

In The Matter Of:
Delaware Department of Education
In re: Sussex Academy

Public Hearing
December 05, 2017

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STATE OF DELAWARE
DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

IN RE: SUSSEX ACADEMY :

Public hearing taken pursuant
to notice at the John W. Collette Education
Resource Center, Rooms A&B, 35 Commerce Way,
Dover, Delaware, beginning at 5:25 p.m. on
Tuesday, December 5, 2017, before Gloria M.
D'Amore, Registered Professional Reporter and
Notary Public.

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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 Sussex Academy Charter School
8 has filed an application to renew its charter
9 for a term of ten years.

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

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

15 I will ask the other person
16 with me tonight to introduce herself for the
17 record.

18 MS. HICKEY: Good evening. My
19 name is Catherine Hickey. I am a Deputy
20 Attorney General with the Delaware Department
21 of Justice. And I represent the Delaware
22 Department of Education at this hearing.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. STOUFFER: I would like the



1 record to reflect that the notice of the
2 time, date and place of today's public
3 hearing was published in The News Journal and
4 The Delaware State News on November 5, 2017.

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

11 Further, Sussex Academy Charter
12 School was personally notified of the time,
13 date and place of today's Public Hearing on
14 October 31, 2017.

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

21 A record of this hearing will
22 be provided to the Secretary of Education and
23 Members of the State Board of Education,
24 together with any written or electronic



1 comments received during the course of this
2 renewal decision.

3 To date, we have received no
4 additional comments other than the Public
5 Hearing for this renewal application.

6 We will proceed in the
7 following manner.

8 First, we will hear from any
9 representatives of the charter school who
10 wish to comment on the renewal application.

11 Then we will take comments from
12 anyone else who desires to speak.

13 There were sign-in sheets as
14 people entered into this room.

15 If you desire to speak, please
16 sign up now. I will pause for a moment off
17 the record to permit anyone who desires to
18 speak to sign up that hasn't already.

19 MS. STOUFFER: Off the record.

20 (Off the record.)

21 MS. STOUFFER: Back on the
22 record.

23 (Back on the record.)

24 MS. STOUFFER: At this point, I



1 will accept comments from any school
2 representative.

3 MS. PATRICIA S. OLIPHANT: I am
4 one of the Directors of Sussex Academy.

5 Thank you very much for
6 allowing us to be here this evening. My
7 comments will be very short.

8 We've had a wonderful journey
9 at Sussex Academy. And I would like to pay
10 tribute to one of the leaders of our school,
11 Allen Stafford, who at the earliest stages
12 led our school and has done a wonderful,
13 wonderful job throughout the years.

14 We are a school, we believe,
15 that serves in the interests of youngsters
16 across Sussex County.

17 We have been very fortunate to
18 have students, parents and two boards, one an
19 executive board and one a foundation board,
20 who has helped lead our school, guide our
21 school and provide our school.

22 We would make the pledge with
23 this ten-year renewal that we will continue
24 to improve the quality of education and the



1 quality of lives of children in Sussex
2 County.

3 We make that pledge. Thank you
4 very much. Thank you to Ms. Stouffer and the
5 entire Department of Education, particularly
6 at the Charter School Office who are very
7 supportive and give us excellent guidance in
8 meeting the requirements along the way.

9 So thank you very much.

10 MS. STOUFFER: At this point, I
11 will accept comments from anyone else who
12 desires to speak. Please remember to
13 identify yourself before you begin your
14 comments.

15 If not, I want to thank you all
16 for participating today.

17 The Secretary will consider
18 your comments in making her decision at the
19 conclusion of the renewal process.

20 The Secretary will announce her
21 decision at the meeting of the State Board of
22 Education on December 14, 2017.

23 This hearing is now closed.

24 However, if any other persons show up during



1 the time of this hearing, the hearing will be
2 re-opened to take their comments.

3 Thank you very much.

4 (The Public Hearing was
5 concluded at, approximately, 5:30 p.m.)

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1 State of Delaware:

2 New Castle County:

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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 9 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.

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19 _____

20 GLORIA M. D'AMORE, RPR

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