



FFA Elementary School
170 Lukens Dr.
New Castle, DE 19720
Principal: Ms. Rachel Valentin

FFA Middle School
1101 Delaware Street
New Castle, DE 19720
Principal: Dr. Laretha Odumosu

Strive for Excellence

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August 31, 2015

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Delaware Department of Education
Charter School Office
401 Federal St., Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901
Attention: Jennifer Nagourney

Ladies and Gentlemen:

By letter of March 24, 2015, Family Foundations Academy was formally advised that the Department of Education, with the assent of the State Board of Education, had determined that, as the result of Formal Review proceedings, the criteria for remedial action under Title 14, Delaware Code, Section 516, had been satisfied and that FFA had been placed on probation for 6 months, subject to certain conditions, one of which is a monthly report to DOE outlining FFA's progress on each of the identified violations of the School's charter. The violations of the charter that were identified in the Charter School Accountability Committee's final report regarding the formal review proceedings were board governance, board oversight and conflicts of interest, financial operations and administrative operations. FFA's first such monthly report, filed on March 31, 2015, commented on each of the areas mentioned. In that report we acknowledged four open issues and requested DOE to inform us if there were any others. We have not been so informed of any other open issues.

This is the report for the month of August. With this report all of those open issues will have been addressed and reported on and the 6 months probation period will expire September 19 so we are requesting that the probation be lifted at that time.

Board Governance. The Department recommended that FFA take steps if any matter involving a possible conflict between FFA and East Side Charter should arise so that all East Side connected Board members could recuse themselves without depriving the Board of a quorum. We do not see on the immediate horizon any opportunity for a conflict between FFA and East Side but nevertheless we have taken steps to address this concern. We have recently added an additional community representative to the Board (Thomas P. Preston, Esq.) and one of the East Side connected Board members (Jocelyn Stewart) has resigned so that East Side connected

Board members no longer constitute a majority of the Board. Thus, all East Side connected Board members could recuse themselves from consideration of a matter and there would still be a sufficient number of other Board members to constitute a quorum.

Board Oversight and Conflicts of Interest. As previously reported, we are not aware of any open issues in this area other than perhaps the routine compliance with public reporting by the Board of its activities. FFA is in compliance with all such public reporting requirements.

Financial Operations. As previously reported, to perform the financial audit for FY15 we have engaged a firm different from the firm that performed last year's audit. The firm of Haggerty & Haggerty has begun their field work and we expect the audit to be completed and submitted to DOE in time to meet the September 30 due date.

Administrative Operations. There are no open issues here pending from the Formal Review proceedings. The School believes it is in compliance with all administrative operating requirements.

Relocation of Facilities. As previously reported, the School is relocating to 160/170 Lukens Drive, New Castle (recently vacated by Reach Academy) in two steps over two years in order to consolidate its Elementary and Middle Schools at that one location. A Major Modification request was filed to approve this relocation of facilities and it was approved by the State Board of Education at its August meeting.

Request for Termination of Probation. Accordingly, the School has satisfied all requirements of the probation and respectfully requests that the probation be lifted on September 19 when the 6 month probationary period expires.

Very truly yours,



Charles S. McDowell
Board President



Lamont W. Browne, Ed.D.
Executive Director