

From: **Michele Lee** <mlee@highbridge.org>

Date: Thu, Feb 10, 2022 at 10:12 PM

Subject: Mia Baldwin - School Board

To: Greg Hobaugh <hobaughg@hbschools.org>

CC: Cindy Sharkey <csharkey@hbschools.org>, Bonnie Fleming <bfleming@highbridge.org>,
Mia Baldwin <mtobaldwin@aol.com>

Dr. Hobaugh-

I recently learned that Mia Baldwin was asked to resign her position on the school board, by you. In speaking with several people, I understand this was due to your suggestion there was a conflict of interest due to her acceptance of a position with the Work Family Connection serving High Bridge for before and after school care.

I find it incredible that it appears you have been quick to make this decision on your own, and that you did not even provide the common courtesy of replying to Mia with a better understanding. Mia petitioned to be on the ballot last year, and received the most votes of any school board candidate. The fact that this perceived conflict was not discussed more openly with the public, before any action was taken by the board, is absurd.

In reviewing past agendas posted to the school board's webpage (I note no minutes have been posted), I don't see any instances of a potential conflict... and even if there was an agenda item in question, could she not simply recuse herself? Please advise how it is an appropriate action to ask for a choice between paid employment and a volunteer position on the board, to someone who was elected overwhelmingly by the people in High Bridge to serve.

In addition, the Borough's Green Team intends to seek points in 2022 from Sustainable Jersey in submitting an action item on Diversity on Boards & Commissions. The purpose of this study is to ensure the boards and committees reflect the community profile in terms of race, age, political beliefs, and family structure (to name a few). A review committee will be formed in the near term ... this action on your part will not gain HB any diversity points to say the least. As I stated above, it seems incredibly short sighted, and I really question the intention.

Mia has been invaluable to High Bridge, and provides an important perspective as an African American woman. She is a devoted, intelligent and engaged member of our community, and has raised six children through the HB school system . She deserves to serve on the High Bridge school board in her own right, the people agree and elected her to do so.

I'm not sure if there is anything you can do at this point. I do know that the election was a highlight to both Mia and her children and she was eager to be an elected member of the board. I am requesting the following:

- On the February 7th agenda, a letter of resignation from Mia is noted to be attached. I would like a copy of this letter, and any response via email or letter from you or a member of the board.
- On the January 10th agenda, a five year contract for Gregory Hobaugh is noted to be attached. I would like a copy of this too.
- A copy of all meeting minutes, including executive session, for 2022.

These items are not available on the Board's website. Please let me know if I should submit an OPRA request or if this email is sufficient.

Michele

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Mayor Michele Lee
Borough of High Bridge

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