

## Carwell John

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**From:** Graves Lauren  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2013 3:59 PM  
**To:** McLaughlin Mary Kate; Carwell John  
**Cc:** Meluskey David  
**Subject:** Support of Moyer Academy  
**Attachments:** Moyer Academy Support Letter.pdf; Baumbach New Moyer Letter.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Please find letters of Support for the New Moyer Academy attached from Reps. Baumbach and Bolden. They are unable to attend this evenings Public Hearing, but would like to have their letters read, if possible, and have their views on the school shared.

Thank you.

*Lauren Graves*

Legislative Aide – Majority Caucus  
Delaware House of Representatives

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**EXHIBIT**

Moyer 2  
LH 7-11-13

STEPHANIE T. BOLDEN  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
2<sup>ND</sup> District



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE OF DELAWARE  
411 LEGISLATIVE AVENUE  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

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July 11, 2013

John Carwell  
Delaware Department of Education  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Carwell,

I am writing to share my thoughts concerning the fate of Moyer Academy. The school is located in the Second Representative District, and I have watched the progress the school has made over the years and how much of an impact the school has had on the community.

I feel that the Charter process is unfair regarding Moyer Academy due to the fact that they have many at-risk students. Closing the school will once again displace many of these students, forcing them to find alternate schooling.

One important factor mentioned in the article in yesterday's News Journal was the proposal to incorporate traditional classroom time in with the K12 computer learning program. It is obvious to me that traditional classroom time is necessary for at-risk youth. Face to face classroom learning provides students with much needed structure and support from their teachers that cannot be received from a computer.

Schools like Moyer Academy need 3-5 years to show improvement. For example, Kuumba Academy was not an overnight success, and it is now thriving. Moyer Academy should be allowed the same amount of time as other underperforming schools to show improvement. Your consideration and support of this application is requested. A mind is a terrible thing to waste, but dropout rates or Ferris shouldn't be an alternative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie T. Bolden".

Stephanie T. Bolden  
State Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> District

July 11, 2013

John Carwell  
Delaware Department of Education  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Carwell,

Thank you very much for your work for Delaware's children, and specifically those attending Delaware's charter schools. I understand that there is a meeting today which will, among other items, be addressing the New Moyer Academy's request to reduce its student count and to overhaul its curriculum. I am assuming this, as there is no agenda for today's meeting available on the DOE website.

I would like to share my support for their application. I understand that Moyer serves a high-needs student population. We recognize that by definition this population requires additional flexibility and resources. **I therefore encourage the Department to do all in its power to support the New Moyer Academy in becoming successful.**

Please note that success can be in the eye of the beholder. The News Journal article notes that "Moyer's performance shows the school is also far below standards," but also that the more recent results won't be available until today's meeting. This makes it quite difficult for the public to have a well-informed say in decisions about the school's future. I would prefer that the board await time for the public to digest the new information before making any long-term decisions regarding Moyer.

I would also like to be very clear in my view that education success, to me, is much more than the most recent test scores. Quantitative scores are one piece, but even then there are good scores and bad scores. Good scores are longitudinal, measuring progress. Static, achievement, scores are far less useful, as they measure the student's academic ability more than the school's teaching ability. Longitudinal (progress) scores can be especially challenging for schools with high turnover during the school year, and so I would never wish to consider progress scores without simultaneously viewing turnover data, and I encourage the board to take the same approach.

Finally, high-needs student populations often come from homes with sub-optimal family support (for homework, for instance). As such, the high-needs serving schools have much greater challenges in achieving 'success' for their student populations. It is for this reason that **I emphasize my desire that the board provide extra understanding and flexibility to the New Moyer Academy's current request.**

Sincerely,



**Paul S Baumbach**  
State Representative  
23<sup>rd</sup> District