

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

Public Hearing
December 10, 2018

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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-- PUBLIC HEARING --

IN THE MATTER OF:)
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Positive Outcomes Charter School)

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

Monday, December 10, 2018
5:35 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 --

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1 MR. TRAVERS: Good evening. I
2 declare this public hearing to be open. My name is
3 Leroy Travers. I am the Lead Education Associate,
4 and I have been appointed by the Secretary of
5 Education to conduct this public hearing.

6 Positive Outcomes Charter School has
7 filed an application to renew its charter for a term
8 of five years.

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

12 This joint public hearing is being
13 held by the Department of Education and the State
14 Board of Education. I will now ask that the others
15 at the table please introduce themselves.

16 MS. HICKEY: Good evening. My name
17 is Catherine Hickey. I'm a Deputy Attorney General
18 with the Delaware Department of Justice, and I'm
19 here tonight serving as counsel to the hearing
20 officer.

21 MS. FIFER: And I am Candice Fifer
22 with the State Board of Education.

23 MR. TRAVERS: I would like the record
24 to reflect that the notice of the time, date, and



1 place of today's public hearing was published in the
2 News Journal and the Delaware State News on
3 September 20, 2018.

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

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

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

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

24 Any comments received to date on this



1 renewal application are posted on the Charter School
2 Office's website.

3 We will proceed in the following
4 manner: First, we will hear from any representative
5 of the charter school who wishes to comment on the
6 renewal application. Then we will take comments
7 from anyone else who desires to speak.

8 We have three members of the charter
9 school who have signed up to speak this evening. So
10 who would like to begin?

11 MR. NORMAN: We can do it from here,
12 or you want us to be formal?

13 MS. HICKEY: It depends on the court
14 reporter.

15 THE REPORTER: That's fine from
16 there.

17 MS. HICKEY: Okay.

18 MR. NORMAN: My name is Stephen
19 Norman. I would like to thank you for allowing me
20 to speak and considering our school for another five
21 years.

22 Um, I find myself to be a lucky man.
23 I have been at Positive Outcomes Charter School for
24 19 years. I wake up every morning and want to go to



1 work.

2 We ask our kids to find their
3 passion, and I have found mine and feel very
4 fortunate about it.

5 We have one of the toughest jobs, I
6 think, in the state, but it's also one of the most
7 rewarding.

8 Our kids come to us. They have not
9 been successful in the other environments. And we
10 get them in, and we watch that success over the
11 years.

12 Our kids come in much like March as a
13 lion and leave as a lamb. But they are ready to go
14 out in the community and be successful members of
15 that community. And it's very rewarding to watch
16 that happen.

17 I come to you not only as an employee
18 of Positive Outcomes Charter School, but as a parent
19 of a son who graduated from there.

20 And when my son came in there, he was
21 beaten up. Not in the sense of that. But, I mean,
22 he was a defeated kid. And I watched him grow in
23 our school and go out. And he is now part of the
24 community, and he is successful, and he has been



1 able to go ahead and become more successful as he
2 goes on.

3 And it was a tribute to what we do at
4 our school, Positive Outcomes Charter School.
5 That's what we do. And we continue to do that. And
6 we will continue to go ahead and try to get better
7 at doing what we do and watching our kids grow and
8 go out and be successful. Thank you.

9 MR. RIGGLEMAN: I'm Mike Riggleman.
10 I have been at Positive Outcomes. This is my
11 eleventh year at Positive Outcomes. I teach the
12 upper grade Science program.

13 And in my 11 years there, I have seen
14 a number of repositioning ourselves and remodeling
15 stuff. And in the whole time there, the central
16 focus there, besides the model that we were using
17 and that sort of thing, was what is best for the
18 kids.

19 And we have followed that, and I
20 believe in that, and that has helped us to do what
21 we have with the kids. As Steve said, there are
22 some amazing stories that have come from those.

23 So I have found my passion at the
24 same time. I was very -- I was, you know, once I



1 found the school, I'm glad that I had the chance to
2 finish out my career as a teacher at Positive
3 Outcomes.

4 And I just come here today because I
5 wanted to make sure that my voice was heard. And I
6 think that probably by the time the next charter
7 renewal will come, I won't be a teacher at Positive
8 Outcomes anymore, but I would hate to think that
9 other people such as myself would not have a chance
10 to have their passions answered by a school like
11 that.

12 And I also think that it would be a
13 shame if the students that are a part of our
14 community did not have a chance to experience what
15 Positive Outcomes has done for hundreds of kids at
16 this point.

17 And it would just be a shame. And I
18 thank you for letting me give my voice.

19 MR. EMMETT: I will yield my time.
20 I'm good.

21 MS. HICKEY: You are not going to say
22 anything?

23 MR. EMMETT: No, I'm good.

24 MS. HICKEY: So, Mr. Travers, before



1 you conclude, Mr. Emmett has handed me a document
2 that is a comment, a written comment from a
3 Dr. Shan. And I would like to have that marked as
4 an exhibit, and we need it as part of this record.
5 So that would be Exhibit 1.

6 MR. TRAVERS: If there are no other
7 members of our audience that would like to speak
8 today, I would like to thank you all for
9 participating.

10 The Secretary will consider your
11 comments in deciding, at the conclusion of the
12 renewal process, what decision to submit to the
13 State Board for assent, if needed.

14 This hearing is now closed.

15 (Concluded at 5:42 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

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<p>able (2) 3:18 6:1</p> <p>Accountability (2) 2:10 3:5</p> <p>addition (1) 3:4</p> <p>ahead (2) 6:1,6</p> <p>allowing (1) 4:19</p> <p>also (2) 5:6 7:12</p> <p>amazing (1) 6:22</p> <p>another (1) 4:20</p> <p>answered (1) 7:10</p> <p>anymore (1) 7:8</p> <p>anyone (1) 4:7</p> <p>anything (1) 7:22</p> <p>application (3) 2:7 4:1,6</p> <p>appointed (1) 2:4</p> <p>assent (1) 8:13</p> <p>Associate (1) 2:3</p> <p>Attorney (1) 2:17</p> <p>audience (1) 8:7</p>	<p>beaten (1) 5:21</p> <p>become (1) 6:1</p> <p>before (2) 3:17 7:24</p> <p>begin (1) 4:10</p> <p>beginning (1) 3:17</p> <p>being (1) 2:12</p> <p>believe (1) 6:20</p> <p>besides (1) 6:16</p> <p>best (1) 6:17</p> <p>better (1) 6:6</p> <p>Board (4) 2:14,22 3:21 8:13</p> <p>business (1) 3:6</p>	<p>central (1) 6:15</p> <p>chance (3) 7:1,9,14</p> <p>Charter (12) 2:6,7,10 3:5,11 4:1,5,8,23 5:18 6:4 7:6</p> <p>clearly (1) 3:16</p> <p>closed (1) 8:14</p> <p>come (6) 5:8,12,17 6:22 7:4,7</p> <p>comment (3) 4:5 8:2,2</p> <p>comments (4) 3:22,24 4:6 8:11</p> <p>Committee (1) 2:11</p> <p>Committee's (1) 3:5</p> <p>community (4) 5:14,15,24 7:14</p> <p>conclude (1) 8:1</p> <p>Concluded (1) 8:15</p> <p>conclusion (1) 8:11</p> <p>conduct (1) 2:5</p> <p>consider (1) 8:10</p> <p>considering (1) 4:20</p> <p>continue (2) 6:5,6</p> <p>counsel (1) 2:19</p> <p>course (1)</p>	<p>3:23</p> <p>court (3) 3:14,18 4:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <hr/> <p>date (3) 2:24 3:12,24</p> <p>deciding (1) 8:11</p> <p>decision (2) 3:23 8:12</p> <p>declare (1) 2:2</p> <p>defeated (1) 5:22</p> <p>Delaware (3) 2:18 3:2,6</p> <p>Department (3) 2:13,18 3:6</p> <p>depends (1) 4:13</p> <p>Deputy (1) 2:17</p> <p>desires (1) 4:7</p> <p>document (1) 8:1</p> <p>done (1) 7:15</p> <p>Dr (1) 8:3</p> <p>during (1) 3:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <hr/> <p>each (1) 3:16</p> <p>Education (7)</p>

2:3,5,13,14,22 3:20, 21 Education's (1) 3:7 electronic (1) 3:22 eleventh (1) 6:11 else (1) 4:7 EMMETT (3) 7:19,23 8:1 employee (1) 5:17 environments (1) 5:9 evening (3) 2:1,16 4:9 every (1) 4:24 exhibit (2) 8:4,5 experience (1) 7:14	4:4 five (2) 2:8 4:20 focus (1) 6:16 followed (1) 6:19 following (1) 4:3 formal (1) 4:12 fortunate (1) 5:4 found (3) 5:3 6:23 7:1 Further (1) 3:10	H	5:5 joint (1) 2:12 Journal (1) 3:2 Justice (1) 2:18
F	G	H	K
feel (1) 5:3 FIFER (2) 2:21,21 filed (1) 2:7 find (2) 4:22 5:2 fine (1) 4:15 finish (1) 7:2 First (1)	General (1) 2:17 give (1) 7:18 glad (1) 7:1 goes (1) 6:2 going (1) 7:21 Good (4) 2:1,16 7:20,23 grade (1) 6:12 graduated (1) 5:19 grow (2) 5:22 6:7	handed (1) 8:1 happen (1) 5:16 hate (1) 7:8 hear (1) 4:4 heard (1) 7:5 hearing (9) 2:2,5,12,19 3:1,12, 15,19 8:14 held (1) 2:13 helped (1) 6:20 herself (1) 3:17 HICKEY (6) 2:16,17 4:13,17 7:21,24 hundreds (1) 7:15	kid (1) 5:22 kids (7) 5:2,8,12 6:7,18,21 7:15
		I	L
		J	lamb (1) 5:13 law (1) 2:9 Lead (1) 2:3 leave (1) 5:13 Leroy (1) 2:3 letting (1) 7:18 lion (1) 5:13 lucky (1) 4:22
		jobs (1)	M
			made (1) 3:15 make (1)

7:5 man (1) 4:22 manner (1) 4:4 March (1) 5:12 marked (1) 8:3 matter (1) 2:9 mean (1) 5:21 Meeting (1) 3:8 members (4) 3:20 4:8 5:14 8:7 Mike (1) 6:9 mine (1) 5:3 model (1) 6:16 more (1) 6:1 morning (1) 4:24 most (1) 5:6 much (1) 5:12 myself (2) 4:22 7:9	need (1) 8:4 needed (1) 8:13 News (2) 3:2,2 next (1) 7:6 NORMAN (3) 4:11,18,19 note (1) 3:18 notice (2) 2:24 3:4 notified (1) 3:11 number (1) 6:14	6:14 out (4) 5:14,23 6:8 7:2 Outcomes (10) 2:6 3:10 4:23 5:18 6:4,10,11 7:3,8,15 over (1) 5:10	probably (1) 7:6 proceed (1) 4:3 process (2) 3:23 8:12 program (1) 6:12 provided (1) 3:20 public (6) 2:2,5,12 3:1,8,12 published (1) 3:1
		P	
		parent (1) 5:18 part (3) 5:23 7:13 8:4 participating (1) 8:9 passion (2) 5:3 6:23 passions (1) 7:10 people (1) 7:9 personally (1) 3:11 place (3) 3:1,6,12 please (1) 2:15 pm (1) 8:15 point (1) 7:16 Positive (10) 2:6 3:10 4:23 5:18 6:4,10,11 7:2,7,15 posted (2) 3:4 4:1 present (1) 3:14	R
	O		ready (1) 5:13 received (2) 3:22,24 record (4) 2:23 3:15,19 8:4 referred (1) 2:10 reflect (1) 2:24 remodeling (1) 6:14 renew (1) 2:7 renewal (5) 3:23 4:1,6 7:7 8:12 report (1) 2:11 reporter (4) 3:14,18 4:14,15 repositioning (1) 6:14 representative (1)
N	officer (1) 2:20 Office's (1) 4:2 official (3) 3:5,7,8 once (1) 6:24 one (2) 5:5,6 only (1) 5:17 open (1) 2:2 other (3) 5:9 7:9 8:6 others (1) 2:14 ourselves (1)		

4:4 required (1) 2:9 rewarding (2) 5:7,15 RIGGLEMAN (2) 6:9,9	speaker (1) 3:16 State (7) 2:13,22 3:2,7,21 5:6 8:13 State's (1) 3:8	there (8) 4:16 5:19,20 6:13, 15,16,21 8:6 They (2) 5:8,13 thing (1) 6:17	V
S	Stephen (1) 4:18	think (4) 5:6 7:6,8,12	voice (2) 7:5,18
said (1) 6:21 same (1) 6:24 School (15) 2:6,10 3:5,11 4:1,5, 9,20,23 5:18,23 6:4,4 7:1,10 Science (1) 6:12 Secretary (3) 2:4 3:20 8:10 sense (1) 5:21 September (2) 3:3,13 serving (1) 2:19 shame (2) 7:13,17 Shan (1) 8:3 signed (1) 4:9 son (2) 5:19,20 sort (1) 6:17 speak (5) 3:17 4:7,9,20 8:7	Steve (1) 6:21 stories (1) 6:22 students (1) 7:13 stuff (1) 6:15 submit (1) 8:12 success (1) 5:10 successful (5) 5:9,14,24 6:1,8 sure (1) 7:5	three (1) 4:8 today (2) 7:4 8:8 today's (2) 3:1,12 together (1) 3:21 tonight (1) 2:19 toughest (1) 5:5 TRAVERS (5) 2:1,3,23 7:24 8:6 tribute (1) 6:3 try (1) 6:6	W
	T	U	wake (1) 4:24 wanted (1) 7:5 watch (2) 5:10,15 watched (1) 5:22 watching (1) 6:7 website (3) 3:7,9 4:2 whole (1) 6:15 wishes (1) 4:5 work (1) 5:1 written (2) 3:22 8:2
	table (1) 2:15 teach (1) 6:11 teacher (2) 7:2,7 term (1) 2:7 their (2) 5:2 7:10 themselves (1) 2:15	Um (1) 4:22 up (3) 4:9,24 5:21 upper (1) 6:12 using (1) 6:16	Y
			year (1) 6:11 years (5) 2:8 4:21,24 5:11 6:13 yield (1) 7:19

<p>1</p>			
<p>1 (1) 8:5</p> <p>10 (1) 3:13</p> <p>11 (1) 6:13</p> <p>19 (1) 4:24</p>			
<p>2</p>			
<p>20 (1) 3:3</p> <p>2018 (2) 3:3,13</p>			
<p>5</p>			
<p>5:42 (1) 8:15</p>			