



## **New Jersey Coalition Against Racial Exclusion (NJ-CARE)**

### **Pastor Willie D. Francois Responds to Acting Commissioner of Education's Rejection of Motion to Reconsider Denial of Absecon School's Petition to Sever Ties with Pleasantville.**

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Building One New Jersey supports and praises the Acting Commissioner's recent decision to uphold her earlier thoughtful and just ruling to deny Absecon's petition to secede from Pleasantville High School. Her ruling is historically consistent with what judges have determined since Absecon started these tactics in the 1980s.

Building One New Jersey, along with civil rights organizations, education advocates, and social justice groups across the state, continues to reject Absecon's argument that separating disproportionately white and middle-class Absecon schools from majority Black, brown and disproportionately poor Pleasantville schools will have no negative impact. On the contrary, it will exacerbate and deepen an already intolerable, grotesque and deeply damaging level of racial segregation and concentrated poverty that destroys opportunity and narrow the life potential of poor and Black and brown students.

Now that the Acting Commissioner has reaffirmed her position and once again rejected Absecon's illegal secession bid, it is time we all came together for the sake of all our children and all our communities.

We call on the Egg Harbor Regional High School District to end their collaboration with and support for Absecon's illegal and odious scheme and withdraw their name from their petition. We call on the Absecon Board of Education to end their offensive and very costly campaign and instead join us in seeking real and lasting solutions to the problems of segregated education in our region. And finally, we call on Governor Murphy to get behind his wise Acting Education Commissioner, to end his campaign of evasion and silence and to work with us on a meaningful and transformative approach to reverse the deeply damaging and stigmatizing evil of segregated schools in New Jersey.

Dr. Willie D, Francois III on behalf of Building One New Jersey / Building One America / NJ-CARE