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September 30, 2024

**VIA ELECTRONIC REGULAR AND CERTIFIED R.R.R. MAIL**

The Honorable Daniel T. Rodrick, Mayor  
Township of Toms River  
P.O. Box 728  
Toms River, NJ 08754  
[drodrick@tomsrivertownship.com](mailto:drodrick@tomsrivertownship.com)

**RE: TRUE FACTS LETTER**

Dear Mayor Rodrick:

On behalf of the Board of Education of the Toms River Regional Schools District, this letter is notice to you and all employees, officers, and agents of the Township of Toms that your undated letter sent with tax bills containing the statement, “However, the Toms River School Board voted on June 18th to support a 9.9% tax increase” is false and defamatory.

The true facts are that the Toms River Regional Schools Board of Education NEVER passed a 2024-2025 budget that increased taxes. To the contrary on July 3, 2024, the Board refused to adopt the budget, voting down the 9.9% tax increase and instead authorized legal action to secure full funding from the State of New Jersey. In response, on July 24, 2024, the State of New Jersey unilaterally imposed a budget on the Toms River Regional Schools Board of Education that ordered and compelled the imposition of the 9.9% tax increase, which again was rejected by the Board on July 3, 2024. Specifically, in a letter dated July 24, 2024, Susan Naples, the Interim County Superintendent wrote, “I have no choice but to exercise my delegated powers pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7-1, et seq., and N.J.A.C.6A:23A-1.1, to adopt a 2024-2025 budget for the Toms River Regional School District.” This letter confirms the true facts and notifies you that your letter is false and defamatory.

The Board of Education of the Toms River Regional Schools District demands that you cease and desist from any further publication or dissemination of the words in your letter through any course (written or spoken, audio or visual, and/or mailed, broadcast, or published through any form of media, including traditional and social) and that you publish an immediate retraction of the words in a notice to all residents of the Township of Toms River.



Rather than continuing to disparage the Board with false statements, the Board invites you and the entire administration of Toms River Township to join the District in its effort to secure appropriate and mandated levels of funding from the State of New Jersey. Additional funding from the State of New Jersey will directly benefit the residents, taxpayers, and students of Toms River, South Toms River, Beachwood, and Pine Beach.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'WRB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William R. Burns, Esq.

cc: David Ciccozzi – Councilman (via email only to [dciccozzi@tomsrivertownship.com](mailto:dciccozzi@tomsrivertownship.com))  
Justin D. Lamb, Esq. – Councilman (via email only to [jlamb@tomsrivertownship.com](mailto:jlamb@tomsrivertownship.com))  
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Toms River Regional Schools Board of Education (via email only)  
Superintendent (via email only)  
Business Administrator (via email only)