

In The Matter Of:
The State of Delaware
Department of Education

ITMO: Maurice J. Moyer Academy
July 11, 2013

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THE STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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-- PUBLIC HEARING --

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
Maurice J. Moyer Academy)

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

Thursday, July 11, 2013
5:10 p.m.

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BEFORE: John Carwell, Charter School Officer
Department of Education

Donna Johnson, Executive Director
State Board of Education

Jorge Melendez

ATTORNEY: Catherine T. Hickey, DAG

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-- Transcript of Proceedings --

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1 MR. CARWELL: Okay. We will get started.
2 Good evening. I declare this public hearing to
3 be open. My name is John Carwell, Jr. I'm the
4 Director of the Charter School Office for the
5 Department of Education. And the Secretary of
6 Education has appointed me to conduct this
7 public hearing.

8 The new Maurice J. Moyer Academy has filed
9 an application to modify its charter. As is
10 required by law, the matter was referred to the
11 Charter School Accountability Committee for
12 investigation and report.

13 This joint public hearing is being held by
14 the Department of Education and the State Board
15 of Education to give the applicant an
16 opportunity to respond to the final report of
17 the Accountability Committee, which recommended
18 that the application not be approved, and also
19 to receive public comments.

20 I would like the record to reflect that
21 the notice of the time, date, and place of
22 today's public hearing was published in the
23 News Journal on June 27, 2013 and the Delaware
24 State News on June 28, 2013. In addition,



1 notice was posted at the Charter School
2 Accountability Committee's official place of
3 business, on the Department of Education's
4 official website, and on the State Public
5 Meeting Calendar on the State's official
6 website on June 27, 2013. Further, the
7 applicant was personally notified of the time,
8 date, and place of today's public hearing on
9 June 27, 2013.

10 A court reporter is present so that a
11 record of this hearing can be made. It will be
12 necessary for each speaker to clearly identify
13 his or herself before beginning to speak so
14 that the court reporter will be able to know
15 who you are.

16 A record of this hearing will be provided
17 to the Secretary of Education and members of
18 the State Board of Education, together with any
19 written or electronic comments received at or
20 before this hearing, which in this case
21 includes a narrative document and other
22 supporting documents the school submitted in
23 response to the final report of the committee.
24 This is one exhibit.



1 MS. HICKEY: We will mark this as Exhibit
2 1.

3 (Exhibit 1 was marked.)

4 MR. CARWELL: In addition, I also received
5 an e-mail with two letters of support. The
6 e-mail is from Ms. Lauren Graves. She is the
7 Legislative Aid for the Majority Caucus,
8 Delaware House of Representatives, and letters
9 of support from State Representative Stephanie
10 Bolden and State Representative Paul Bombeck.

11 MS. HICKEY: We can make this all one
12 exhibit also, so this will be Exhibit 2, the
13 letters.

14 (Exhibit 2 was marked.)

15 MR. CARWELL: Thank you. So we will
16 proceed in the following manner: First, we
17 will hear from any representatives of the
18 charter school who wish to comment on the
19 Committee's final report. Then we will take
20 comments from anyone else who desires to speak.

21 We have already taken care of sign-ups, so
22 at this point I will accept comments from
23 representatives of the school. Introduce
24 yourself.



1 MR. STEPHENSON: Hi. I'm Keith
2 Stephenson. I work with K-12 and have been
3 intimately involved with Moyer Academy for the
4 last almost two years now.

5 I would like to first start off by
6 thanking the committee for their feedback
7 through the modification process. We believe
8 that it strengthened the modification and also
9 will result in a stronger, more economically
10 viable school that meets the needs of all of
11 our students.

12 Throughout the last year I just want to
13 highlight the fact that we have had
14 double-digit gains in our DCAS. Also, from an
15 economic standpoint, I'm not an accountant, but
16 I think the term is black, so we have moved
17 from the red to the black.

18 As you may be aware of, we are in the
19 process of purchasing the building, or at least
20 the board is in the process of purchasing
21 Moyer, which will result in additional savings.
22 So I believe that the school is in great shape
23 moving forward.

24 Currently, the board is on a retreat so we



1 can strengthen the governance practices of the
2 school. We are also planning a comprehensive
3 professional development plan as teachers
4 return in August.

5 So, you know, with that said, I believe
6 that the trajectory of Moyer is -- we will
7 progress faster than most schools within the
8 State. Not only because we have more room to
9 grow, but the fact of the matter is we have the
10 right leadership team in place. We are working
11 with -- we have a comprehensive understanding
12 of our students and their needs, and we will be
13 able to provide the appropriate amounts of
14 support to maximize their academic achievement.

15 So, with that said, I would like to again
16 thank you for your feedback and support
17 throughout this process.

18 MR. CARWELL: Thank you, Dr. Stephenson.
19 At this point I will accept comments from
20 anyone else who desires to speak with regard to
21 the new -- originally Moyer Academy. Okay. If
22 not, I want to thank you all for participating
23 today. The Secretary will consider your
24 comments in his decision, which is then



1 communicated to the State Board. And this
2 hearing is now closed. Thank you.

3 (Concluded at 5:14 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 12th day of July 2013.



Lorena J. Hartnett
Registered Professional Reporter

A	Calendar (1) 3:5 can (3) 3:11 4:11 6:1	document (1) 3:21 documents (1) 3:22	H	letters (3) 4:5,8, 13	
able (2) 3:14 6:13 academic (1) 6:14 Academy (3) 2:8 5:3 6:21 accept (2) 4:22 6:19 Accountability (3) 2:11,17 3:2 accountant (1) 5:15 achievement (1) 6:14 addition (2) 2:24 4:4 additional (1) 5:21 again (1) 6:15 Aid (1) 4:7 almost (1) 5:4 amounts (1) 6:13 applicant (2) 2:15 3:7 application (2) 2:9,18 appointed (1) 2:6 appropriate (1) 6:13 approved (1) 2:18 August (1) 6:4 aware (1) 5:18	care (1) 4:21 CARWELL (5) 2:1,3 4:4,15 6:18 case (1) 3:20 Caucus (1) 4:7 Charter (5) 2:4,9, 11 3:1 4:18 clearly (1) 3:12 closed (1) 7:2 comment (1) 4:18 comments (6) 2:19 3:19 4:20,22 6:19, 24 Committee (4) 2:11,17 3:23 5:6 Committee's (2) 3:2 4:19 communicated (1) 7:1 comprehensive (2) 6:2,11 Concluded (1) 7:3 conduct (1) 2:6 consider (1) 6:23 court (2) 3:10,14 Currently (1) 5:24	double-digit (1) 5:14 Dr (1) 6:18 E economic (1) 5:15 economically (1) 5:9 Education (6) 2:5, 6,14,15 3:17, 18 Education's (1) 3:3 electronic (1) 3:19 else (2) 4:20 6:20 e-mail (2) 4:5,6 evening (1) 2:2 exhibit (6) 3:24 4:1,3,12,12,14	hear (1) 4:17 hearing (9) 2:2,7, 13,22 3:8,11, 16,20 7:2 held (1) 2:13 herself (1) 3:13 Hi (1) 5:1 HICKEY (2) 4:1, 11 highlight (1) 5:13 House (1) 4:8	M Majority (1) 4:7 manner (1) 4:16 mark (1) 4:1 marked (2) 4:3,14 matter (2) 2:10 6:9 Maurice (1) 2:8 maximize (1) 6:14 may (1) 5:18 Meeting (1) 3:5 meets (1) 5:10 members (1) 3:17 modification (2) 5:7,8 modify (1) 2:9 more (2) 5:9 6:8 most (1) 6:7 moved (1) 5:16 moving (1) 5:23 Moyer (5) 2:8 5:3,21 6:6,21	
B	D	F fact (2) 5:13 6:9 faster (1) 6:7 feedback (2) 5:6 6:16 filed (1) 2:8 final (3) 2:16 3:23 4:19 First (2) 4:16 5:5 following (1) 4:16 forward (1) 5:23 Further (1) 3:6	I identify (1) 3:12 includes (1) 3:21 intimately (1) 5:3 Introduce (1) 4:23 investigation (1) 2:12 involved (1) 5:3	N	
beginning (1) 3:13 black (2) 5:16,17 Board (5) 2:14 3:18 5:20,24 7:1 Bolden (1) 4:10 Bombeck (1) 4:10 building (1) 5:19 business (1) 3:3	date (2) 2:21 3:8 DCAS (1) 5:14 decision (1) 6:24 declare (1) 2:2 Delaware (2) 2:23 4:8 Department (3) 2:5,14 3:3 desires (2) 4:20 6:20 development (1) 6:3 Director (1) 2:4	G gains (1) 5:14 Good (1) 2:2 governance (1) 6:1 Graves (1) 4:6 great (1) 5:22 grow (1) 6:9	J	John (1) 2:3 joint (1) 2:13 Journal (1) 2:23 Jr (1) 2:3 June (4) 2:23,24 3:6,9 K K-12 (1) 5:2 Keith (1) 5:1 L last (2) 5:4,12 Lauren (1) 4:6 law (1) 2:10 leadership (1) 6:10 least (1) 5:19 Legislative (1) 4:7	O
C				name (1) 2:3 narrative (1) 3:21 necessary (1) 3:12 needs (2) 5:10 6:12 new (2) 2:8 6:21 News (2) 2:23,24 notice (2) 2:21 3:1 notified (1) 3:7 off (1) 5:5 Office (1) 2:4 official (3) 3:2,4,5 one (2) 3:24 4:11	

only (1) 6:8 open (1) 2:3 opportunity (1) 2:16 originally (1) 6:21	regard (1) 6:20 report (4) 2:12, 16 3:23 4:19 reporter (2) 3:10, 14	students (2) 5:11 6:12 submitted (1) 3:22 support (4) 4:5,9 6:14,16	2013 (4) 2:23, 24 3:6,9 27 (3) 2:23 3:6, 9 28 (1) 2:24
P	Representative (2) 4:9,10	supporting (1) 3:22	5
participating (1) 6:22 Paul (1) 4:10 personally (1) 3:7 place (4) 2:21 3:2,8 6:10 plan (1) 6:3 planning (1) 6:2 pm (1) 7:3 point (2) 4:22 6:19 posted (1) 3:1 practices (1) 6:1 present (1) 3:10 proceed (1) 4:16 process (4) 5:7, 19,20 6:17 professional (1) 6:3 progress (1) 6:7 provide (1) 6:13 provided (1) 3:16 public (7) 2:2,7, 13,19,22 3:4,8 published (1) 2:22 purchasing (2) 5:19,20	Representatives (3) 4:8,17,23 required (1) 2:10 respond (1) 2:16 response (1) 3:23 result (2) 5:9,21 retreat (1) 5:24 return (1) 6:4 right (1) 6:10 room (1) 6:8	T	5:14 (1) 7:3
	S	teachers (1) 6:3 team (1) 6:10 term (1) 5:16 thanking (1) 5:6 Throughout (2) 5:12 6:17 today (1) 6:23 today's (2) 2:22 3:8 together (1) 3:18 trajectory (1) 6:6 two (2) 4:5 5:4	
	savings (1) 5:21 School (9) 2:4, 11 3:1,22 4:18,23 5:10, 22 6:2 schools (1) 6:7 Secretary (3) 2:5 3:17 6:23 shape (1) 5:22 sign-ups (1) 4:21 speak (3) 3:13 4:20 6:20 speaker (1) 3:12 standpoint (1) 5:15 start (1) 5:5 started (1) 2:1 State (8) 2:14, 24 3:4,18 4:9, 10 6:8 7:1 State's (1) 3:5 Stephanie (1) 4:9 STEPHENSON (3) 5:1,2 6:18 strengthen (1) 6:1 strengthened (1) 5:8 stronger (1) 5:9	V	
		viable (1) 5:10	
		W	
		website (2) 3:4,6 wish (1) 4:18 within (1) 6:7 work (1) 5:2 working (1) 6:10 written (1) 3:19	
		Y	
R		year (1) 5:12 years (1) 5:4	
receive (1) 2:19 received (2) 3:19 4:4 recommended (1) 2:17 record (3) 2:20 3:11,16 red (1) 5:17 referred (1) 2:10 reflect (1) 2:20		1	
		1 (2) 4:2,3	
		2	
		2 (2) 4:12,14	