

In The Matter Of:

Delaware Department of Education

In re: Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School

Public Hearing

December 5, 2017

Wilcox & Fetzer, Ltd.

1330 King Street

Wilmington, DE 19801

email: depos@wilfet.com, web: www.wilfet.com

phone: 302-655-0477, fax: 302-655-0497



WILCOX & FETZER LTD.

STATE OF DELAWARE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

IN RE: ACADEMIA :
ANTONIA ALONSO :
CHARTER SCHOOL :

Public hearing taken pursuant
to notice at the John W. Collette Education
Resource Center, Rooms A&B, 35 Commerce Way,
Dover, Delaware, beginning at 5:00 p.m. on
Tuesday, December 5, 2017, before Gloria M.
D'Amore, Registered Professional Reporter and
Notary Public.

- - -

WILCOX & FETZER
Registered Professional Reporters
1330 King Street - Wilmington, Delaware 19801
(302) 655-0477
www.wilfet.com



WILCOX & FETZER LTD
Registered Professional Reporters
(302) 655-0477
www.wilfet.com

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the State of Delaware
Delaware Department of Education:
DENISE STOUFFER,
LEAD EDUCATION ASSOCIATE

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



1 MS. STOUFFER: Good evening. I
2 declare this Public Hearing to be open.

3 My name is Denise Stouffer. I
4 am the Lead Education Associate, and I have
5 been appointed by the Secretary of Education
6 to conduct this Public Hearing.

7 The Academia Antonia Alonso
8 Charter School has filed an application to
9 renew its charter for the term of five years.

10 The matter was referred to the
11 Charter School Accountability Committee for
12 its investigation and report.

13 This Public Hearing is being
14 held to receive public comments.

15 I would like the record to
16 reflect that the notice of the time and date
17 and place of today's Public Hearing was
18 published in The News Journal and The
19 Delaware State News on November 5, 2017.

20 In addition, notice was posted
21 at the Charter School Accountability
22 Committee's official place of business on the
23 Delaware Department of Education's official
24 website and on the State Public Meeting



1 Calendar on the State's official website.

2 Further, the Academia Antonia
3 Alonso Chart School was personally notified
4 of the time, date and place of today's Public
5 Hearing on October 30, 2017.

6 A court reporter is present so
7 that the record of this hearing can be made.
8 It will be necessary for each speaker to
9 clearly identify his or herself before
10 beginning to speak so that the court reporter
11 will be able to note who you are.

12 The record of this hearing will
13 be provided to the Secretary of Education and
14 Members of the State Board of Education,
15 together with any written or electronic
16 comments received during the course of the
17 renewal decision process.

18 To date, comments received for
19 this application include one written
20 correspondence supporting the school.

21 We will proceed in the
22 following manner.

23 First we will hear from any
24 representatives of the Charter School who



1 wish to comment on the record on the renewal
2 application.

3 Then we will take comments from
4 anyone else who desires to speak.

5 There are sign-up sheets as you
6 entered. If you desire to speak, please sign
7 up now. I will now pause for a moment to
8 allow anybody else who desires to speak. And
9 we will go off the record.

10 I'm going to grab all of the
11 sign-in sheets.

12 (Off the record.)

13 MS. STOUFFER: Back on the
14 record.

15 (Back on the record.)

16 MS. STOUFFER: We're going to
17 go back on the record.

18 MS. HICKEY: So we just want to
19 note for record that I'm Catherine Hickey.

20 I'm a Deputy Attorney General for the
21 Delaware Department of Justice. And I
22 represent the Delaware Department of
23 Education in this hearing.

24 Thank you.



1 MS. STOUFFER: At this point, I
2 will accept any comments from any
3 representative of the school.

4 MS. JOSÉ AVILÉS: Thanks to all
5 the parents, school and staff community
6 members and CSAC Committee members whom are
7 present this evening in the second public
8 hearing. It is a great pleasure and honor to
9 be here representing La Academia Antonia
10 Alonso Charter School. A great school with
11 incredible human beings whom are all
12 committed to serve a bigger purpose of
13 impacting the lives of our incredible
14 students in ways we can only start to
15 imagine.

16 Being a part of this renewal
17 process has been a challenging, special and
18 life-changing experience for which I will
19 always be thankful.

20 We had the opportunity to
21 sincerely and critically look back on our
22 history and recognize the challenges we have
23 faced to produce strategic ways in which we
24 can attend, improve and develop effective



1 solutions.

2 We had the opportunity to look
3 back into our beautiful mission and vision,
4 that core philosophy that binds up together,
5 that idea creating joyful, confident and
6 creative bilingual students to refocus our
7 strategies into embracing our Dual Language
8 Instruction with fidelity.

9 We also worked on creating and
10 setting up new goals, approaches, and systems
11 that will continue guiding and paving our
12 path to success, a path that will show our
13 growth as an academic organization, our
14 development as a school that serves its
15 community and our genuine commitment to
16 produce global citizens that can contribute
17 to their multicultural nation.

18 After attending the second
19 Charter School Accountability Committee
20 meeting, and receiving an unanimous
21 recommendation for a five-year renewal, it
22 meant not only the achievement of a personal
23 milestone, but the acknowledgement from very
24 important individuals who also believe in our



1 mission and vision and recognized our efforts
2 and strive for excellence.

3 I want to personally thank
4 every CSAC Member who took the time to
5 evaluate our Charter Renewal Application and
6 provide clear, intelligent and direct
7 suggestions about our plans.

8 Also, a very special thanks to
9 Denise Stouffer and John Carwell from the
10 Charter School Office, whose diligence and
11 amazing support was incredible.

12 It is a blessing to work and
13 count with such amazing human beings that
14 really support the best interests of Charter
15 schools in Delaware.

16 Thank you for giving us the
17 opportunity of working together in one of the
18 most gratifying and significant professions
19 of our society, the profession of education.

20 La Academia will continue with
21 its commitment of working UNIDOS to deliver a
22 different and high quality academic option to
23 our children in Delaware.

24 It is a new day, and with it,



1 we can see a new horizon as well.

2 Thank you. Muchas Gracias.

3 MS. STOUFFER: At this point, I
4 will accept comments from anyone else who
5 desires to speak.

6 Please remember to identify
7 yourself before you begin your comments.

8 MS. JENNIFER BURDETTE: I am a
9 kindergarten teacher at Academia. I have
10 been there for a year.

11 And the change that we have
12 seen in the last year of the school, as we've
13 gone through this renewal process, has been
14 remarkable.

15 We have seen changes in our
16 students. In the culture across the school.
17 The teacher commitment is just unreal.

18 I think the direction that
19 we're going is -- we're just soaring to new
20 heights.

21 Walking through the halls and
22 hearing kids that are speaking in both
23 languages to a child that doesn't have that
24 as their first language is just unbelievable,



1 the commitment that you see to these kids to
2 really embrace what we're trying to teach
3 them.

4 So to renew for the next five
5 years, I think you will see great things
6 coming out of Academia.

7 MS. STOUFFER: Thank you.

8 Is there anyone else who
9 desires to speak?

10 If not, I want to thank you all
11 for participating today.

12 The Secretary will consider
13 your comments in deciding at the conclusion
14 of the renewal process what decision to
15 submit to the State Board for consent, if
16 needed.

17 This hearing is now closed.

18 (Off the record at
19 approximately, 5:14 p.m.)

20 MS. STOUFFER: Let's go back on
21 the record for Academia Antonia Alonso.

22 (Back on the record at,
23 approximately, 5:15 p.m.)

24 MS. STOUFFER: For clarity, we



1 just wanted to state that should additional
2 people come to comment, we will re-open the
3 record during this Public Hearing.

4 (The Public Hearing was
5 concluded at, approximately, 5:15 p.m.)

6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24



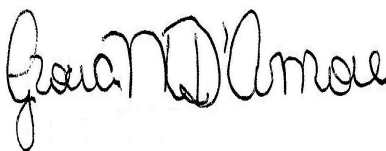
1 State of Delaware:

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 12 inclusive, is a true and
10 accurate transcript of my stenographic notes
11 taken on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, in the
12 above-captioned matter.

13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
14 my hand and seal this 7th day of December,
15 2017, at Wilmington, Delaware.

16
17
18 
19 _____

20 GLORIA M. D'AMORE, RPR

21
22
23
24



A	<p>Antonia (4) 3:7 4:2 6:9 10:21</p> <p>anybody (1) 5:8</p> <p>anyone (3) 5:4 9:4 10:8</p> <p>application (4) 3:8 4:19 5:2 8:5</p> <p>appointed (1) 3:5</p> <p>approaches (1) 7:10</p> <p>approximately (3) 10:19,23 11:5</p> <p>Associate (1) 3:4</p> <p>attend (1) 6:24</p> <p>attending (1) 7:18</p> <p>Attorney (1) 5:20</p> <p>AVILÉS (1) 6:4</p>	<p>beings (2) 6:11 8:13</p> <p>believe (1) 7:24</p> <p>best (1) 8:14</p> <p>bigger (1) 6:12</p> <p>bilingual (1) 7:6</p> <p>binds (1) 7:4</p> <p>blessing (1) 8:12</p> <p>Board (2) 4:14 10:15</p> <p>both (1) 9:22</p> <p>BURDETTE (1) 9:8</p> <p>business (1) 3:22</p>	<p>6:17</p> <p>change (1) 9:11</p> <p>changes (1) 9:15</p> <p>Chart (1) 4:3</p> <p>Charter (10) 3:8,9,11,21 4:24 6:10 7:19 8:5,10,14</p> <p>child (1) 9:23</p> <p>children (1) 8:23</p> <p>citizens (1) 7:16</p> <p>clarity (1) 10:24</p> <p>clear (1) 8:6</p> <p>clearly (1) 4:9</p> <p>closed (1) 10:17</p> <p>come (1) 11:2</p> <p>coming (1) 10:6</p> <p>comment (2) 5:1 11:2</p> <p>comments (8) 3:14 4:16,18 5:3 6:2 9:4,7 10:13</p> <p>commitment (4) 7:15 8:21 9:17 10:1</p> <p>committed (1) 6:12</p> <p>Committee (3) 3:11 6:6 7:19</p> <p>Committee's (1)</p>
	B	C	
<p>able (1) 4:11</p> <p>above-captioned (1) 12:12</p> <p>Academia (7) 3:7 4:2 6:9 8:20 9:9 10:6,21</p> <p>academic (2) 7:13 8:22</p> <p>accept (2) 6:2 9:4</p> <p>Accountability (3) 3:11,21 7:19</p> <p>accurate (1) 12:10</p> <p>achievement (1) 7:22</p> <p>acknowledgement (1) 7:23</p> <p>across (1) 9:16</p> <p>addition (1) 3:20</p> <p>additional (1) 11:1</p> <p>After (1) 7:18</p> <p>allow (1) 5:8</p> <p>Alonso (4) 3:7 4:3 6:10 10:21</p> <p>also (3) 7:9,24 8:8</p> <p>always (1) 6:19</p> <p>amazing (2) 8:11,13</p>	<p>Back (7) 5:13,15,17 6:21 7:3 10:20,22</p> <p>beautiful (1) 7:3</p> <p>before (2) 4:9 9:7</p> <p>begin (1) 9:7</p> <p>beginning (1) 4:10</p> <p>being (2) 3:13 6:16</p>	<p>Calendar (1) 4:1</p> <p>Carwell (1) 8:9</p> <p>Castle (1) 12:2</p> <p>Catherine (1) 5:19</p> <p>CERTIFICATE (1) 12:4</p> <p>certify (1) 12:8</p> <p>challenges (1) 6:22</p> <p>challenging (1)</p>	

3:22	9:16	8:10	8:2	
community (2)	D	direct (1)	experience (1)	
6:5 7:15		8:6	6:18	
concluded (1)	D'Amore (2) 12:6,20 date (3) 3:16 4:4,18 day (2) 8:24 12:14 December (2) 12:11,14 deciding (1) 10:13 decision (2) 4:17 10:14 declare (1) 3:2 Delaware (8) 3:19,23 5:21,22 8:15,23 12:1,15 deliver (1) 8:21 Denise (2) 3:3 8:9 Department (3) 3:23 5:21,22 Deputy (1) 5:20 desire (1) 5:6 desires (4) 5:4,8 9:5 10:9 develop (1) 6:24 development (1) 7:14 different (1) 8:22 diligence (1)	direction (1)	F	
11:5		9:18		
conclusion (1)		Dual (1)	faced (1) 6:23 fidelity (1) 7:8 filed (1) 3:8 First (2) 4:23 9:24 five (2) 3:9 10:4 five-year (1) 7:21 following (1) 4:22 foregoing (1) 12:8 Further (1) 4:2	
10:13		7:7		
conduct (1)		during (2)		
10:13		4:16 11:3		
confident (1)		E		G
3:6				
consent (1)		each (1)		
7:5		4:8		
consider (1)	Education (6)			
10:15	3:4,5 4:13,14 5:23			
continue (2)	Education's (1)			
10:12	8:19			
contribute (1)	effective (1)			
7:11 8:20	6:24			
7:16	efforts (1)			
core (1)	electronic (1)			
7:4	4:15			
correspondence (1)	else (4)			
4:20	5:4,8 9:4 10:8			
count (1)	embrace (1)			
8:13	10:2			
County (1)	embracing (1)			
12:2	7:7			
course (1)	entered (1)			
4:16	5:6			
court (2)	evaluate (1)			
4:6,10	8:5			
creating (2)	evening (2)			
7:5,9	3:1 6:7			
creative (1)	every (1)			
7:6	8:4			
critically (1)	excellence (1)			
6:21				
CSAC (2)				
6:6 8:4				
culture (1)				

5:10,16 9:19	HICKEY (2)	8:14	lives (1)
gone (1)	5:18,19	investigation (1)	6:13
9:13	high (1)	3:12	look (2)
Good (1)	8:22	J	6:21 7:2
3:1	history (1)		M
grab (1)	6:22	JENNIFER (1)	
5:10	honor (1)	9:8	made (1)
Gracias (1)	6:8	John (1)	4:7
9:2	horizon (1)	8:9	manner (1)
gratifying (1)	9:1	JOSÉ (1)	4:22
8:18	human (2)	6:4	matter (2)
great (3)	6:11 8:13	Journal (1)	3:10 12:12
6:8,10 10:5	I	3:18	meant (1)
growth (1)		joyful (1)	7:22
7:13	idea (1)	7:5	Meeting (2)
guiding (1)	7:5	Justice (1)	3:24 7:20
7:11	identify (2)	5:21	Member (1)
H	4:9 9:6	K	8:4
	imagine (1)		Members (3)
halls (1)	6:15	kids (2)	4:14 6:6,6
9:21	impacting (1)	9:22 10:1	milestone (1)
hand (1)	6:13	kindergarten (1)	7:23
12:14	important (1)	9:9	mission (2)
hear (1)	7:24	L	7:3 8:1
4:23	improve (1)		moment (1)
Hearing (13)	6:24	La (2)	5:7
3:2,6,13,17 4:5,7,	include (1)	6:9 8:20	most (1)
12 5:23 6:8 9:22	4:19	Language (2)	8:18
10:17 11:3,4	inclusive (1)	7:7 9:24	Muchas (1)
heights (1)	12:9	languages (1)	9:2
9:20	incredible (3)	9:23	multicultural (1)
held (1)	6:11,13 8:11	last (1)	7:17
3:14	individuals (1)	9:12	N
hereby (1)	7:24	Lead (1)	
12:8	Instruction (1)	3:4	name (1)
hereunto (1)	7:8	life-changing (1)	3:3
12:13	intelligent (1)	6:18	nation (1)
herself (1)	8:6		7:17
4:9	interests (1)		

necessary (1) 4:8	opportunity (3) 6:20 7:2 8:17	6:8	R
needed (1) 10:16	option (1) 8:22	pm (3) 10:19,23 11:5	
new (5) 7:10 8:24 9:1,19 12:2	organization (1) 7:13	point (2) 6:1 9:3	really (2) 8:14 10:2
News (2) 3:18,19	out (1) 10:6	posted (1) 3:20	receive (1) 3:14
next (1) 10:4	P	present (2) 4:6 6:7	received (2) 4:16,18
Notary (1) 12:7		Pages (1) 12:9	proceed (1) 4:21
note (2) 4:11 5:19	parents (1) 6:5	process (4) 4:17 6:17 9:13 10:14	recognize (1) 6:22
notes (1) 12:10	part (1) 6:16	produce (2) 6:23 7:16	recognized (1) 8:1
notice (2) 3:16,20	participating (1) 10:11	profession (1) 8:19	recommendation (1) 7:21
notified (1) 4:3	path (2) 7:12,12	Professional (1) 12:7	record (15) 3:15 4:7,12 5:1,9, 12,14,15,17,19 10:18, 21,22 11:3 12:8
November (1) 3:19	pause (1) 5:7	professions (1) 8:18	referred (1) 3:10
O	paving (1) 7:11	provide (1) 8:6	reflect (1) 3:16
	people (1) 11:2	provided (1) 4:13	refocus (1) 7:6
October (1) 4:5	personal (1) 7:22	Public (11) 3:2,6,13,14,17,24 4:4 6:7 11:3,4 12:7	Registered (1) 12:6
off (3) 5:9,12 10:18	personally (2) 4:3 8:3	published (1) 3:18	remarkable (1) 9:14
Office (1) 8:10	philosophy (1) 7:4	purpose (1) 6:12	remember (1) 9:6
official (3) 3:22,23 4:1	place (3) 3:17,22 4:4	Q	renew (2) 3:9 10:4
one (2) 4:19 8:17	plans (1) 8:7		quality (1) 8:22
only (2) 6:14 7:22	please (2) 5:6 9:6		re-open (1) 11:2
open (1) 3:2	pleasure (1)		

<p>report (1) 3:12</p> <p>reporter (4) 4:6,10 12:4,7</p> <p>represent (1) 5:22</p> <p>representative (1) 6:3</p> <p>representatives (1) 4:24</p> <p>representing (1) 6:9</p> <p>RPR (1) 12:20</p>	<p>7:12</p> <p>sign (1) 5:6</p> <p>significant (1) 8:18</p> <p>sign-in (1) 5:11</p> <p>sign-up (1) 5:5</p> <p>sincerely (1) 6:21</p> <p>soaring (1) 9:19</p> <p>society (1) 8:19</p> <p>solutions (1) 7:1</p> <p>speak (6) 4:10 5:4,6,8 9:5 10:9</p> <p>speaker (1) 4:8</p> <p>speaking (1) 9:22</p> <p>special (2) 6:17 8:8</p> <p>staff (1) 6:5</p> <p>start (1) 6:14</p> <p>State (6) 3:19,24 4:14 10:15 11:1 12:1</p> <p>State's (1) 4:1</p> <p>stenographic (1) 12:10</p> <p>STOUFFER (10) 3:1,3 5:13,16 6:1 8:9 9:3 10:7,20,24</p>	<p>strategic (1) 6:23</p> <p>strategies (1) 7:7</p> <p>strive (1) 8:2</p> <p>students (3) 6:14 7:6 9:16</p> <p>submit (1) 10:15</p> <p>success (1) 7:12</p> <p>suggestions (1) 8:7</p> <p>support (2) 8:11,14</p> <p>supporting (1) 4:20</p> <p>systems (1) 7:10</p>	<p>9:18 10:5</p> <p>today (1) 10:11</p> <p>today's (2) 3:17 4:4</p> <p>together (3) 4:15 7:4 8:17</p> <p>took (1) 8:4</p> <p>transcript (1) 12:10</p> <p>true (1) 12:9</p> <p>trying (1) 10:2</p> <p>Tuesday (1) 12:11</p>
S			U
<p>School (15) 3:8,11,21 4:3,20,24 6:3,5,10,10 7:14,19 8:10 9:12,16</p> <p>schools (1) 8:15</p> <p>seal (1) 12:14</p> <p>second (2) 6:7 7:18</p> <p>Secretary (3) 3:5 4:13 10:12</p> <p>serve (1) 6:12</p> <p>serves (1) 7:14</p> <p>set (1) 12:13</p> <p>setting (1) 7:10</p> <p>sheets (2) 5:5,11</p> <p>show (1)</p>		T	<p>unanimous (1) 7:20</p> <p>unbelievable (1) 9:24</p> <p>UNIDOS (1) 8:21</p> <p>unreal (1) 9:17</p> <p>up (3) 5:7 7:4,10</p>
			V
			<p>vision (2) 7:3 8:1</p>
			W
			<p>Walking (1) 9:21</p>

<p>wanted (1) 11:1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>		
<p>ways (2) 6:14,23</p>	<p>2017 (4) 3:19 4:5 12:11,15</p>		
<p>website (2) 3:24 4:1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>		
<p>WHEREOF (1) 12:13</p>	<p>30 (1) 4:5</p>		
<p>whose (1) 8:10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>		
<p>Wilmington (1) 12:15</p>	<p>5 (2) 3:19 12:11</p>		
<p>wish (1) 5:1</p>	<p>5:14 (1) 10:19</p>		
<p>WITNESS (1) 12:13</p>	<p>5:15 (2) 10:23 11:5</p>		
<p>work (1) 8:12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p>		
<p>worked (1) 7:9</p>	<p>7th (1) 12:14</p>		
<p>working (2) 8:17,21</p>			
<p>written (2) 4:15,19</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">Y</p>			
<p>year (2) 9:10,12</p>			
<p>years (2) 3:9 10:5</p>			
<p>yourself (1) 9:7</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">1</p>			
<p>1 (1) 12:9</p>			
<p>12 (1) 12:9</p>			