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*www.familyfoundationsacademy.org*

*Dr. Tennell Brewington*  
Co-Director

*Sean P. Moore*  
Co-Director

January 7, 2015

Mr. Mark T. Murphy  
Secretary of Education  
Delaware Department of Education  
The Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street  
Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901-3639

Renewal of the Charter of Family Foundations Academy

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We at Family Foundations Academy have no doubt that every action you take has our students' interests in mind. That said, we are deeply concerned about the letter that went out from the Charter School Office to FFA parents last evening. A few of our concerns:

1. Our Board granted an extension of the 60-day decision period so that a decision could be rendered on January 6. On December 29, FFA was notified by the Charter School Office that the renewal decision was unilaterally rescheduled to January 15, the day after the School Choice date. Parents at FFA are now in the position of having to make a decision about their student without knowing what actions you will take regarding FFA.
2. The Financial Report was requested by the Charter School Office at the Public Hearing on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 9. It was provided on Friday, December 12, and was made part of the public record that day. We are uncertain as to why it was not provided to you until December 17.
3. The Board of FFA was advised by counsel not to disclose the Financial Report when it was commissioned. Once it was specifically requested by the Charter School Office, it was supplied with a cover letter explaining the actions of the Board related



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to the issues covered in the Financial Report. Despite three requests, the Charter School Office never posted the cover letter in the public record.

4. On December 19, FFA was notified that the Charter School Office would not release employee bonuses for returning employees. This is something FFA has done to encourage teacher retention and is part of FFA's FY 2015 budget. Those bonuses were ratified at the December 23 Board meeting but have still not been received.
5. An unidentified source sent a letter to our parents Sunday at midnight asking for the reinstatement of Dr. Brewington, the co-Director who misused the FFA P-card in violation of the Internal Control Policies adopted by the Board as a result of the Financial Report. The fact that this abuse was immediately detected and was a basis for her 90-day suspension underlines how assertively our Board has exercised its governance function, and how strong the financial controls now are.

Commencing December 9 and repeatedly thereafter, we have asked the Charter School Office to arrange a meeting with you so that we can answer any questions you have about FFA material to your renewal decision. We would like to renew that request, if you deem it appropriate.

We would invite you to visit FFA as you did last year to see that our students are learning and involved in their community, and that the faculty and staff are committed and united in their support of FFA's renewal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alan F. Wohlstetter  
President, Charter School Renewal

cc: Board of Directors of Family Foundations Academy  
Ms. Kathleen Connor, Interim Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Amy Novosel, Interim Chief Academic Officer  
Ms. Monique Dolcy, Director of School Culture