

In The Matter Of:
Department of Education
Positive Outcomes Charter School

Public Hearing
October 9, 2018

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STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING :
FOR RENEWAL :
:
POSITIVE OUTCOMES CHARTER:
SCHOOL :

Hearing taken pursuant to
notice at the Townsend Building, 401 Federal
Street, 2nd Floor Cabinet Room, Dover,
Delaware, beginning at 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday,
October 9, 2018, before Gloria M. D'Amore,
Registered Professional Reporter and Notary
Public.

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APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the State of Delaware
Department of Education:
JOHN CARWELL, EDUCATION ASSOCIATE

On behalf of the State of Delaware
Board of Education:
VINCENT LOFINK, MEMBER

On behalf of the State of Delaware
Delaware Department of Justice:
CATHERINE T. HICKEY, ESQUIRE
Attorney for Department of Education

- - - - -

1 MR. CARWELL: Good evening.
2 It's about that time. I declare this public
3 hearing to be open.

4 My name is John Carwell. I'm
5 the Education Associate for the Charter
6 School Office, the Delaware Department of
7 Education. And I've been appointed by the
8 Secretary of Education to conduct this public
9 hearing.

10 The Positive Outcomes Charter
11 School has filed an application to renew its
12 Charter for a term of five years.

13 As is required by law, the
14 matter was referred to the Charter School
15 Accountability Committee for investigation
16 and report.

17 This joint public hearing is
18 being held by the Department of Education and
19 the State Board of Education.

20 I want to introduce the folks
21 here at the table.

22 Gloria D'Amore, our court
23 reporter. Catherine Hickey, Counsel to the
24 Department. And Mr. Vincent Lofink, Member



1 of the State Board of Education.

2 I would like the record to
3 reflect that the notice of the time, date and
4 place of today's public hearing was published
5 in The News Journal and The Delaware State
6 News on September 20, 2018.

7 In addition, notice was posted
8 on the Charter School Accountability
9 Committee's official place of business on the
10 Department of Education's official website
11 and on the State's Public Meeting Calendar on
12 the State's official website.

13 Further, the Positive Outcomes
14 Charter School was personally notified of the
15 time, date and place of today's public
16 hearing on September 10, 2018.

17 A court reporter is present so
18 that a record of this hearing can be made.
19 It will be necessary for each speaker to
20 speak clearly and identify his or herself
21 before beginning to speak so that the court
22 reporter will be able to note who you are.

23 The record of this hearing will
24 be provided to the Secretary of Education and



1 Members of the State Board of Education
2 together with any written or electronic
3 comments received during the course of the
4 renewal process.

5 To date, comments received on
6 this renewal application include a document
7 submitted by a Dr. Aleks Yuan Shen. And I
8 will provide the spelling for you. That is
9 the only written comment provided to date.

10 MS. HICKEY: We can make that
11 an exhibit. And we'll ask the court reporter
12 to mark it as Exhibit A. You can keep that.

13 (Document was marked as Exhibit
14 A for identification.)

15 MR. CARWELL: Thank you.

16 We will proceed in the
17 following manner.

18 First we will hear from any
19 representatives of the Charter School who
20 wish to speak, who wish to comment on the
21 renewal application. And then we will take
22 comments from anyone else who desires to
23 speak.

24 There are sign-up sheets in the



1 back of the room. If anyone desires to speak
2 has not yet signed up, please do so now.

3 And just by show of hands, who
4 would like to speak for Positive Outcomes
5 Charter School. Thank you.

6 So I intend to be as liberal as
7 time and reason allow in accepting comments.
8 However, I do reserve the right to limit
9 comments that is purely repetitive or
10 cumulative.

11 At this point, I will accept
12 comments from any representatives of the
13 school.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. EDWARD EMMETT: Good
16 evening.

17 My name is Edward Emmett. And
18 I'm the Executive Director of Positive
19 Outcomes Charter School. And on behalf of
20 the parents, Commandant, Charter School Board
21 of Directors, staff, faculty, parents and the
22 students, I would like to thank the Charter
23 School Office staff, the Charter School
24 Accountability Committee, the Secretary of



1 Education and the Delaware Board of Education
2 for their consideration of our school's fifth
3 Charter School Renewal.

4 Positive Outcomes Charter
5 School has the distinction of being the
6 oldest Charter School in the State granted by
7 the Delaware Department of Education and the
8 State Board of Education.

9 Positive Outcomes Charter
10 School is also proud of the support we
11 receive from our community, our parents and
12 all facets of the Delaware Education System.

13 For the past 22 years, Positive
14 Outcomes Charter School has been unrelenting
15 in our commitment in providing all of our
16 students with a supportive and nurturing
17 school environment to overcome any challenges
18 or barriers they faced in a previous
19 traditional school setting.

20 Over the past four years, our
21 school has enrolled students from 11
22 different school districts from throughout
23 the State of Delaware.

24 The students who attend our



1 school come to us for various reasons. Some
2 come to us in need of additional academic
3 support. Others come in need of greater
4 services within the classroom setting.

5 For whatever reason, students
6 attend our school they are overcoming any
7 obstacles or challenges that exist in front
8 of them. Our students are succeeding when in
9 the past they have failed.

10 All of our school staff is a
11 hundred percent committed to our mission and
12 is focused on the individual success of each
13 student.

14 Each member of our school
15 community knows that we do whatever it takes
16 to help a student be successful. Nothing is
17 too hard or too difficult for us if it will
18 benefit our students.

19 Over the past four years of our
20 current charter school period, our school has
21 continued to show growth and development. A
22 review of our Alternate Academic,
23 Organization and Financial Frameworks
24 demonstrates that our school continues to



1 demonstrate success and accomplishment.

2 Upon graduation from our
3 school, most, if not all, of our graduates
4 indicate that they did not believe they would
5 have accomplished their goals without our
6 school or the individualized support we
7 provide.

8 Positive Outcomes looks forward
9 to continuing to fulfill our mission well
10 into the future.

11 Thank you for your time and
12 consideration.

13 Would you like the written
14 comments?

15 MR. CARWELL: Sure. Thank you,
16 Mr. Emmett.

17 At this point, I will accept
18 comments from anyone else who desires to
19 speak. Please remember to identify yourself
20 before you provide comments.

21 Is there anyone else who
22 desires to speak?

23 If not, I want to thank you all
24 for participating today.



1 The Secretary will consider
2 your comments in deciding at the conclusion
3 of the renewal process what decision to
4 submit to the State Board for ascent, if
5 needed.

6 This hearing is now closed.

7 (The hearing was concluded at,
8 approximately, 5:06 p.m.)

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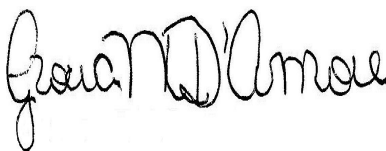
1 State of Delaware:

2 New Castle County:

3
4 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

5
6 I, Gloria M. D'Amore, Registered
7 Professional Reporter and Notary Public, do
8 hereby certify that the foregoing record,
9 Pages 1 to 11 inclusive, is a true and
10 accurate transcript of my stenographic notes
11 taken on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, in the
12 above-captioned matter.

13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
14 my hand and seal this 13th day of October,
15 2018, at Wilmington, Delaware.

16
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19 _____

20 GLORIA M. D'AMORE, RPR

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