

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

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*ITMO: MOT Charter  
June 4, 2013*

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
and  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON CHARTER SCHOOL DECISIONS

IN THE MATTER OF )  
THE FINAL MEETING OF )  
MOT CHARTER MODIFICATION )  
APPLICATION )

Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street  
Cabinet Room, 2nd Floor  
Dover, Delaware 19901

Tuesday, June 4, 2013  
5:20 p.m.

BEFORE:

JOHN CARWELL, JR.  
Director of the Charter School Office  
at the Department of Education

ALSO PRESENT:

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

DONNA JOHNSON,  
Executive Director for the State  
Board of Education

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1 MR. CARWELL: Next we will hear from  
2 the MOT Charter School.

3 Is there anyone else who just came in  
4 who wishes to speak on behalf of the MOT Charter  
5 School who has not signed in? Please do so now.

6 Good evening. I declare this public  
7 hearing to be open. My name is John Carwell, Jr.  
8 I'm the Director of the Charter School Office at  
9 the Department of Education, and I have been  
10 appointed by the Secretary of Education to  
11 conduct this public hearing.

12 The MOT Charter School has filed an  
13 application to modify its charter. As is  
14 required by law, the matter was referred to the  
15 Charter School Accountability Committee for  
16 investigation and report.

17 This joint public hearing is being  
18 held by the Department of Education and the State  
19 Board of Education to give the school an  
20 opportunity to respond to the Charter School  
21 Accountability Committee's final report. And  
22 that recommendation for the school's modification  
23 application be approved, and also we want to  
24 receive public comments.



1 I would like the record to reflect  
2 that the notice of the time, date, and place of  
3 today's public hearing was published in the News  
4 Journal and in the Delaware State News on May 20,  
5 2013. In addition, notice was posted at the  
6 Charter School Accountability Committee's place  
7 of business, on the Department of Education's  
8 official Web site, and on the State's Public  
9 Meeting Calendar on May 20, 2013.

10 Further, the school was personally  
11 notified of the date, time, and place of today's  
12 public hearing on May 20, 2013.

13 A 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 his or herself before beginning to speak so the  
17 court reporter can identify who you are.

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

24 So we'll proceed in the following



1 manner: First, we will hear from any  
2 representatives of the Charter School who wish to  
3 comment on the Committee's final report. Then  
4 we'll take comments from anyone else who desires  
5 to speak. And seeing a large number of people  
6 here, so by a show of hands who wishes to speak  
7 on behalf of MOT Charter School? Not that many.

8 I do intend to be as liberal with  
9 time as possible. So at this point I would  
10 accept comments from the representatives of the  
11 school.

12 MS. JENNINGS: Good evening,  
13 Mr. Carwell. My name is Linda Jennings. I'm the  
14 Head of School at MOT Charter School, and one of  
15 the founding board members. I'm joined at the  
16 table by Jen Taylor, a cofounder and a board vice  
17 chair, teacher and parent at the school; and  
18 Mr. John Debenedictis, a parent at the school.

19 First of all, I would just like to  
20 thank the Committee for the opportunity to  
21 address our application, and through this  
22 hearing, the Board of Education as well.

23 Over the past 11 years, MOT has  
24 emerged as a model school, a K-8 school in



1 Delaware, a model for academic excellence, a  
2 model for parental involvement, a model for  
3 school culture where students are excited to  
4 learn, and a model for strong teacher  
5 collaboration and leadership. And we think at  
6 this eleventh year, it's a natural progression to  
7 expand to high school, and these folks behind me  
8 are the ones who are bothering me about this. My  
9 kids are already in high school, so there's a lot  
10 of community support and excitement about this  
11 opportunity.

12 I'm going to keep my comments brief  
13 to allow more of them to speak, but I just want  
14 to take a hand -- raise your hand if you're a  
15 parent at the school. And keep your hand up if  
16 you support this application. Raise your hand if  
17 you're a staff member at the school, and you're  
18 here to support this application. If you're a  
19 board member at the school, and if you're a  
20 student at the school.

21 And just as an example of the  
22 excitement and the interest, we don't go into  
23 this experience lightly, but we feel there's a  
24 strong need in our community. Thank you.



1 MR. CARWELL: Thank you.

2 MS. TAYLOR: Hi, I'm Jennifer Taylor.  
3 I'm a founding board member. I have a cold, so  
4 my voice is bad.

5 I am a founding board member. I am  
6 also a middle school teacher, and I am also a  
7 parent of three MOT Mustangs, and I would just  
8 like to say on behalf of my own family, my  
9 daughter has three days to go and then she'll be  
10 an eighth grader, which is unbelievable to me.  
11 But what I wanted to say is that MOT Charter, we  
12 are a community. We know the kids, board  
13 members, faculty, other parents. I see some of  
14 my students in here. I know who their parents  
15 are. I know who their siblings are. I know what  
16 sports they play, and that's something that we're  
17 really hoping to bring to MOT Charter High. And  
18 my daughter is really excited about the  
19 opportunity to continue on in the MOT tradition  
20 which is strong community involvement, really  
21 high level academics, but still with that feeling  
22 of, it's a small school. Everybody knows me  
23 here. That's really important to us.

24 As a board member, I just wanted to



1 share a couple of comments that I got that I'm  
2 going to submit for the record, but I just wanted  
3 to kind of give a quick synopsis of one of them  
4 in particular.

5 Mrs. Sturtevant, she has five  
6 children. This fall will be when she becomes the  
7 mother of her fifth Mustang, and we get her  
8 littlest one in kindergarten. But she  
9 particularly wanted me to remark about two of her  
10 children, one of which whose name is Michael and  
11 he is on the autism spectrum, and he has  
12 flourished at MOT and she really wanted me to  
13 share with you that they have been very happy  
14 with the service that we have provided to the  
15 special needs child. And the other one is her  
16 daughter who wants to be an art teacher. And  
17 she's so excited that MOT Charter High School  
18 will have an academy of the arts, in particular  
19 for her.

20 So I'm going to enter those into the  
21 record. I'll pass them over, but I just wanted  
22 to mention that this is exactly what MOT is  
23 hoping to do to kind of latch on to these really  
24 exciting areas of education and give the kids



1 something that really sparks their interest and  
2 their motivation and their enthusiasm.

3 I feel like we do a really good job  
4 at K to 8 and I would like to see us do that at  
5 K to 12.

6 MR. CARWELL: I want to pause for a  
7 moment. We have some chairs here for the folks  
8 who might be out in the hallway.

9 MS. HICKEY: Please mark these as  
10 Exhibit A and Exhibit B.

11 (Exhibits A and B were marked for  
12 identification.)

13 MR. DEBENEDICTIS: My name is John  
14 Debenedictis, and I'm the parent of two MOT  
15 Charter School students.

16 I want to start out by thanking you  
17 for this opportunity to speak. I believe I bring  
18 a unique perspective to a discussion concerning  
19 education. I go back to the old days where my  
20 parents only were privileged to go to the eighth  
21 grade, but they instilled the desire in me to  
22 educate myself.

23 I became the first of my family to  
24 earn a college degree, and I ended up with three



1 degrees from Drexel University. I have a  
2 Bachelor's of Science in electrical engineering,  
3 a Master's in biomedical engineering, and a  
4 second Master's in engineering management, and  
5 that's led to a very successful and happy and  
6 profitable academic career for me. So I have  
7 extreme respect for the benefits of a good  
8 education for all children.

9 I've been teaching for 20 years. I'm  
10 an adjunct professor at Delaware Technical and  
11 Community College. I taught at Hodgson Vo-Tech  
12 for five years. I'm a certified State of  
13 Delaware teacher. I have been a substitute  
14 teacher in that part of the district for the last  
15 three years teaching anywhere from kindergarten  
16 to twelfth grade, including handicapped children.  
17 This year I started part-time teaching some  
18 homebound students. So I have extensive  
19 experience teaching at all levels.

20 I had six children that went through  
21 public schools in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and  
22 who are all now grown and they've had varying  
23 levels of success. And the two children I have  
24 now, one started at MOT as a kindergartner; the



1 other one had spent a couple of years at Brick  
2 Mill, and a year at Cedar Lane, and they both  
3 excelled or did very well academically no matter  
4 what school they were in. But since the  
5 12-year-old has switched over to MOT Charter, he  
6 has really blossomed. He was a very introverted  
7 child. Just last night I attended his concert  
8 and he was one of the lead singers, which blew my  
9 mind how he has progressed in that area.

10 The 12-year-old at MOT represented  
11 the entire school as a fifth grader in the  
12 Geography Bee a couple of years ago.

13 Both children are extremely active in  
14 after-school activities which are self-supported  
15 financially, and I'm impressed. When I pick them  
16 up, it seems like a regular dismissal from school  
17 an hour later because so many children are  
18 involved in these various after-school  
19 activities.

20 The number and quality of parents  
21 volunteering their time is a treasure to witness.

22 I know all schools have varying  
23 degrees of success, be they public, charter, or  
24 private, but MOT has consistently demonstrated



1 their ability to provide a top notch opportunity  
2 for my children in their academic pursuits. They  
3 provide an atmosphere that brings out the best in  
4 both my children, and I look forward to the  
5 opportunity for my children to complete their  
6 primary education at a school with a track record  
7 to be proud of.

8 I hope each of you agree that MOT  
9 High School will be a reality in time for my  
10 children to continue to benefit from the quality  
11 education this organization provides. Thank you  
12 very much for this time.

13 MR. CARWELL: Next we'll hear from  
14 Amy Millett-Lee.

15 MS. MILLETT-LEE: My name is Amy  
16 Millett-Lee. I just want to quickly just say  
17 that the education that my children have gotten  
18 has been incredible. I have a son that has some  
19 vision and some other social problems, and he has  
20 done remarkably there. I don't think he would  
21 have had the same experience if he had been in a  
22 regular public school. So I really appreciate  
23 the education he's gotten. And then my daughter  
24 as well. She just excels and she loves school.



1 In fact, she's like -- she actually likes school  
2 enough that she doesn't want it to end in three  
3 days. But I just want to really hope that they  
4 get the high school started.

5 My son is in sixth grade going into  
6 seventh. I'm hoping it gets completed by the  
7 time he starts freshman year.

8 MR. CARWELL: Thank you for your  
9 comments.

10 Next on the list is Terry Angelus.

11 MS. ANGELUS: My name is Terry  
12 Angelus. I'm a staff member at MOT Charter  
13 School. I started there about -- I think eight  
14 years ago, maybe nine. I've lost track. But one  
15 of the things that stands out to me about MOT  
16 Charter School is our ability to make changes and  
17 respond to our students' needs very quickly.  
18 It's one of the things that I think has allowed  
19 us to stay as a high level academic environment  
20 while also maintaining that ability to address  
21 the needs of the student that comes in on an  
22 individual basis.

23 We often don't know who is coming  
24 into our doors, and we often don't know what



1 their needs are. But as a staff member, what  
2 I've seen over the years is that we all come  
3 together and we work very hard to make sure that  
4 child is successful; one child at a time. So we  
5 look at our job very much as creating a culture  
6 that allows anybody who comes into our doors to  
7 feel welcomed, to feel nurtured, and to be able  
8 to be successful. And I think that's an  
9 environment that should be fostered everywhere in  
10 every school. And if we can be a model for that  
11 and if we can continue to do that for our ninth  
12 to twelfth graders, I think we've really  
13 accomplished a lot. And if we can continue to  
14 allow students to find their way to become  
15 academically successful, to pursue the kind of  
16 careers they want to pursue, to allow them to  
17 feel socially accepted, and be in that kind of  
18 environment, I think that's going to enable those  
19 children to become adults to do the same thing  
20 for the children in their lives. I guess that's  
21 all I want to say.

22 MR. CARWELL: Thank you for your  
23 comments.

24 MR. JAYARAMAN: My name is Parthiban



1 Jayaraman. I have two children at MOT Charter  
2 School, fifth grade and seventh grade.

3 We really love the school. I just  
4 wanted to tell -- before I tell about the school,  
5 I want to tell what we value.

6 From an exceptional novel, two  
7 prisoners are there: An extremely wise old man,  
8 and a young man. This is from Count of Monte  
9 Cristo. And then the old man says to the young  
10 man, Man, I'm going to give you most valuable  
11 thing. The young man says, What? You're going  
12 to give me freedom? Sorry my friend, freedom can  
13 be taken away. I'm going to give you knowledge.

14 So we value that, and I like that  
15 phrase very much. We as a family value that a  
16 lot.

17 Whether we leave money for our kids  
18 or not, certainly leaving them with a good  
19 education is very important. That's where our  
20 values are.

21 With that, I've changed my son when  
22 he started off in school to four schools before I  
23 came to MOT Charter School. I was on the verge  
24 of moving out of Delaware, but then I think I



1 found something that was really clicking. So I  
2 really like MOT Charter School, and my daughter  
3 and my son have a great education and they've  
4 been very successful so far.

5 To conclude, if I had this education,  
6 I would have been ten times more successful than  
7 I am right now. Thank you very much.

8 MR. CARWELL: Thank you.

9 Susan Fisher.

10 MS. FISHER: Hi. Thank you for  
11 giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is  
12 Susan Fisher. I am a resident of Middletown. I  
13 am also from a long line of educators. I have  
14 four children, two of which are current students  
15 at MOT Charter; two have since graduated from MOT  
16 Charter.

17 Most importantly, my oldest son Ryan  
18 who is about to be a senior at Middletown High  
19 School is autistic. And he was in the public  
20 schools until sixth grade. In sixth grade, he  
21 was lost in the shuffle, bullied, attacked  
22 physically, and in a very bad situation. And on  
23 a whim and some advice from some very good  
24 friends, I put his name in the lottery at MOT



1 Charter and he got in. And at our very first  
2 meeting before school even started, I presented  
3 our IEP team with a lot of information about Ryan  
4 that I think probably overwhelmed some of them.  
5 Ryan had a lot of social issues, some emotional  
6 issues, and learning disabilities. And I looked  
7 at Elaine Elston, our school principal, and said,  
8 Do you think you can handle him? And she looked  
9 at me and said, Mrs. Fisher, Ryan is a Mustang  
10 now and he always will be. And what I found was,  
11 rather than what the school district did, which  
12 was take my square peg son and try to fit him  
13 very tightly into a round hole, MOT Charter  
14 School made a square hole for my son that he  
15 could easily fit into.

16           If he were here today, which he's  
17 home, but he would tell you that his two years at  
18 MOT Charter were the best two years of his life.  
19 Not only did he receive an amazing education and  
20 have amazing support, but he had friends, and he  
21 never wanted to miss a day of school. He looked  
22 forward to going to school every day. And he  
23 still -- now he's in a public high school --  
24 says, Mom, I want to go back.



1                   Unfortunately the situation that he's  
2                   in now, it's not as good as it was at MOT, and my  
3                   hope is that if we are permitted to go on and  
4                   have grades nine through twelve, that there are  
5                   other students out there like my son and  
6                   Mrs. Sturtevant, whose name was brought up  
7                   before, her son, who have high functioning  
8                   autism, who don't belong in a small classroom  
9                   setting, that they'll have the opportunity that  
10                  my son didn't.

11                  And I'm also very excited for my  
12                  other two children that are not in high school  
13                  yet to have this opportunity.

14                  MOT Charter is my family, and I will  
15                  be very sad when my children are grown up and  
16                  we're not part of it anymore. And that's it.  
17                  Thank you.

18                  MR. CARWELL: Thank you.

19                  Next we'll hear from Mitch Weiss.

20                  MR. WEISS: So I have been a parent  
21                  at MOT Charter for seven years, and a staff  
22                  member for the last three years. My background  
23                  is in high school education. I taught ninth  
24                  grade English and had the privilege of teaching a



1 lot of really wonderful students in ninth grade  
2 and then working as a high school administrator.  
3 But in that experience, I always had the question  
4 of -- I always had this nagging feeling that some  
5 of my students were coming to high school  
6 unprepared. They just weren't ready for what I  
7 had offered them in ninth grade, and they were in  
8 a bad position to be ready for what they needed  
9 to go into college or a career after twelfth  
10 grade.

11 So one of the things that really  
12 attracted me about a K to 8 school is, Well, is  
13 there a school out there that's doing it right in  
14 a K to 8 system and really getting those kids  
15 ready so that when they go to high school they're  
16 ready to go in? You know, as a parent, I  
17 investigated a bunch of different schools. I  
18 visited schools. I did tours of the schools. I  
19 sat in classrooms before making the choice of MOT  
20 Charter. And like I said, I've got a sixth  
21 grader now and a fourth grader and a  
22 kindergartner in the school who are all doing  
23 wonderfully. But now that I actually -- not only  
24 am I a parent at MOT but work as a staff member,



1 I kind of have the opposite question. What would  
2 happen if you had kids who are wonderfully  
3 prepared from kindergarten through eighth grade,  
4 what could they do in high school? And so this  
5 opportunity has now arisen for us at the school  
6 so that we have kids who can really go through a  
7 K through 12 system with a singular focus on  
8 growing students in both academic areas and  
9 social areas and interpersonal areas. You know,  
10 just what is it possible to do at the end of  
11 twelfth grade in that kind of system? And I  
12 think the high school at MOT Charter will  
13 definitely give us that opportunity, and I just  
14 can't wait to see what kids can do at the end of  
15 twelfth grade. Thanks.

16 MR. CARWELL: Thank you.

17 Jim Taylor.

18 MR. TAYLOR: Good evening. My name  
19 is Jim Taylor. I'm accustomed to appearing  
20 before this group advocating on behalf of charter  
21 schools. And I'm thrilled to do it tonight as a  
22 parent of three students at the MOT Charter  
23 School. I'm also the husband of Jen Taylor who  
24 spoke earlier who's a founding board member of



1 the school.

2 I'm speaking really tonight on behalf  
3 of my seventh grade daughter. I'm looking  
4 forward to MOT Charter High School educating all  
5 three of my children. Most of you know the  
6 physical building has three wings and I have a  
7 student (sic) in each wing right now.

8 My daughter in seventh grade is very  
9 anxious to know that she's going to be able to  
10 continue on in high school with her friends. You  
11 heard a parent, maybe more than one parent  
12 tonight talk about the MOT family. That's very  
13 much how it feels; not just to the parents and  
14 those involved, but particularly to the students.  
15 My daughter, frankly, thinks of her classmates  
16 more as members of the family than as fellow  
17 classmates, and while they come from all over,  
18 she knows that if there's an MOT High School,  
19 that she'll be able to stay with them as a group  
20 and continue to receive the great education that  
21 she's gotten from K to 7 and soon to be K to 8  
22 program.

23 She's particularly interested in the  
24 new academy that the MOT High School wants to



1 form. She's really flourished and blossomed in a  
2 small setting, a small school setting, a small  
3 classroom setting and knowing that that's what  
4 the MOT High School intents with its academy  
5 programs. It is very much what she envisions for  
6 herself, what she's interested in, what she's  
7 constantly bugging us about, and what I know  
8 she'll be successful in.

9 And those alternatives don't exist  
10 right now, particularly for those of us who live  
11 in the MOT community. In order to find a program  
12 like that, you have to make some real sacrifices  
13 and travel far. And even some of those programs  
14 that used to be available to us aren't now for  
15 different reasons. And so we're very much  
16 looking forward to having the MOT Charter High  
17 School for soon to be my eighth grade daughter,  
18 which is very hard to believe, but also for my  
19 other two children. Thank you.

20 MR. CARWELL: Thank you.

21 According to the list here, that's  
22 all that we have who have signed up to speak. Is  
23 there anyone else? Would you come forward,  
24 please?



1 MS. FLOWERS: My name is Tracey  
2 Flowers. I have four kids. Kaitlin is class of  
3 2015 -- 2017. Matthew is in the back. He's  
4 going to be 2019. Natalie is going to be class  
5 of 2024.

6 Kaitlin is interested in becoming a  
7 doctor. She is going to go to the Academy of  
8 Science to do that.

9 Natalie is bossy. She's probably  
10 going to go to the Academy of Science and then  
11 minor in the Academy of Arts. But she's probably  
12 going to become your first female president and  
13 set the policies for your retirement plans. So I  
14 hope that you vote and you give her the best  
15 education she's going to be able to get to make  
16 sure that she's intelligent to handle this for  
17 you.

18 Aside from those two, when we look  
19 right now -- and one of the gentlemen just said  
20 it -- in the MOT area to see where we're going to  
21 get the best education for our kids, you look at  
22 Charter School of Wilmington as a model, and Cab  
23 Calloway as a model, and they're in Wilmington.  
24 And I drive to Wilmington to work every day. I



1 don't know how I would be able to go to work,  
2 come home, get Natalie from her elementary school  
3 and her after-school programs and still be able  
4 to support the older children who are going to  
5 want to be involved in their after-school  
6 activities if I'm having to get back up to  
7 Wilmington to provide that for them. And as you  
8 know, one of the important factors, aside from  
9 education, is their involvement with school  
10 activities for a well-rounded kid.

11 So I hope that you also, as part of  
12 your consideration, take into consideration  
13 outside of school we're going to be able to do  
14 for these kids by having a high school located  
15 within our community. Thank you.

16 MR. CARWELL: Thank you. Is there  
17 anyone else who desires to speak? Please come  
18 forward.

19 MS. CIRILLO: Sharon Cirillo. I've  
20 been a parent of an MOT student for quite a while  
21 now, I guess. Art started the second year that  
22 they were open. He's a freshman this year at  
23 Hodgson. And what I really had found as the  
24 parent experience is that charter does a great



1 job of educating the whole child and really  
2 letting them grow in all the important ways. The  
3 only things that I can say that are negative is  
4 that we haven't had that complement to continue  
5 that education moving forward.

6 My oldest being a freshman this year  
7 and really having a strong interest in  
8 engineering and getting a great background in  
9 that through the same program at charter, really  
10 doesn't have a good place to go that's close to  
11 us. He's at Hodgson this year in the engineering  
12 program, and he's already mastered the software  
13 that they're rolling out to him. So we really  
14 need that in our local area because we're doing  
15 such a great job that we're already ahead before  
16 we even start our freshman year. And so there's  
17 a gap there and kind of some wasted time.

18 Also, in developing the arts side,  
19 Angelina who is in fifth grade this year has been  
20 dancing since she was two. So, of course, she's  
21 very interested in the opportunities to develop  
22 the artistic side. And as the other parent  
23 alluded to, having that in our local community is  
24 important so that we can continue to be a family



1 and participate in our local community instead of  
2 running up and down the road to Wilmington  
3 continuously.

4 So it's a natural progression of the  
5 great work that they've done in educating our  
6 kids and really helping them to excel and making  
7 sure that they're not going to lose time or waste  
8 time waiting for the rest of the kids to catch  
9 up, and to continue their education in an  
10 efficient manner.

11 So we're certainly very excited about  
12 the opportunity to have a charter high school  
13 that has that kind of programming, and certainly  
14 to continue the family foundation that we've  
15 already built.

16 MR. CARWELL: Does anyone else wish  
17 to speak?

18 MR. ALI KHAN: My name is Mir Sadiq  
19 Ali Khan. I go by Ali.

20 Good evening, everybody. This is the  
21 first time I'm here, and me, my wife and our kids  
22 are so proud to be part of the MOT family. I  
23 would like to say that. And one of the parents  
24 said the word knowledge. Everybody gets



1 knowledge everywhere in the schools, but the way  
2 MOT gives it to the students, they give it more.  
3 That knowledge helps them stand tall, walk tall,  
4 and be good citizens for the country. This is  
5 the most important thing I have seen. And when I  
6 walk in the corridor, every staff member knows  
7 me. And I was just walking -- I'll give you  
8 example. I came up the stairs. I saw  
9 Mrs. DeLong (phonetic). She's a teacher at the  
10 school. And she said, Hello, how are you? And I  
11 said hello. And then I just gave my daughter's  
12 name. She's a seventh grader, Samiyah.  
13 The next thing I got from her and another  
14 teacher, Oh, you're Samiyah and Saad's dad. And  
15 the teachers, they know the kids and there are  
16 more than 600 kids there. So that's the family  
17 we are talking about. And I would love -- and  
18 everybody would love the opportunity if we move  
19 the same family of students into the high school.  
20 It will be very, very good for the charter. They  
21 will be very, very productive. They already  
22 productive. And if you go and talk to them,  
23 everybody outside the school are doing work,  
24 helping out, and doing a lot of jobs to help the



1 community, make it better. And when we came  
2 in -- this is the only school that we have ever  
3 applied for my kids to go. We didn't have a  
4 choice. We didn't go to any other school. We  
5 didn't even apply my kids to go to a public  
6 school. So this is very important for me.  
7 And getting my older daughter into a high school  
8 of MOT will be a no-brainer decision for us. But  
9 if we have to look at alternatives, we don't  
10 know. We are not prepared. My daughter is not  
11 prepared. She says no, it's not going to happen.  
12 So I don't know how we're going to do it.

13           So whatever decision you make, please  
14 know that at least one student will be here  
15 asking you, why? I just want to -- and I don't  
16 think she wants to go to any public school. She  
17 has never been to a public school. You can call  
18 her right now and ask her does she want to go to  
19 public school. She will say no way. She has  
20 never been to a public school. She doesn't want  
21 to go. So I'm telling you how she wants to be  
22 part of MOT. And it is very important. And as a  
23 parent, as a citizen, I would really appreciate  
24 that you put in a little bit more effort to help



1 us get there. I will appreciate it. And I can  
2 go on, but basically, we need you to say yes.  
3 I'm thankful for you all to give us the  
4 opportunity that we could come and present  
5 ourselves and what we want and why we want it.  
6 Thank you very much.

7 MR. CARWELL: Thank you for your  
8 comments.

9 Is there anyone else who desires to  
10 speak? Please come forward.

11 MS. SHEARON: Hi. My name is Denise  
12 Shearon. I have kind of a unique experience  
13 because I'm probably the oldest parent now. My  
14 two daughters that are graduated, they're in  
15 college, 21 and 20. I have one that's now a  
16 freshman and I have one still at MOT. All of  
17 them are graduates of MOT. All of them have more  
18 than expressed their pleasure with their  
19 education that they got there.

20 Middletown was very crowded because  
21 it was the height of the boom before  
22 Appoquinimink was built, so they went to Padua.  
23 They were more than prepared for Padua. They're  
24 now at Delaware and Wilmington Universities and



1 doing very well.

2 The fact that they still come back to  
3 see their old teachers tells me how much they  
4 appreciated what they were given.

5 My third daughter is a freshman at  
6 Middletown, is in all honors and is doing  
7 fantastic. She had an IEP at MOT. She was  
8 actually held back one year, and for me now to  
9 see her in all honors, it is due to the teachers  
10 that were so amazing with our children.

11 Our fourth daughter is a sixth  
12 grader. In three days she will be a seventh  
13 grader. And she has just flourished also. Two  
14 of them started from kindergarten on, and the  
15 other ones started in fifth and fourth grade.

16 I can't say enough. The after-school  
17 activities, three of my children are involved  
18 very heavily in Odyssey of the Mind, and two of  
19 them have gone to World's. They can't say enough  
20 about what they're given at that school. My  
21 husband and I could not have asked for anything  
22 more for our daughters, and if we could have this  
23 one go on through twelfth grade with the same  
24 experiences, it would be an amazing thing for our



1 area.

2 Our one daughter did try and get into  
3 Charter School of Wilmington, but we're not Red  
4 Clay. So there are so few students from this  
5 area that get in. If we could have something  
6 like this in our area, I think the sky would be  
7 the limit for all of our students because I think  
8 really what they've put on in the K through  
9 eighth, if they could take that to twelfth grade,  
10 you're looking at probably another 700 kids that  
11 will do immense good for the world. I really do  
12 believe they will take their experiences and go  
13 on.

14 So for the teachers and the board  
15 members, from a parent, thank you from the bottom  
16 of my heart because there is nothing that would  
17 make me be a teacher because I'm telling you, I'm  
18 a nurse. Give me sick people. Do not put me in  
19 a classroom with kids because I couldn't do it.  
20 I don't know how you all do it. But my husband  
21 and I thank you for being there for them. So  
22 thank you.

23 MR. CARWELL: Thank you very much.

24 Is there anyone who desires to speak?



1 Please come forward.

2 MS. ELSTON: I'm Elaine Elston. I'm  
3 the principal and I'm also a parent of graduates,  
4 two actually. And I just want to say that I know  
5 this looks like a really big turnout, but if you  
6 come to our school on any day, most of these  
7 parents may be there or ones just like them; part  
8 of our charter being parental involvement.

9 My hope is that the great things that  
10 are going on in K to 8 are going to continue into  
11 the high school. And just as many parents are  
12 going to be there on a daily basis lending their  
13 expertise in engineering, and mathematics, and  
14 marketing, and writing, and journalism, and  
15 crocheting, and all the things that they help us  
16 out with already. So I appreciate the time and  
17 energy you guys put into really making this the  
18 best possible opportunity for the kids at lower  
19 New Castle County to have the same opportunity  
20 that the kids in Wilmington get.

21 MR. CARWELL: Is there anyone else  
22 who desires to speak?

23 If not, I want to thank you all for  
24 participating today. The Secretary will consider



1 your comments for a decision for the consent of  
2 the State Board. And this hearing is now closed.  
3 Thank you.

4 (Public hearing adjourned at 6:04  
5 p.m.)

6 (Exhibits A and B were retained by  
7 Mr. Carwell.)

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E X H I B I T S

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	IDENTIFICATION
Exhibit A	Letter dated 6/4/13	8
Exhibit B	Letter dated 6/3/13	8



## 1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 I, Vera T. Sitze, a Notary Public and Registered  
3 Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that the  
4 foregoing is an accurate and complete  
5 transcription of the proceeding held at the time  
6 and place stated herein, and that the said  
7 proceeding was taken down by me in Stenotype  
8 notes and thereafter transcribed by use of  
9 computer-aided transcription under my direction.

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

15  
16  
17 

18  
19 Vera T. Sitze, RPR

20  
21  
22 My commission expires July 31, 2014  
23  
24



<b>A</b>	after-school (5) 10:14,18 23:3,5 29:16	30:1,5,6 areas (4) 7:24 19:8,9,9	behind (1) 5:7 belong (1) 17:8 benefit (1) 11:10	27:1 can (13) 3:14,17 13:10,11,13
ability (3) 11:1 12:16,20	ago (2) 10:12 12:14	arisen (1) 19:5 art (2) 7:16 23:21	benefits (1) 9:7 best (5) 11:3 16:18 22:14, 21 31:18	14:12 16:8 19:6,14 24:3, 24 27:17 28:1
able (7) 13:7 20:9,19 22:15 23:1,3,13	agree (1) 11:8 ahead (1) 24:15 ALI (3) 25:18,19, 19	artistic (1) 24:22 arts (3) 7:18 22:11 24:18	better (1) 27:1 big (1) 31:5 biomedical (1) 9:3	career (2) 9:6 18:9 careers (1) 13:16
academic (5) 5:1 9:6 11:2 12:19 19:8	allow (3) 5:13 13:14,16	Aside (2) 22:18 23:8	bit (1) 27:24 blew (1) 10:8 blossomed (2) 10:6 21:1	CARWELL (18) 2:1,7 4:13 6:1 8:6 11:13
academically (2) 10:3 13:15	allowed (1) 12:18 allows (1) 13:6	atmosphere (1) 11:3	board (13) 2:19 3:20 4:15,16, 22 5:19 6:3,5, 12,24 19:24 30:14 32:2	12:8 13:22 15:8 17:18 19:16 21:20 23:16 25:16 28:7 30:23 31:21 32:7
academics (1) 6:21	alluded (1) 24:23 alternatives (2) 21:9 27:9	attacked (1) 15:21 attended (1) 10:7 attracted (1) 18:12	both (4) 10:2,13 11:4 19:8 booming (1) 28:21 bossy (1) 22:9	case (1) 3:22 Castle (1) 31:19 catch (1) 25:8 Cedar (1) 10:2
academy (6) 7:18 20:24 21:4 22:7,10,11	always (3) 16:10 18:3,4	autism (2) 7:11 17:8	both (4) 10:2,13 11:4 19:8 booming (1) 28:21 bossy (1) 22:9	certainly (3) 14:18 25:11, 13
accept (1) 4:10	amazing (4) 16:19,20 29:10,24	autistic (1) 15:19	bottom (1) 30:15 Brick (1) 10:1 brief (1) 5:12	certified (1) 9:12 chair (1) 4:17 chairs (1) 8:7 changed (1) 14:21
accepted (1) 13:17	Amy (2) 11:14, 15	available (1) 21:14	bottom (1) 30:15 Brick (1) 10:1 brief (1) 5:12	changes (1) 12:16 Charter (42) 2:2, 4,8,12,13,15, 20 3:6 4:2,7, 14 6:11,17 7:17 8:15 10:5,23 12:12, 16 14:1,23 15:2,15,16 16:1,13,18 17:14,21 18:20 19:12, 20,22 20:4 21:16 22:22 23:24 24:9 25:12 26:20 30:3 31:8
accomplished (1) 13:13	Angelina (1) 24:19	away (1) 14:13	<b>B</b>	
According (1) 21:21	Angelus (3) 12:10,11,12	<b>Bachelor's</b> (1) 9:2 back (6) 8:19 16:24 22:3 23:6 29:2,8	bring (2) 6:17 8:17 brings (1) 11:3 brought (1) 17:6	
Accountability (3) 2:15,21 3:6	anxious (1) 20:9 anymore (1) 17:16	background (2) 17:22 24:8	bugging (1) 21:7 building (1) 20:6 built (2) 25:15 28:22	
accustomed (1) 19:19	application (5) 2:13,23 4:21 5:16,18	bad (3) 6:4 15:22 18:8	bullied (1) 15:21 bunch (1) 18:17 business (1) 3:7	
active (1) 10:13	applied (1) 27:3 apply (1) 27:5 appointed (1) 2:10	basically (1) 28:2 basis (2) 12:22 31:12	<b>C</b>	
activities (5) 10:14,19 23:6,10 29:17	Appoquinimink (1) 28:22	became (1) 8:23 become (3) 13:14,19 22:12	Cab (1) 22:22 Calendar (1) 3:9 call (1) 27:17 Calloway (1) 22:23	
actually (4) 12:1 18:23 29:8 31:4	appreciate (4) 11:22 27:23 28:1 31:16	becomes (1) 7:6 becoming (1) 22:6 Bee (1) 10:12 beginning (1) 3:16	came (4) 2:3 14:23 26:8	
addition (1) 3:5	appreciated (1) 29:4	behalf (5) 2:4 4:7 6:8 19:20 20:2		
address (2) 4:21 12:20	approved (1) 2:23 area (6) 10:9 22:20 24:14			
adjourned (1) 32:4				
adjunct (1) 9:10				
administrator (1) 18:2				
adults (1) 13:19				
advice (1) 15:23				
advocating (1) 19:20				

child (5) 7:15 10:7 13:4,4 24:1	2:15 4:20 <b>Committee's (3)</b> 2:21 3:6 4:3	culture (2) 5:3 13:5 current (1) 15:14	develop (1) 24:21 developing (1) 24:18	eight (1) 12:13 eighth (5) 6:10 8:20 19:3 21:17 30:9
children (24) 7:6, 10 9:8,16,20, 23 10:13,17 11:2,4,5,10, 17 13:19,20 14:1 15:14 17:12,15 20:5 21:19 23:4 29:10,17	<b>community (10)</b> 5:10,24 6:12, 20 9:11 21:11 23:15 24:23 25:1 27:1	<b>D</b>	<b>different (2)</b> 18:17 21:15 <b>Director (1) 2:8</b> <b>disabilities (1)</b> 16:6 <b>discussion (1)</b> 8:18 <b>dismissal (1)</b> 10:16 <b>district (2) 9:14</b> 16:11 <b>doctor (1) 22:7</b> <b>done (2) 11:20</b> 25:5 <b>doors (2) 12:24</b> 13:6 <b>down (1) 25:2</b> <b>Drexel (1) 9:1</b> <b>drive (1) 22:24</b> <b>due (1) 29:9</b>	<b>Elaine (2) 16:7</b> 31:2 <b>electrical (1) 9:2</b> <b>electronic (2)</b> 3:21,23 <b>elementary (1)</b> 23:2 <b>eleventh (1) 5:6</b> <b>else (7) 2:3 4:4</b> 21:23 23:17 25:16 28:9 31:21 <b>Elston (3) 16:7</b> 31:2,2 <b>emerged (1) 4:24</b> <b>emotional (1) 16:5</b> <b>enable (1) 13:18</b> <b>end (3) 12:2</b> 19:10,14 <b>ended (1) 8:24</b> <b>energy (1) 31:17</b> <b>engineering (6)</b> 9:2,3,4 24:8, 11 31:13 <b>English (1) 17:24</b> <b>enough (3) 12:2</b> 29:16,19 <b>enter (1) 7:20</b> <b>enthusiasm (1) 8:2</b> <b>entire (1) 10:11</b> <b>environment (3)</b> 12:19 13:9,18 <b>envisions (1) 21:5</b> <b>even (4) 16:2</b> 21:13 24:16 27:5 <b>evening (4) 2:6</b> 4:12 19:18 25:20 <b>Everybody (5)</b> 6:22 25:20, 24 26:18,23 <b>everywhere (2)</b> 13:9 26:1
choice (2) 18:19 27:4	<b>complement (1)</b> 24:4 <b>complete (1) 11:5</b> <b>completed (1)</b> 12:6 <b>concerning (1)</b> 8:18 <b>concert (1) 10:7</b> <b>conclude (1) 15:5</b> <b>conduct (1) 2:11</b> <b>consent (1) 32:1</b> <b>consider (1)</b> 31:24 <b>consideration (2)</b> 23:12,12 <b>consistently (1)</b> 10:24 <b>constantly (1) 21:7</b> <b>continue (11)</b> 6:19 11:10 13:11,13 20:10,20 24:4, 24 25:9,14 31:10 <b>continuously (1)</b> 25:3 <b>corridor (1) 26:6</b> <b>Count (1) 14:8</b> <b>country (1) 26:4</b> <b>County (1) 31:19</b> <b>couple (3) 7:1</b> 10:1,12 <b>course (1) 24:20</b> <b>court (2) 3:13,17</b> <b>creating (1) 13:5</b> <b>Cristo (1) 14:9</b> <b>crocheting (1)</b> 31:15 <b>crowded (1)</b> 28:20	dad (1) 26:14 daily (1) 31:12 dancing (1) 24:20 date (2) 3:2,11 daughter (14) 6:9, 18 7:16 11:23 15:2 20:3,8, 15 21:17 27:7, 10 29:5,11 30:2 daughters (2) 28:14 29:22 daughter's (1) 26:11 day (4) 16:21, 22 22:24 31:6 days (4) 6:9 8:19 12:3 29:12 <b>Debenedictis (3)</b> 4:18 8:13,14 <b>decision (3) 27:8,</b> 13 32:1 <b>declare (1) 2:6</b> <b>definitely (1)</b> 19:13 <b>degree (1) 8:24</b> <b>degrees (2) 9:1</b> 10:23 <b>Delaware (6) 3:4</b> 5:1 9:10,13 14:24 28:24 <b>DeLong (1) 26:9</b> <b>demonstrated (1)</b> 10:24 <b>Denise (1) 28:11</b> <b>Department (3)</b> 2:9,18 3:7 <b>desire (1) 8:21</b> <b>desires (5) 4:4</b> 23:17 28:9 30:24 31:22	<b>E</b> <b>earlier (1) 19:24</b> <b>earn (1) 8:24</b> <b>easily (1) 16:15</b> <b>educate (1) 8:22</b> <b>educating (3)</b> 20:4 24:1 25:5 <b>Education (26)</b> 2:9,10,18,19 3:19,20 4:22 7:24 8:19 9:8 11:6,11,17,23 14:19 15:3,5 16:19 17:23 20:20 22:15, 21 23:9 24:5 25:9 28:19 <b>Education's (1) 3:7</b> <b>educators (1)</b> 15:13 <b>efficient (1) 25:10</b> <b>effort (1) 27:24</b>	
Cirillo (2) 23:19, 19				
citizen (1) 27:23 citizens (1) 26:4 class (2) 22:2,4 classmates (2) 20:15,17 classroom (3) 17:8 21:3 30:19 classrooms (1) 18:19 Clay (1) 30:4 clearly (1) 3:15 clicking (1) 15:1 close (1) 24:10 closed (1) 32:2 cofounder (1) 4:16 cold (1) 6:3 collaboration (1) 5:5 college (4) 8:24 9:11 18:9 28:15 coming (2) 12:23 18:5 comment (1) 4:3 comments (11) 2:24 3:21,23 4:4,10 5:12 7:1 12:9 13:23 28:8 32:1 Committee (2)				

<p>exactly (1) 7:22 example (2) 5:21 26:8 excel (1) 25:6 excelled (1) 10:3 excellence (1) 5:1 excels (1) 11:24 exceptional (1) 14:6 excited (5) 5:3 6:18 7:17 17:11 25:11 excitement (2) 5:10,22 exciting (1) 7:24 Exhibit (2) 8:10, 10 Exhibits (2) 8:11 32:6 exist (1) 21:9 expand (1) 5:7 experience (6) 5:23 9:19 11:21 18:3 23:24 28:12 experiences (2) 29:24 30:12 expertise (1) 31:13 expressed (1) 28:18 extensive (1) 9:18 extreme (1) 9:7 extremely (2) 10:13 14:7</p>	<p>26:16,19 fantastic (1) 29:7 far (2) 15:4 21:13 feel (5) 5:23 8:3 13:7,7,17 feeling (2) 6:21 18:4 feels (1) 20:13 fellow (1) 20:16 female (1) 22:12 few (1) 30:4 fifth (5) 7:7 10:11 14:2 24:19 29:15 filed (1) 2:12 final (2) 2:21 4:3 financially (1) 10:15 find (2) 13:14 21:11 First (6) 4:1,19 8:23 16:1 22:12 25:21 Fisher (4) 15:9, 10,12 16:9 fit (2) 16:12,15 five (2) 7:5 9:12 flourished (3) 7:12 21:1 29:13 FLOWERS (2) 22:1,2 focus (1) 19:7 folks (2) 5:7 8:7 following (1) 3:24 form (1) 21:1 forward (9) 11:4 16:22 20:4 21:16,23 23:18 24:5 28:10 31:1 fostered (1) 13:9 found (3) 15:1 16:10 23:23 foundation (1) 25:14 founding (4) 4:15</p>	<p>6:3,5 19:24 four (3) 14:22 15:14 22:2 fourth (3) 18:21 29:11,15 frankly (1) 20:15 freedom (2) 14:12,12 freshman (6) 12:7 23:22 24:6,16 28:16 29:5 friend (1) 14:12 friends (3) 15:24 16:20 20:10 functioning (1) 17:7 Further (1) 3:10</p>	<p>21 26:12 29:12,13 graders (1) 13:12 grades (1) 17:4 graduated (2) 15:15 28:14 graduates (2) 28:17 31:3 great (7) 15:3 20:20 23:24 24:8,15 25:5 31:9 group (2) 19:20 20:19 grow (1) 24:2 growing (1) 19:8 grown (2) 9:22 17:15 guess (2) 13:20 23:21 guys (1) 31:17</p>	<p>height (1) 28:21 held (2) 2:18 29:8 Hello (2) 26:10, 11 help (3) 26:24 27:24 31:15 helping (2) 25:6 26:24 helps (1) 26:3 herself (2) 3:16 21:6 Hi (3) 6:2 15:10 28:11 HICKEY (1) 8:9 high (29) 5:7,9 6:17,21 7:17 11:9 12:4,19 15:18 16:23 17:7,12,23 18:2,5,15 19:4,12 20:4, 10,18,24 21:4, 16 23:14 25:12 26:19 27:7 31:11 Hodgson (3) 9:11 23:23 24:11 hole (2) 16:13, 14 home (2) 16:17 23:2 homebound (1) 9:18 honors (2) 29:6,9 hope (6) 11:8 12:3 17:3 22:14 23:11 31:9 hoping (3) 6:17 7:23 12:6 hour (1) 10:17 husband (3) 19:23 29:21 30:20</p>
<b>F</b>		<b>G</b>		
<p>fact (2) 12:1 29:2 factors (1) 23:8 faculty (1) 6:13 fall (1) 7:6 family (11) 6:8 8:23 14:15 17:14 20:12, 16 24:24 25:14,22</p>		<p>gap (1) 24:17 gave (1) 26:11 gentlemen (1) 22:19 Geography (1) 10:12 gets (2) 12:6 25:24 given (2) 29:4,20 gives (1) 26:2 giving (1) 15:11 Good (13) 2:6 4:12 8:3 9:7 14:18 15:23 17:2 19:18 24:10 25:20 26:4,20 30:11 grade (21) 8:21 9:16 12:5 14:2,2 15:20, 20 17:24 18:1, 7,10 19:3,11, 15 20:3,8 21:17 24:19 29:15,23 30:9 grader (7) 6:10 10:11 18:21,</p>	<b>H</b>	
			<p>hallway (1) 8:8 hand (4) 5:14, 14,15,16 handicapped (1) 9:16 handle (2) 16:8 22:16 hands (1) 4:6 happen (2) 19:2 27:11 happy (2) 7:13 9:5 hard (2) 13:3 21:18 Head (1) 4:14 hear (4) 2:1 4:1 11:13 17:19 heard (1) 20:11 hearing (11) 2:7, 11,17 3:3,12, 14,18,22 4:22 32:2,4 heart (1) 30:16 heavily (1) 29:18</p>	
				<b>I</b>

<p>identification (1) 8:12</p> <p>identify (2) 3:15, 17</p> <p>IEP (2) 16:3 29:7</p> <p>immense (1) 30:11</p> <p>important (8) 6:23 14:19 23:8 24:2,24 26:5 27:6,22</p> <p>importantly (1) 15:17</p> <p>impressed (1) 10:15</p> <p>includes (1) 3:23</p> <p>including (1) 9:16</p> <p>incredible (1) 11:18</p> <p>individual (1) 12:22</p> <p>information (1) 16:3</p> <p>instead (1) 25:1</p> <p>instilled (1) 8:21</p> <p>intelligent (1) 22:16</p> <p>intend (1) 4:8</p> <p>intents (1) 21:4</p> <p>interest (3) 5:22 8:1 24:7</p> <p>interested (4) 20:23 21:6 22:6 24:21</p> <p>interpersonal (1) 19:9</p> <p>into (14) 5:22 7:20 12:5,24 13:6 16:13,15 18:9 23:12 26:19 27:7 30:2 31:10,17</p> <p>introverted (1) 10:6</p> <p>investigated (1) 18:17</p> <p>investigation (1)</p>	<p>2:16</p> <p>involved (4) 10:18 20:14 23:5 29:17</p> <p>involvement (4) 5:2 6:20 23:9 31:8</p> <p>issues (2) 16:5,6</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>J</b></p> <p>JAYARAMAN (2) 13:24 14:1</p> <p>Jen (2) 4:16 19:23</p> <p>Jennifer (1) 6:2</p> <p>JENNINGS (2) 4:12,13</p> <p>Jersey (1) 9:21</p> <p>Jim (2) 19:17,19</p> <p>job (4) 8:3 13:5 24:1,15</p> <p>jobs (1) 26:24</p> <p>John (3) 2:7 4:18 8:13</p> <p>joined (1) 4:15</p> <p>joint (1) 2:17</p> <p>Journal (1) 3:4</p> <p>journalism (1) 31:14</p> <p>Jr (1) 2:7</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>K</b></p> <p>K-8 (1) 4:24</p> <p>Kaitlin (2) 22:2,6</p> <p>keep (2) 5:12,15</p> <p>KHAN (2) 25:18, 19</p> <p>kid (1) 23:10</p> <p>kids (22) 5:9 6:12 7:24 14:17 18:14 19:2,6,14 22:2,21 23:14 25:6,8,21 26:15,16 27:3, 5 30:10,19</p>	<p>31:18,20</p> <p>kind (9) 7:3,23 13:15,17 19:1, 11 24:17 25:13 28:12</p> <p>kindergarten (4) 7:8 9:15 19:3 29:14</p> <p>kindergartner (2) 9:24 18:22</p> <p>knowing (1) 21:3</p> <p>knowledge (4) 14:13 25:24 26:1,3</p> <p>knows (3) 6:22 20:18 26:6</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>L</b></p> <p>Lane (1) 10:2</p> <p>large (1) 4:5</p> <p>last (3) 9:14 10:7 17:22</p> <p>latch (1) 7:23</p> <p>later (1) 10:17</p> <p>law (1) 2:14</p> <p>lead (1) 10:8</p> <p>leadership (1) 5:5</p> <p>learn (1) 5:4</p> <p>learning (1) 16:6</p> <p>least (1) 27:14</p> <p>leave (1) 14:17</p> <p>leaving (1) 14:18</p> <p>led (1) 9:5</p> <p>lending (1) 31:12</p> <p>letting (1) 24:2</p> <p>level (2) 6:21 12:19</p> <p>levels (2) 9:19,23</p> <p>liberal (1) 4:8</p> <p>life (1) 16:18</p> <p>lightly (1) 5:23</p> <p>likes (1) 12:1</p> <p>limit (1) 30:7</p> <p>Linda (1) 4:13</p> <p>line (1) 15:13</p> <p>list (2) 12:10 21:21</p>	<p>little (1) 27:24</p> <p>littlest (1) 7:8</p> <p>live (1) 21:10</p> <p>lives (1) 13:20</p> <p>local (3) 24:14, 23 25:1</p> <p>located (1) 23:14</p> <p>long (1) 15:13</p> <p>look (5) 11:4 13:5 22:18,21 27:9</p> <p>looked (3) 16:6, 8,21</p> <p>looking (3) 20:3 21:16 30:10</p> <p>looks (1) 31:5</p> <p>lose (1) 25:7</p> <p>lost (2) 12:14 15:21</p> <p>lot (7) 5:9 13:13 14:16 16:3,5 18:1 26:24</p> <p>lottery (1) 15:24</p> <p>love (3) 14:3 26:17,18</p> <p>loves (1) 11:24</p> <p>lower (1) 31:18</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>M</b></p> <p>maintaining (1) 12:20</p> <p>making (3) 18:19 25:6 31:17</p> <p>man (6) 14:7,8, 9,10,10,11</p> <p>management (1) 9:4</p> <p>manner (2) 4:1 25:10</p> <p>many (3) 4:7 10:17 31:11</p> <p>mark (1) 8:9</p> <p>marked (1) 8:11</p> <p>marketing (1) 31:14</p> <p>mastered (1) 24:12</p>	<p>Master's (2) 9:3,4</p> <p>mathematics (1) 31:13</p> <p>matter (2) 2:14 10:3</p> <p>Matthew (1) 22:3</p> <p>May (4) 3:4,9, 12 31:7</p> <p>maybe (2) 12:14 20:11</p> <p>Meeting (2) 3:9 16:2</p> <p>member (11) 5:17,19 6:3,5, 24 12:12 13:1 17:22 18:24 19:24 26:6</p> <p>members (5) 3:20 4:15 6:13 20:16 30:15</p> <p>mention (1) 7:22</p> <p>Michael (1) 7:10</p> <p>middle (1) 6:6</p> <p>Middletown (4) 15:12,18 28:20 29:6</p> <p>might (1) 8:8</p> <p>Mill (1) 10:2</p> <p>Millett-Lee (3) 11:14,15,16</p> <p>mind (2) 10:9 29:18</p> <p>minor (1) 22:11</p> <p>Mir (1) 25:18</p> <p>miss (1) 16:21</p> <p>Mitch (1) 17:19</p> <p>model (8) 4:24 5:1,2,2,4 13:10 22:22,23</p> <p>modification (1) 2:22</p> <p>modify (1) 2:13</p> <p>Mom (1) 16:24</p> <p>moment (1) 8:7</p> <p>money (1) 14:17</p> <p>Monte (1) 14:8</p> <p>more (10) 5:13</p>
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15:6 20:11,16 26:2,16 27:24 28:17,23 29:22 <b>most (5)</b> 14:10 15:17 20:5 26:5 31:6 <b>MOT (52)</b> 2:2,4, 12 4:7,14,23 6:7,11,17,19 7:12,17,22 8:14 9:24 10:5,10,24 11:8 12:12,15 14:1,23 15:2, 15,15,24 16:13,18 17:2, 14,21 18:19, 24 19:12,22 20:4,12,18,24 21:4,11,16 22:20 23:20 25:22 26:2 27:8,22 28:16, 17 29:7 <b>mother (1)</b> 7:7 <b>motivation (1)</b> 8:2 <b>move (1)</b> 26:18 <b>moving (2)</b> 14:24 24:5 <b>Mrs (4)</b> 7:5 16:9 17:6 26:9 <b>much (10)</b> 11:12 13:5 14:15 15:7 20:13 21:5,15 28:6 29:3 30:23 <b>Mustang (2)</b> 7:7 16:9 <b>Mustangs (1)</b> 6:7 <b>myself (1)</b> 8:22	15:11,24 17:6 19:18 22:1 25:18 26:12 28:11 <b>Natalie (3)</b> 22:4, 9 23:2 <b>natural (2)</b> 5:6 25:4 <b>necessary (1)</b> 3:15 <b>need (3)</b> 5:24 24:14 28:2 <b>needed (1)</b> 18:8 <b>needs (4)</b> 7:15 12:17,21 13:1 <b>negative (1)</b> 24:3 <b>New (3)</b> 9:21 20:24 31:19 <b>News (2)</b> 3:3,4 <b>Next (5)</b> 2:1 11:13 12:10 17:19 26:13 <b>night (1)</b> 10:7 <b>nine (2)</b> 12:14 17:4 <b>ninth (4)</b> 13:11 17:23 18:1,7 <b>no-brainer (1)</b> 27:8 <b>notch (1)</b> 11:1 <b>notice (2)</b> 3:2,5 <b>notified (1)</b> 3:11 <b>novel (1)</b> 14:6 <b>number (2)</b> 4:5 10:20 <b>nurse (1)</b> 30:18 <b>nurtured (1)</b> 13:7	<b>old (4)</b> 8:19 14:7,9 29:3 <b>older (2)</b> 23:4 27:7 <b>oldest (3)</b> 15:17 24:6 28:13 <b>one (22)</b> 4:14 7:3,8,10,15 9:24 10:1,8 12:14,18 13:4 18:11 20:11 22:19 23:8 25:23 27:14 28:15,16 29:8, 23 30:2 <b>ones (3)</b> 5:8 29:15 31:7 <b>only (5)</b> 8:20 16:19 18:23 24:3 27:2 <b>open (2)</b> 2:7 23:22 <b>opportunities (1)</b> 24:21 <b>opportunity (17)</b> 2:20 4:20 5:11 6:19 8:17 11:1,5 15:11 17:9,13 19:5,13 25:12 26:18 28:4 31:18,19 <b>opposite (1)</b> 19:1 <b>order (1)</b> 21:11 <b>organization (1)</b> 11:11 <b>ourselves (1)</b> 28:5 <b>out (10)</b> 8:8,16 11:3 12:15 14:24 17:5 18:13 24:13 26:24 31:16 <b>outside (2)</b> 23:13 26:23 <b>Over (5)</b> 4:23 7:21 10:5 13:2 20:17 <b>overwhelmed (1)</b>	16:4 <b>own (1)</b> 6:8  <b>P</b>  <b>Padua (2)</b> 28:22, 23 <b>parent (18)</b> 4:17, 18 5:15 6:7 8:14 17:20 18:16,24 19:22 20:11, 11 23:20,24 24:22 27:23 28:13 30:15 31:3 <b>parental (2)</b> 5:2 31:8 <b>parents (8)</b> 6:13, 14 8:20 10:20 20:13 25:23 31:7,11 <b>part (6)</b> 9:14 17:16 23:11 25:22 27:22 31:7 <b>Parthiban (1)</b> 13:24 <b>participate (1)</b> 25:1 <b>participating (1)</b> 31:24 <b>particular (2)</b> 7:4, 18 <b>particularly (4)</b> 7:9 20:14,23 21:10 <b>part-time (1)</b> 9:17 <b>pass (1)</b> 7:21 <b>past (1)</b> 4:23 <b>pause (1)</b> 8:6 <b>peg (1)</b> 16:12 <b>Pennsylvania (1)</b> 9:21 <b>people (2)</b> 4:5 30:18 <b>permitted (1)</b> 17:3 <b>personally (1)</b>	3:10 <b>perspective (1)</b> 8:18 <b>phonetic (1)</b> 26:9 <b>phrase (1)</b> 14:15 <b>physical (1)</b> 20:6 <b>physically (1)</b> 15:22 <b>pick (1)</b> 10:15 <b>place (4)</b> 3:2,6, 11 24:10 <b>plans (1)</b> 22:13 <b>play (1)</b> 6:16 <b>Please (7)</b> 2:5 8:9 21:24 23:17 27:13 28:10 31:1 <b>pleasure (1)</b> 28:18 <b>pm (1)</b> 32:5 <b>point (1)</b> 4:9 <b>policies (1)</b> 22:13 <b>position (1)</b> 18:8 <b>possible (3)</b> 4:9 19:10 31:18 <b>posted (1)</b> 3:5 <b>prepared (4)</b> 19:3 27:10,11 28:23 <b>present (2)</b> 3:13 28:4 <b>presented (1)</b> 16:2 <b>president (1)</b> 22:12 <b>primary (1)</b> 11:6 <b>principal (2)</b> 16:7 31:3 <b>prisoners (1)</b> 14:7 <b>private (1)</b> 10:24 <b>privilege (1)</b> 17:24 <b>privileged (1)</b> 8:20 <b>probably (5)</b> 16:4 22:9,11 28:13 30:10 <b>problems (1)</b> 11:19 <b>proceed (1)</b> 3:24 <b>productive (2)</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>O</b>			
<b>nagging (1)</b> 18:4 <b>name (15)</b> 2:7 4:13 7:10 8:13 11:15 12:11 13:24	<b>Odyssey (1)</b> 29:18 <b>off (1)</b> 14:22 <b>offered (1)</b> 18:7 <b>Office (1)</b> 2:8 <b>official (1)</b> 3:8 <b>often (2)</b> 12:23, 24			

26:21,22 professor (1) 9:10 profitable (1) 9:6 program (4) 20:22 21:11 24:9,12 programming (1) 25:13 programs (3) 21:5,13 23:3 progressed (1) 10:9 progression (2) 5:6 25:4 proud (2) 11:7 25:22 provide (3) 11:1, 3 23:7 provided (2) 3:19 7:14 provides (1) 11:11 public (18) 2:6, 11,17,24 3:3, 8,12 9:21 10:23 11:22 15:19 16:23 27:5,16,17,19, 20 32:4 published (1) 3:3 pursue (2) 13:15, 16 pursuits (1) 11:2 put (5) 15:24 27:24 30:8,18 31:17	raise (2) 5:14,16 rather (1) 16:11 ready (4) 18:6,8, 15,16 real (1) 21:12 reality (1) 11:9 really (32) 6:17, 18,20,23 7:12, 23 8:1,3 10:6 11:22 12:3 13:12 14:3 15:1,2 18:1, 11,14 19:6 20:2 21:1 23:23 24:1,7, 9,13 25:6 27:23 30:8,11 31:5,17 reasons (1) 21:15 receive (3) 2:24 16:19 20:20 received (1) 3:21 recommendation (1) 2:22 record (6) 3:1,14, 18 7:2,21 11:6 Red (1) 30:3 referred (1) 2:14 reflect (1) 3:1 regular (2) 10:16 11:22 remark (1) 7:9 remarkably (1) 11:20 report (3) 2:16, 21 4:3 reporter (2) 3:13, 17 representatives (2) 4:2,10 represented (1) 10:10 required (1) 2:14 resident (1) 15:12 respect (1) 9:7 respond (2) 2:20 12:17 rest (1) 25:8	retained (1) 32:6 retirement (1) 22:13 right (6) 15:7 18:13 20:7 21:10 22:19 27:18 road (1) 25:2 rolling (1) 24:13 round (1) 16:13 running (1) 25:2 Ryan (4) 15:17 16:3,5,9	24 21:2,4,17 22:22 23:2,9, 13,14 25:12 26:10,19,23 27:2,4,6,7,16, 17,19,20 29:20 30:3 31:6,11 schools (9) 9:21 10:22 14:22 15:20 18:17, 18,18 19:21 26:1 school's (1) 2:22 Science (3) 9:2 22:8,10 second (2) 9:4 23:21 Secretary (3) 2:10 3:19 31:24 seeing (1) 4:5 seems (1) 10:16 self-supported (1) 10:14 senior (1) 15:18 service (1) 7:14 set (1) 22:13 setting (4) 17:9 21:2,2,3 seven (1) 17:21 seventh (6) 12:6 14:2 20:3,8 26:12 29:12 share (2) 7:1,13 Sharon (1) 23:19 SHEARON (2) 28:11,12 show (1) 4:6 shuffle (1) 15:21 siblings (1) 6:15 sic (1) 20:7 sick (1) 30:18 side (2) 24:18,22 signed (2) 2:5 21:22 singers (1) 10:8 singular (1) 19:7	site (1) 3:8 situation (2) 15:22 17:1 six (2) 3:23 9:20 sixth (5) 12:5 15:20,20 18:20 29:11 sky (1) 30:6 small (5) 6:22 17:8 21:2,2,2 social (3) 11:19 16:5 19:9 socially (1) 13:17 software (1) 24:12 son (10) 11:18 12:5 14:21 15:3,17 16:12, 14 17:5,7,10 soon (2) 20:21 21:17 Sorry (1) 14:12 sparks (1) 8:1 speak (13) 2:4 3:16 4:5,6 5:13 8:17 15:11 21:22 23:17 25:17 28:10 30:24 31:22 speaker (1) 3:15 speaking (1) 20:2 special (1) 7:15 spectrum (1) 7:11 spent (1) 10:1 spoke (1) 19:24 sports (1) 6:16 square (2) 16:12, 14 staff (6) 5:17 12:12 13:1 17:21 18:24 26:6 stairs (1) 26:8 stand (1) 26:3 stands (1) 12:15 start (2) 8:16 24:16 started (9) 9:17,
<b>Q</b>		<b>S</b>		
quality (2) 10:20 11:10 quick (1) 7:3 quickly (2) 11:16 12:17 quite (1) 23:20		Saad's (1) 26:14 sacrifices (1) 21:12 sad (1) 17:15 Sadiq (1) 25:18 same (6) 11:21 13:19 24:9 26:19 29:23 31:19 Samiyah (2) 26:12,14 sat (1) 18:19 saw (1) 26:8 School (96) 2:2,5, 8,12,15,19,20 3:6,10 4:2,7, 11,14,14,17, 18,24,24 5:3, 7,9,15,17,19, 20 6:6,22 7:17 8:15 10:4,11,16 11:6,9,22,24 12:1,4,13,16 13:10 14:2,3, 4,22,23 15:2, 19 16:2,7,11, 14,21,22,23 17:12,23 18:2, 5,12,13,15,22 19:4,5,12,23 20:1,4,10,18,		
<b>R</b>				

24 12:4,13 14:22 16:2 23:21 29:14,15 starts (1) 12:7 State (5) 2:18 3:4,20 9:12 32:2 State's (1) 3:8 stay (2) 12:19 20:19 still (5) 6:21 16:23 23:3 28:16 29:2 strong (4) 5:4,24 6:20 24:7 student (5) 5:20 12:21 20:7 23:20 27:14 students (16) 5:3 6:14 8:15 9:18 13:14 15:14 17:5 18:1,5 19:8, 22 20:14 26:2, 19 30:4,7 students' (1) 12:17 Sturtevant (2) 7:5 17:6 submit (1) 7:2 substitute (1) 9:13 success (2) 9:23 10:23 successful (7) 9:5 13:4,8,15 15:4,6 21:8 support (5) 5:10, 16,18 16:20 23:4 sure (3) 13:3 22:16 25:7 Susan (2) 15:9, 12 switched (1) 10:5 synopsis (1) 7:3 system (3) 18:14 19:7,11	<b>T</b>  table (1) 4:16 talk (2) 20:12 26:22 talking (1) 26:17 tall (2) 26:3,3 taught (2) 9:11 17:23 Taylor (7) 4:16 6:2,2 19:17, 18,19,23 teacher (9) 4:17 5:4 6:6 7:16 9:13,14 26:9, 14 30:17 teachers (4) 26:15 29:3,9 30:14 teaching (5) 9:9, 15,17,19 17:24 team (1) 16:3 Technical (1) 9:10 telling (2) 27:21 30:17 tells (1) 29:3 ten (1) 15:6 Terry (2) 12:10, 11 thankful (1) 28:3 thanking (1) 8:16 Thanks (1) 19:15 third (1) 29:5 three (11) 6:7,9 8:24 9:15 12:2 17:22 19:22 20:5,6 29:12,17 thrilled (1) 19:21 tightly (1) 16:13 times (1) 15:6 today (2) 16:16 31:24 today's (2) 3:3,11 together (2) 3:20 13:3 tonight (3) 19:21	20:2,12 top (1) 11:1 tours (1) 18:18 Tracey (1) 22:1 track (2) 11:6 12:14 tradition (1) 6:19 travel (1) 21:13 treasure (1) 10:21 try (2) 16:12 30:2 turnout (1) 31:5 twelfth (7) 9:16 13:12 18:9 19:11,15 29:23 30:9 twelve (1) 17:4 two (17) 7:9 8:14 9:23 14:1,6 15:14, 15 16:17,18 17:12 21:19 22:18 24:20 28:14 29:13, 18 31:4	valuable (1) 14:10 value (3) 14:5, 14,15 values (1) 14:20 various (1) 10:18 varying (2) 9:22 10:22 verge (1) 14:23 vice (1) 4:16 vision (1) 11:19 visited (1) 18:18 voice (1) 6:4 volunteering (1) 10:21 vote (1) 22:14 Vo-Tech (1) 9:11	28:24 30:3 31:20 wing (1) 20:7 wings (1) 20:6 wise (1) 14:7 wish (2) 4:2 25:16 wishes (2) 2:4 4:6 within (1) 23:15 witness (1) 10:21 wonderful (1) 18:1 wonderfully (2) 18:23 19:2 word (1) 25:24 work (6) 13:3 18:24 22:24 23:1 25:5 26:23 working (1) 18:2 world (1) 30:11 World's (1) 29:19 writing (1) 31:14 written (1) 3:21
		<b>U</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Y</b>
		unbelievable (1) 6:10 Unfortunately (1) 17:1 unique (2) 8:18 28:12 Universities (1) 28:24 University (1) 9:1 unprepared (1) 18:6 up (10) 5:15 8:24 10:16 17:6,15 21:22 23:6 25:2,9 26:8 used (1) 21:14	wait (1) 19:14 waiting (1) 25:8 walk (2) 26:3,6 walking (1) 26:7 wants (4) 7:16 20:24 27:16,21 waste (1) 25:7 wasted (1) 24:17 way (3) 13:14 26:1 27:19 ways (1) 24:2 Web (1) 3:8 Weiss (2) 17:19, 20 welcomed (1) 13:7 well-rounded (1) 23:10 weren't (1) 18:6 whim (1) 15:23 whole (1) 24:1 who's (1) 19:24 whose (2) 7:10 17:6 wife (1) 25:21 Wilmington (8) 22:22,23,24 23:7 25:2	year (11) 5:6 9:17 10:2 12:7 23:21,22 24:6,11,16,19 29:8 years (12) 4:23 9:9,12,15 10:1,12 12:14 13:2 16:17,18 17:21,22 young (3) 14:8,9, 11
		<b>V</b>		<b>1</b>
				11 (1) 4:23 12 (2) 8:5 19:7 12-year-old (2) 10:5,10

<b>2</b>				
20 (5) 3:4,9,12 9:9 28:15 2013 (3) 3:5,9, 12 2015 (1) 22:3 2017 (1) 22:3 2019 (1) 22:4 2024 (1) 22:5 21 (1) 28:15				
<b>6</b>				
6:04 (1) 32:4 600 (1) 26:16				
<b>7</b>				
7 (1) 20:21 700 (1) 30:10				
<b>8</b>				
8 (5) 8:4 18:12, 14 20:21 31:10				