

In The Matter Of:
Department of Education
First State Military Academy

Public Hearing
December 10, 2018

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



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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-- PUBLIC HEARING --

IN THE MATTER OF:)
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First State Military Academy)

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

Monday, December 10, 2018
5:16 p.m.

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BEFORE: Leroy Travers, Lead Education Associate
Charter Office, Department of Education

Candice Fifer, Board Member
State Board of Education

ATTORNEY: Catherine T. Hickey, DAG
Attorney for Department of Education

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-- Transcript of Proceedings --

WILCOX & FETZER
1330 King Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
(302) 655-0477
www.wilfet.com



1 MR. TRAVERS: Good evening. I
2 declare this public hearing to be open.

3 My name is Leroy Travers. I'm the
4 Lead Education Associate, and I have been appointed
5 by the Secretary of Education to conduct this public
6 hearing.

7 The First State Military Academy has
8 filed an application to renew its charter for a term
9 of five years.

10 As is required by law, the matter was
11 referred to the Charter School Accountability
12 Committee for investigation and report.

13 This joint public hearing is being
14 held by the Department of Education and the State
15 Board of Education.

16 At this time I will ask others at the
17 table to introduce themselves.

18 MS. HICKEY: Good evening. My name
19 is Catherine Hickey. I'm the Deputy Attorney
20 General with the Delaware Department of Justice.
21 And I'm here today as counsel to the hearing
22 officer.

23 MS. FIFER: My name is Candice Fifer.
24 I'm here with the State Board of Education.



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

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

11 Further, the First State Military
12 Academy was personally notified of the date, time,
13 and place of today's public hearing on September 10,
14 2018.

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

20 The recording of this hearing will be
21 provided to the Secretary of Education and members
22 of the State Board of Education, together with any
23 written or electronic comments received during the
24 course of the renewal decision process.



1 Any comments received to date on this
2 renewal application are posted on the Charter
3 Schools' official web page on the Delaware
4 Department of Education's website.

5 We will proceed in the following
6 manner. First, we will hear from any
7 representatives of the charter school who wish to
8 comment on the renewal application.

9 Then we will take comments from
10 anyone else who desires to speak.

11 MS. HICKEY: I think this is it.

12 (Laughter)

13 MR. TRAVERS: Okay. Please remember
14 that I reserve the right to limit comment if it is
15 purely repetitive or cumulative. Don't repeat
16 yourself, sir. (Laughter)

17 Okay. Mr. Kidner, the floor is
18 yours.

19 MR. KIDNER: Thank you, members of
20 the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to be
21 in front of you.

22 My name is Scott Kidner. I'm the
23 chair of the board for First State Military.

24 Two quick things I wanted to



1 enunciate: First, of course, is to thank you for
2 the process, thank you for the opportunity to
3 present our school during the last public hearing,
4 as well as our two CSAC meetings.

5 The second and final item for you is
6 to reinforce the fact that we did meet the one
7 condition that CSAC had requested of us, as relates
8 to some board governance training that has been sent
9 to the Charter Office.

10 I have received acknowledgment. And
11 I just want to get that on the record that the only
12 condition that was set before us has been met.

13 So, with that said, thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman, for a few moments. And I look forward
15 to a positive recommendation.

16 MS. HICKEY: Decision.

17 MR. KIDNER: Yes. Thank you. That's
18 it. I'm done. (Laughter)

19 MR. TRAVERS: At this point we will
20 accept comments from anyone else who desires to
21 speak.

22 All right. Thank you all for
23 participating today. The Secretary will consider
24 your comments in deciding, at the conclusion of the



1 renewal process, what decision to submit to the
2 State Board for assent, if needed.

3 This hearing is now closed.

4 (Concluded at 5:20 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 16th day of December 2018.



Lorena J. Hartnett
Registered Professional Reporter

A	3:8	course (2)	3:8 4:4					
	C	3:24 5:1	electronic (1)					
able (1) 3:19 Academy (2) 2:7 3:12 accept (1) 5:20 Accountability (2) 2:11 3:7 acknowledgment (1) 5:10 addition (1) 3:6 anyone (2) 4:10 5:20 application (3) 2:8 4:2,8 appointed (1) 2:4 assent (1) 6:2 Associate (1) 2:4 Attorney (1) 2:19		Calendar (1) 3:10 Candice (1) 2:23 Catherine (1) 2:19 chair (1) 4:23 Chairman (1) 5:14 charter (6) 2:8,11 3:7 4:2,7 5:9 clearly (1) 3:17 closed (1) 6:3 comment (2) 4:8,14 comments (5) 3:23 4:1,9 5:20,24 Committee (2) 2:12 4:20 Committee's (1) 3:7 Concluded (1) 6:4 conclusion (1) 5:24 condition (2) 5:7,12 conduct (1) 2:5 consider (1) 5:23 counsel (1) 2:21	court (2) 3:15,19 CSAC (2) 5:4,7 cumulative (1) 4:15	3:23 else (2) 4:10 5:20 enunciate (1) 5:1 evening (2) 2:1,18				
	B	D	D	F				
			before (2) 3:18 5:12 beginning (1) 3:18 being (1) 2:13 Board (6) 2:15,24 3:22 4:23 5:8 6:2 business (1)	date (3) 3:2,12 4:1 deciding (1) 5:24 decision (3) 3:24 5:16 6:1 declare (1) 2:2 Delaware (3) 2:20 3:4 4:3 Department (4) 2:14,20 3:8 4:4 Deputy (1) 2:19 desires (2) 4:10 5:20 done (1) 5:18 during (2) 3:23 5:3	E	fact (1) 5:6 few (1) 5:14 FIFER (2) 2:23,23 filed (1) 2:8 final (1) 5:5 First (5) 2:7 3:11 4:6,23 5:1 five (1) 2:9 floor (1) 4:17 following (1) 4:5 forward (1) 5:14 front (1) 4:21 Further (1) 3:11		
	G	E					E	G
							each (1) 3:17 Education (7) 2:4,5,14,15,24 3:21, 22 Education's (2)	each (1) 3:17 Education (7) 2:4,5,14,15,24 3:21, 22 Education's (2)

2:20 Good (2) 2:1,18 governance (1) 5:8	K	5:12 Military (3) 2:7 3:11 4:23 moments (1) 5:14	2:16
H	L	N	P
hear (1) 4:6 hearing (10) 2:2,6,13,21 3:3,13, 16,20 5:3 6:3 held (1) 2:14 herself (1) 3:18 HICKEY (4) 2:18,19 4:11 5:16	last (1) 5:3 Laughter (3) 4:12,16 5:18 law (1) 2:10 Lead (1) 2:4 Leroy (1) 2:3 limit (1) 4:14 look (1) 5:14	name (4) 2:3,18,23 4:22 necessary (1) 3:17 needed (1) 6:2 News (2) 3:4,4 note (1) 3:19 notice (2) 3:2,6 notified (1) 3:12	page (1) 4:3 participating (1) 5:23 personally (1) 3:12 place (3) 3:3,8,13 Please (1) 4:13 pm (1) 6:4 point (1) 5:19 positive (1) 5:15 posted (2) 3:6 4:2 present (2) 3:15 5:3 proceed (1) 4:5 process (3) 3:24 5:2 6:1 provided (1) 3:21 public (7) 2:2,5,13 3:3,9,13 5:3 published (1) 3:3 purely (1) 4:15
I	M	O	Q
identify (1) 3:17 introduce (1) 2:17 investigation (1) 2:12 item (1) 5:5	made (1) 3:16 manner (1) 4:6 matter (1) 2:10 meet (1) 5:6 Meeting (1) 3:9 meetings (1) 5:4 members (2) 3:21 4:19 met (1)	Office (1) 5:9 officer (1) 2:22 official (4) 3:7,9,10 4:3 one (1) 5:6 only (1) 5:11 open (1) 2:2 opportunity (2) 4:20 5:2 others (1)	
J			
joint (1) 2:13 Journal (1) 3:4 Justice (1) 2:20			

quick (1) 4:24	2:10 reserve (1) 4:14 right (2) 4:14 5:22	table (1) 2:17 term (1) 2:8 themselves (1) 2:17 things (1) 4:24 think (1) 4:11 today (2) 2:21 5:23 today's (2) 3:3,13 together (1) 3:22 training (1) 5:8 TRAVERS (5) 2:1,3 3:1 4:13 5:19 Two (2) 4:24 5:4	yourself (1) 4:16
R			1
received (3) 3:23 4:1 5:10 recommendation (1) 5:15 record (2) 3:1 5:11 recording (2) 3:16,20 referred (1) 2:11 reflect (1) 3:2 reinforce (1) 5:6 relates (1) 5:7 remember (1) 4:13 renew (1) 2:8 renewal (4) 3:24 4:2,8 6:1 repeat (1) 4:15 repetitive (1) 4:15 report (1) 2:12 reporter (2) 3:15,19 representatives (1) 4:7 requested (1) 5:7 required (1)	S said (1) 5:13 School (4) 2:11 3:7 4:7 5:3 Schools' (1) 4:3 Scott (1) 4:22 second (1) 5:5 Secretary (3) 2:5 3:21 5:23 sent (1) 5:8 September (2) 3:5,13 set (1) 5:12 speak (3) 3:18 4:10 5:21 speaker (1) 3:17 State (9) 2:7,14,24 3:4,9,11, 22 4:23 6:2 State's (1) 3:10 submit (1) 6:1		10 (1) 3:13
			2
			20 (1) 3:5 2018 (2) 3:5,14
			5
			5:20 (1) 6:4
		W	
		wanted (1) 4:24 web (1) 4:3 website (3) 3:9,10 4:4 wish (1) 4:7 written (1) 3:23	
		Y	
	T	years (1) 2:9	