



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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January 19, 2011

South Plainfield Board of Education
Mr. Jim Giannakis, President
125 Jackson Avenue
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

Dear Mr. Giannakis:

I have become aware of various issues in relation to the board's contracts with Sodexo Corporation which manages the food services, building and grounds maintenance and custodial services for the school district.

Concerns have been raised about the provisions of contract which require "average minimum wage" rates for employees. There are questions as to whether Sodexo properly calculated and awarded these required wages to its workers. As these payments affect tax dollars, transparency and accountability are required by law.

I am sure that you are aware of the recent \$20 million settlement between Sodexo and the State of New York concerning overbilling to 21 school districts. Although no one should prejudge Sodexo, a thorough review of their actions is prudent.

I, therefore, urge the board to conduct an independent audit of all of Sodexo's contracts with the board including invoices, supplies, calculation and payment of required employee compensation.

Sodexo should also be reminded of the right of its employees to organize if they choose to do so.

Thank you for your consideration. I know that you care deeply for our schools and our taxpayers and I am confident that you will act promptly to address this concern.

If I can be of any assistance or if you want to discuss this matter further, don't hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr.