

In The Matter Of:
*Department of Education
and Board of Education*

*In Re: Delaware Design Lab High School
May 18, 2015*

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THE STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
and
BOARD OF EDUCATION

In re:)
)
DELAWARE DESIGN LAB HIGH SCHOOL)

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Carvel State Building
820 French Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801
May 18, 2015
5:06 p.m.

HEARD BEFORE: JENNIFER NAGOURNEY

APPEARANCES:

CATHERINE T. HICKEY, ESQ., Deputy Attorney
General for the Department of Education

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1 MS. NAGOURNEY: Good evening. I
2 declare this public hearing to be open. My
3 name is Jennifer Nagourney. I am the
4 Executive Director of the Charter School
5 Office of the Delaware Department of
6 Education, and I have been appointed by the
7 Secretary of Education to conduct this public
8 hearing.

9 The charter of Delaware Design
10 Lab High School was placed on formal review by
11 the Department of Education with the assent of
12 the State Board of Education. As required by
13 law, the matter was referred to the Charter
14 School Accountability Committee, which will
15 issue later this evening an initial report on
16 this matter.

17 This joint public hearing is
18 being held by the Department of Education and
19 the State Board of Education to assist in the
20 decision of whether the criteria set forth for
21 remedial action in the Delaware Code have been
22 satisfied. This hearing provides the school
23 with an opportunity to provide and receive
24 public comment.



1 I will ask my colleague to
2 introduce herself.

3 MS. HICKEY: Good evening. My
4 name is Catherine Hickey. I'm a Deputy
5 Attorney General with the Delaware Department
6 of Justice, and I am serving this evening as
7 counsel to the hearing officer.

8 MS. NAGOURNEY: I would like the
9 record to reflect notice of the time, date,
10 and place of today's public hearing was
11 published in The News Journal and the Delaware
12 State News.

13 In addition, notice was posted at
14 the Charter School Accountability Committee's
15 official place of business, on the Department
16 of Education's official website, and on the
17 State public meeting calendar on the State's
18 official website. Further, the school was
19 personally notified of the time, date, and
20 place of today's public hearing.

21 A court reporter is present so
22 that an accurate record of this hearing can be
23 made. It will be necessary for each speaker
24 to clearly identify himself or herself before



1 beginning to speak so that the court reporter
2 will be able to note who you are.

3 The record of this hearing will
4 be provided to the Secretary of Education and
5 members of the State Board of Education
6 together with any written or electronic
7 comments received at this hearing.

8 We will proceed in the following
9 manner: First we will hear from any
10 representatives of the charter who wish to
11 comment. Then we will take comments from
12 anyone else who desires to speak. There are
13 sign-up sheets at the front of the room, and
14 if you have not yet signed up to speak for
15 Delaware Design Lab, please speak now.

16 It looks like we have one person
17 signed up to speak, who is also a
18 representative of the school. I tend to be as
19 liberal as time and reason allow in accepting
20 comments; however, I do reserve the right to
21 limit comment if it is purely repetitive or
22 cumulative.

23 At this point I'll accept
24 comments from the representative of the



1 school.

2 MR. RAYALA: My name is Martin
3 Rayala, and I'm the Chief Academic Officer for
4 Design Lab schools. And I appreciate the
5 opportunity to talk with you today.

6 The main issue that we were
7 facing is enrollment and trying to meet the
8 number of students that we have. And I'm very
9 pleased that currently we have 210 signed
10 agreements and entered into eSchool, and we
11 have 34 applications that still are pending,
12 and so we're feeling very comfortable.

13 We have open houses every week
14 two times a week, and this last Sunday five
15 additional students signed up. So we're
16 feeling good about the enrollment.

17 And then I think that solves a
18 lot of the other problems that go along with
19 that to make the budget balance, to make sure
20 that we can provide the educational program
21 that we said we would in our charter, and then
22 some other issues that revolve around that
23 that we're certain we'll able to resolve.

24 That would include being sure



1 that we have special education for the 28
2 students who have signed up who have special
3 education needs. And so that's a few more
4 than we thought, but we'll make those
5 adjustments and add staff to that and work
6 with them.

7 So we're very confident that
8 we're on track and are looking forward to
9 opening in August pending a favorable outcome
10 of all of this.

11 Thanks very much.

12 MS. NAGOURNEY: Thank you.

13 Are there any other
14 representatives of Delaware Design Lab High
15 School who wish to speak or anyone else who
16 desires to speak?

17 If not, this hearing is now
18 closed. Thank you all for your participation
19 today. The Secretary will consider your
20 comments as part of the decision-making
21 process. Your comments will also be available
22 to the State Board to consider. Thank you.

23 (Hearing concluded at 5:11 p.m.)
24



1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2
3 I, SUSAN ARNOLD YODER, Registered
4 Professional Reporter and Notary Public, do
5 hereby certify that the foregoing record,
6 pages 1 through 7 inclusive, is a true and
7 accurate transcript of my stenographic notes
8 taken on May 18, 2015, in the above-captioned
9 matter.

10 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
11 my hand and seal this 19th day of May, 2015,
12 at Wilmington.

13
14
15 *Susan A. Yoder*
16

SUSAN ARNOLD YODER, RPR, CRR

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