

**TO: Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC)
Charter School Office
Delaware Department of Education**

REF: Update – For Probation Terms, pursuant to Formal Review process

FROM: Dr. Cristina C. Alvarez, Chief School Officer

Probation, Item 1. The school shall submit monthly updates on recruitment and enrollment efforts by the first day of each month, beginning July 1, 2015.

Enrollment – Update

- As of May 29th – 387 total apps, 125 declined, 262 active apps, 231 accepted, 31 undecided, **223** enrollment agreements in eSchool
- As of June 30th – 436 total applications, 135 declined, 301 active applications, 268 accepted, 31 undecided, **260** enrollment agreements in eSchool

The Recruitment Team continues to host weekly Open Houses on Sundays and Wednesday evenings, conduct tours of the school building, outreach to communities, and distribute materials at the Design-Lab table in festivals and events. Recent events include: Ice Cream Festival at Rockwood Park, June 27th & 28th. Board members actively participate by attending these events.

Probation, Item 3. The school shall submit updates on the School Leader selection process as they become available, beginning by June 30, 2015.

The Board of Directors approved a qualified Principal candidate, William Bennett, on June 30, 2015. Mr. Bennett will report to work at the school on July 1, 2015.

The process for hiring the Principal included: recruiting and selecting a pool of qualified candidates, screening credentials, background and experience; and reference checking, background checks and child abuse clearances. As with all other candidates, the Principal completed a series of in-person interviews and written problem-solving tasks in the area of school leadership. The Board of Directors met to review and to discuss the Principal's candidacy and qualifications.

We believe Mr. Bennett is the right person to lead Delaware Design-Lab High School as the Founding Principal because he has 19 years of successful experience as a Principal. He demonstrated strong operational and problem-solving skills and has a proven track record as an instructional leader. Mr. Bennett has completed the coursework for a doctorate in Educational Leadership.

**Submitted: 1 July 2015
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