



PS16 Needs All RIF reversed ASAP

The CPA of PS16 <ps16cpa@gmail.com>

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Dear Superintendent Walker, Ms. Ruane, Dr. Fernandez, and Members of BOE,

As you know PS16 has had more than 25% of our school staff receive non-renewal notices in the past month, which terrified and devastated our school community. We cannot accept the fact that the very people instrumental in helping our school achieve its #1 ranking in the county can be so callously discarded.

Our parent team has diligently advocated to increase and improve funding for Jersey City Public Schools on all levels of government. We have worked tirelessly to come up with solutions that can assist the district financially and create partnerships. Over the past few years our parents have written **tens of thousands of dollars** worth of checks to Jersey City Public Schools, whether it was to fund our own air conditioners, or pay for multiple security fees. We fund our own Title 1 with our parents money and pay for our own Summer Camp. Everything we have done over the years has helped pour money into this district and we do our best not to ask for anything that we can feasibly do ourselves.

At this time we still have a number of non-tenured lead classroom teachers that have not received letters rescinding their Reduction In Force. This contradicts with the assurances that School Board President Mr. Thomas released on social media and local newspapers that all instructional staff will have the RIFs reversed. We also spoke with the Superintendent and Dr. Fernandez at the Parents as Partners Conference and received assurances that our PS16 staff will be completely safe.

At this time we cannot accept losing a single one of our teachers. We have made it very clear that each one of them is precious to us and essential to the school's success and top rankings. We will not allow politics to affect our children's future.

We ask that you fulfill your multiple promises to us and act with urgency and integrity, in keeping your word and complete the RIF reversal process to ALL our staff members immediately. We have over 600 families anticipating the fulfillment of your promise.

Best Regards,

Jillian Mellen
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