

In The Matter Of:
Department of Education
In Re: New Maurice J. Moyer School

Hearing
April 2, 2014

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THE STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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-- PUBLIC HEARING --

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
New Maurice J. Moyer School)

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Department of Education
The Townsend Building
2nd Floor Cabinet Room
401 Federal Street
Dover, Delaware 19901

Wednesday, April 2, 2014
6:40 p.m.

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BEFORE: Jennifer Nagourney, Executive Director
Charter Office, Department of Education

Donna Johnson, Executive Director
State Board of Education

ATTORNEY: Catherine T. Hickey, DAG
Attorney for Department of Education

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-- Transcript of Proceedings --

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1 MS. NAGOURNEY: All right. Are we
2 ready? Good evening. I declare this public hearing
3 to be open. My name is Jennifer Nagourney. I'm the
4 Executive Director of the Charter School Office of
5 Delaware Department of Education. I have been
6 appointed by the Secretary of Education to conduct
7 this public hearing.

8 The New Maurice J. Moyer Academy has
9 filed an application for modification of their
10 charter. I will ask the others with me today to
11 introduce themselves.

12 MS. HICKEY: My name is Catherine
13 Hickey. I'm a Deputy Attorney General, and I serve
14 as counsel to the Delaware Department of Education.

15 MS. JOHNSON: I'm Donna Johnson,
16 Executive Director, Delaware State Board of
17 Education.

18 MS. NAGOURNEY: This joint public
19 hearing is being held by the Delaware Department of
20 Education and the State Board of Education to give
21 the school the opportunity to provide information
22 about and comment on the application and also to
23 receive public comments.

24 I would like the record to reflect that



1 the notice of time, date, and place of today's
2 public hearing was published in the News Journal and
3 Delaware State News on March 17, 2014.

4 In addition, notice was posted at the
5 Charter School Accountability Committee's official
6 place of business, on the Delaware Department of
7 Education's official website, on the State Public
8 Meeting Calendar, on the state's official website on
9 February 18, 2014.

10 Further, the applicant was personally
11 notified of the time, date, and place of today's
12 public hearing on February 20, 2014.

13 The court reporter is present so that a
14 record of this hearing can be made. It will be
15 necessary for each speaker to clearly identify
16 himself or herself before beginning to speak so the
17 court reporter will be able to note who you are.

18 The record of this hearing will be
19 provided to the Secretary of Education and members
20 of the State Board of Education, together with any
21 written or electronic comments received at or before
22 this hearing.

23 We will proceed in the following
24 manner: First, we will hear from the



1 representatives of the charter school who wish to
2 speak, and then we will take comments from anyone
3 else who desires so speak.

4 There are sign-up sheets outside, and I
5 have a sign-up sheet here. If there is anyone who
6 desires to speak who has not signed up, please let
7 me know. Okay.

8 At this point I will accept comments
9 from any representatives of the school.

10 MR. CURRY: Good afternoon.
11 Christopher Curry, Chairman of the Board, New
12 Maurice J. Moyer Academy.

13 MS. WONGUS: Nikia Wongus, Business
14 Manager for New Maurice J. Moyer Academy.

15 MS. HICKEY: Let me just do something
16 here: Do you want them to switch when they talk?

17 THE REPORTER: You're okay as long as
18 you keep your voices up.

19 MS. HICKEY: Yes.

20 MS. WONGUS: I will speak directly to
21 you, so forgive me. I will speak directly to you.

22 I would like to offer my sincere thank
23 you to the committee for the recommendation for
24 approval for the modification for the charter.



1 I would like to say that we will
2 continue to work with the committee or the
3 Department with any questions that they may have.
4 From this point on, we offer transparency, we offer
5 support, and we would like to thank them for
6 everything that they offered to us and all comments
7 that were given to us. I have made note in our
8 records, and they have been adhered to.

9 MR. CURRY: And just to add, I want to
10 personally, as chairman of the board, thank each of
11 you. While we are certainly not where we are going,
12 I think we are now headed in the right direction.

13 The board, itself, has even -- the look
14 of the board has changed to a point where we are
15 very much focused on our outcome, which is to
16 educate and provide quality education.

17 With us not having to add a plethora of
18 students to our roll just to satisfy a mandate has
19 really helped us, and we believe that our gains will
20 be shown in the months to come.

21 I want to also say thanks to the
22 charter office and to others as they have given us
23 the feedback. We are certainly taking it serious.
24 And we will take transparency to another level to



1 ensure not just success for Moyer but success for
2 the children that we represent. And I want to kind
3 of leave it there.

4 MS. NAGOURNEY: Thank you. At this
5 point I will accept comments from anyone else who
6 desires to speak. We have Deacon Robert Locke?

7 DEACON LOCKE: That's okay.

8 MS. NAGOURNEY: Okay.

9 MS. HICKEY: Not speaking tonight?

10 DEACON LOCKE: No, ma'am.

11 MS. HICKEY: Okay. Thank you.

12 MS. NAGOURNEY: All right. If not, I
13 want to thank you all for participating today. The
14 Secretary will consider your comments as part of the
15 decision-making process, and your comments will also
16 be available for the State Board to consider. The
17 hearing is now closed. Thank you.

18 (Concluded at 6:44 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

I, Lorena J. Hartnett, a Notary Public and Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing is an accurate and complete transcription of the proceeding held at the time and place stated herein, and that the said proceeding was recorded by me and then reduced to typewriting under my direction, and constitutes a true record of the testimony given by said witnesses.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, or attorney of any of the parties or a relative or employee of either counsel, and that I am in no way interested directly or indirectly in this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office on this 3rd day of April 2014.



Lorena J. Hartnett
Registered Professional Reporter



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