

CAMPUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

"A Better Self ... A Better World"

350 Pear Street, Dover, Delaware 19904

Phone: (302) 736-0403 Fax: (302) 736-5330

www.campuscommunityschool.us

Dr. Catherine Balsley, Head of School

Leroy Travers, Principal Heidi Greene, Director of Curriculum

November 4, 2015

Mr. David Blowman, Chairman
Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC)
Deputy Secretary, DDOE

Dear Mr. Blowman,

On behalf of the Campus Community School staff and Charter Renewal Planning Team I wish to extend our gratitude for the opportunity to discuss our CCS Renewal Application with the entire CSAC committee on October 13, 2015. We very much appreciate the clarifying questions and thoughtfulness given to the recommendations to improve our student academic achievement and overall school performance. We would like to take this opportunity to respond to several concerns cited in the CSAC Initial Report, dated October 16, 2015.

Committee member Ms. McCrae had noted, and rightly so, that our school struggles with science education. We are painfully aware that some content areas have assumed an immediate "lesser importance of focus", as we developed a systemic, systematic and intentional laser focused approach to improving academic performance in ELA/literacy and Mathematics for all students k-8. Science education will be the focus of our Professional Learning Communities (PLC) for the 2016-2017 school year. We have already designated a science point person to participate in the Next Generation Science Standards training. As we begin budget planning for the next school year, we will dedicate considerable funding and time to support classroom instruction and professional development for our elementary staff. Our director for curriculum and instruction is planning to meet with Tonyea Mead for technical assistance as we focus greater attention on science education school-wide.

Ms. McCrae also recommended that CCS focus on Tier 2 with our English Language Learners. While we currently have only two identified ELL students, the academic and behavioral progress of ALL students (at various tiers) is discussed at our professional learning community meetings.

Committee member Ms. Mazza expressed concerns with the consultant report prepared to critique our special education program in the winter 2014. The report was an important step in CCS recognizing deep rooted "system" practices that needed to change in order to improve services to students with disabilities. As we discussed in our application, our students with disabilities have scored above state level proficiency levels in both Reading and math. CCS has fervently moved forward in implementing all of the consultant recommendations. We have also initiated a request for the consultant to return to CCS this winter to re-evaluate the performance of our program to ensure the recommendations are being implemented properly.

Overall, CCS has seen significant growth during this charter term and appears to be continuing this positive trending at an accelerated pace. As the committee has pointed out, some students are not achieving at the same levels of performance as others. The inequalities of performance we experience, particularly among low income, racial and ethnic groups and students with disabilities is a complex multifaceted problem of historical significance. We are fully committed to addressing these issues with an increased intensity toward improving school-wide cultural competence in every aspect of our work with children and their families.

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As we have in the past we look forward to working collaboratively with the Charter School Office and other DDOE offices as well as those state and local agencies and community-based organizations committed to providing a quality education for all students attending our school.

Sincerely,


Catherine Balsley, Ed.D.

Head of School