

**OCEAN CITY FAIRNESS IN TAXES
POST OFFICE BOX 565
OCEAN CITY, NEW JERSEY 08226**

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Mr. Chris Halliday, Board President
Ocean City Board of Education
501 Atlantic Avenue – Suite 1
Ocean City, New Jersey 08226

Subject: **Ocean City School Superintendent Attendance Record
Quakertown Community School District Commitments**

Dear Mr. Halliday:

Ocean City Fairness in Taxes (FIT) is in possession of email communications between Dr. Matthew Friedman (personal email address) and the Quakertown Community School District (QCSD). The date range of these emails is approximately from February 12, 2023 to May 7, 2023. While FIT is still in the process of reviewing the many emails, it would like to bring to your and the board's attention a matter regarding Dr. Friedman's attendance. Presented below are the concerns of FIT along with attached correspondence that supports our concerns.

1. In an email correspondence dated May 1, 2023, with a QCSD official, Dr. Friedman confirms in writing that he will be in Quakertown on the following days:

- A) Monday, May 8, 2023
- B) Tuesday May 16, 2023 (around 3:15pm)
- C) Friday, May 19, 2023

Please refer to exhibit "A" for a copy of the email.

2. In another email dated May 7, 2023, with the current QCSD Superintendent, Dr. Friedman makes a commitment to be in the Quakertown area to attend a legislative day on Tuesday, June 6, 2023. Please refer to Exhibit "B" for a copy of the email.

3. So, based on these two (2) emails, Dr. Friedman will be out of the Ocean City School District in Quakertown for four (4) work days.

4. As a result of an Open Public Records Act (OPRA) request, a copy of Dr. Friedman's attendance record was obtained, which was generated on June 13, 2023. Based on this attendance report, the only day that Dr. Friedman was recorded to be absent from the Ocean City district was Monday, May 8, 2023. The other three (3) days that he committed to be in Quakertown, he was in Ocean City, at least according to his attendance record. Please refer to exhibit "C" for Dr. Friedman's attendance record.

5. Understanding that plans can change, FIT would like to confirm that despite his written commitment to Quakertown, Dr. Friedman was actually (physically) in the Ocean City School District for a FULL work day for the following dates:

- A) Tuesday, May 16, 2023
- B) Friday, May 19, 2023
- C) Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Unlike previous correspondence from FIT regarding Dr. Friedman's attendance, we would like a written response to this letter regarding the whereabouts of Dr. Friedman on these three (3) days. Accurate payroll and attendance records are important to protect the interest of the district taxpayer and a written response is necessary from the board in order to clarify the existing discrepancy.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and looking forward to a timely response.

Respectfully submitted,



David Breeden, President
Ocean City Fairness in Taxes

ATTACHMENTS:

- Exhibit "A" – Email dated May 1, 2023 on dates out of district in Quakertown, PA
- Exhibit "B" – Email dated May 7, 2023 for Quakertown's Legislative Day
- Exhibit "C" – Dr. Matthew Friedman's Attendance Record as of June 13, 2023

cc: Tim Kelley, Board Secretary/Business Administrator
Ocean City Board of Education Members
Ocean City Fairness in Taxes Board of Directors

Message

From: Matthew Friedman [REDACTED]
on behalf of Matthew Friedman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 5/1/2023 5:26:01 AM
To: Wieand, Ryan [rwieand@qcsd.org]
Subject: Re: Welcome to Quakertown!

Good Morning Ryan

I hope this message finds you well. It is great to hear from you.

It's hard to believe it is May already and we are getting closer and closer to the end of the year...a busy yet exciting time of year.

I wanted to personally thank you for reaching out...I am glad you did and look forward to working together moving forward. I know many great things are ahead.

As far as the 16th...let's plan on me being in person that day at 3:15 pm. We can talk leading up to that about the logistics.

I am going to be in district on the 8th and the 19th if you are available...even for a few minutes. I know neither are a Thursday but maybe it can work. If not, I will make sure we find time to talk at some point soon.

I look forward to the 16th. Feel free to call, text or email at any time to discuss.

Have a great week and thank you again for the invite.

Best Regards- *★ CHECK ATTENDANCE*

Matt

RECORD

THREE (3) DAYS IN QUAKERTOWN

MAY 8, 2023 - MONDAY

MAY 16, 2023 - TUESDAY

MAY 19, 2023 - FRIDAY

On Apr 27, 2023, at 1:06 PM, Wieand, Ryan <rwieand@qcsd.org> wrote:

Dr. Friedman,

We had a chance to briefly meet after the school board meeting where you were voted in, but my name is Ryan Wieand and I'm the president of Quakertown's teacher's union, QCEA. Thank you for sharing your email address with me through board director Chris Spear, so I could touch base with you.

I would love to have an opportunity to meet with you and get to know you better, as well as have an opportunity to discuss hot topics in the district that directly impact my members and that they find important to address moving forward. I know you mentioned that you might spend some time in the district near the end of the school year, so please let me know if there's a day that would work for you for us to grab a bite to eat or chat. I do have release time on Thursdays in the afternoon for my union position, so ideally, a Thursday would work best, but I can be flexible if needed.

Finally, our union has their general membership meeting coming up on Tuesday, May 16th at approximately 3:15. My executive team and I thought it would be great if you could attend, either in person or virtually, at the

Exhibit "B"

Message

From: Harner, William [wharner@qcsd.org]
on behalf of Harner, William <wharner@qcsd.org> [wharner@qcsd.org]
Sent: 5/7/2023 11:39:31 AM
To: Glenn Iosue [iosue146@qcsd.org]; Jon Kern [kern105@qcsd.org]
CC: Charles Shermer [shermer167@qcsd.org]; Hippauf, Todd [hippauf257@qcsd.org]; Michael Post [post927@qcsd.org]
BCC: nedwards@qcsd.org
Subject: Fwd: PASA-PSBA On the Hill

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Matthew Friedman** [REDACTED]
Date: Sun, May 7, 2023 at 09:48
Subject: Re: PASA-PSBA On the Hill
To: Harner, William <wharner@qcsd.org>

Good Morning Bill

★ Thank you for the invite. That sounds great... I will definitely join you. I appreciate it. ★

When you have a chance, please send me the details.

I am looking forward to it.

Enjoy your Sunday.

Matt

CHECK ATTENDANCE RECORD
TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023

On May 7, 2023, at 7:42 AM, Harner, William <wharner@qcsd.org> wrote:

Matt,

Good morning. In a month June 6th is Legislative Day. Wanted to know if you wanted to join me. I can introduce you to various members of the Legislature and key players at both Associations. Your call.

I routinely bring a kids from TV production with me if their schedule allows along with Linc Kaar the teacher.

Bill

--

William E. Harner, Ph.D.
Superintendent


100 Commerce Drive

RTK0000001

CREATE ABSENCE | CREATE VACANCY | ABSENCE MODIFY | DAILY REPORT | SCHOOL | FIND EMPLOYEE | FIND SUBSTITUTE

General Information | Permission | Configuration Settings | Absence Reasons | Preferred Substitutes | Absence Approvers | Reports

Absence History | Qualified Substitutes | Communications to Employee | Change Log | Login History

Select Another Employee | Create an Absence | Add Employee  Send Letter/Email

Employee: FRIEDMAN, MATTHEW
Absence history for the next 366 days as well as the past 366 days

CONF#	Substitute	Feedback ABOUT Substitute	Feedback Left by Substitute	Start Date	Absence Reason	Days	School	Status
584978028				06/02/2023	Illness	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
584211314				05/26/2023	Personal Day	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
580955069				05/10/2023	Illness	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
580272731				05/08/2023	Personal Day	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
579325645				05/03/2023	Illness	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
575939215				04/19/2023	Illness	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
560411706				04/03/2023	Professional	2.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
571481935				03/28/2023	Vacation	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
571247870				03/22/2023	Personal Day	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
560411320				03/20/2023	Professional	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
562094389				03/16/2023	Professional	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
559681923				03/13/2023	Professional	2.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
566483583				03/06/2023	Illness	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
565779314				03/03/2023	Vacation	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
559664330				03/01/2023	Vacation	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
				02/28/2023	Professional	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
559664070				02/13/2023	Professional	5.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
557164991				01/25/2023	Professional	3.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
551234429				12/21/2022	Illness	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
551382441				12/20/2022	Illness	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
548628937				12/08/2022	Vacation	2.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
547119138				12/01/2022	Vacation	2.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
544123602				11/17/2022	Vacation	2.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
				11/03/2022	Personal Day	0.50	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
537160835				10/17/2022	Illness	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
532139112				10/12/2022	Professional	4.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
532138323				10/03/2022	Professional	2.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed
521938940				07/04/2022	Professional	1.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	
				07/01/2022	Professional	5.00	Ocean City Board of Education Office	Substitute Not Needed