. The elimination of staff will also compel the District to reduce one alternative educational program and to modify an alternative education program for the high school, which will negatively impact graduation rates. Given the high poverty level in the community, numerous students work during the day to provide financial support for their families and attend school at night in the alternative programs. The reduction of those programs means that fewer students will have the opportunity to graduate with a high school diploma.

11. The elimination of a full time Substance Abuse Coordinator will drastically reduce the District's ability to address student substance abuse issues, which are a significant issue in this District. In addition, the elimination of the full time Home Liaison position will impede the ability of the District to conduct appropriate parent training activities and events. This will likely lead to a sharp decrease in parental involvement in the schools, a critical component of student success.

12. These staff reductions undermine the District's ability to ensure that our students meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and to continue to provide the demonstrably needed supplemental programs and services to our students to address their special needs.

13. In addition to the cuts in staff, programs and services, the reduction in formulaic aid has forced the District to severely reduce the number of extracurricular activities and athletics that will be offered this school year. Cutting these types of programs will reduce or eliminate the opportunities for our students to be engaged in the school and in positive, supervised after school activities.

14. The District understood that the Abbott supplemental funding and parity remedies had been eliminated by the Court

because the SFRA, when fully funded, would provide adequate funding to enable the Abbott districts to provide a thorough and efficient education to our students and to provide the additional programs, services and positions needed for our at-risk disadvantaged students.

15. Without the required formulaic aid under the SFRA to ensure sufficient funding to meet the requirements of the Thorough and Efficient Education Clause, the District will not have adequate funding for programs, staff and positions to enable our students to meet New Jersey's academic standards.

16. Without the required formulaic aid under the SFRA, the District will lack funding to provide the supplemental programs our students need and that SFRA was designed to enable us to deliver to address those needs.

I hereby certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Dr. Patricia Doloughty

Dated: July 29, 2010