

**In The Matter Of:**  
*Department of Education*  
*In Re: MOT Charter School*

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*Hearing*  
*December 8, 2015*

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*Wilcox & Fetzer, Ltd.*  
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THE STATE OF DELAWARE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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-- PUBLIC HEARING --

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 )  
MOT Charter School )

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

Tuesday, December 8, 2015  
5:00 p.m.

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BEFORE: Jennifer Nagourney, Executive Director  
Charter Office, Department of Education

Donna Johnson, Executive Director  
State Board of Education

Nina Lou Bunting, 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 MS. NAGOURNEY: We are going to move  
2 on to our next school, MOT. With that, let's begin.

3 Good evening. I declare this public  
4 hearing to be open. My name is Jennifer Nagourney.  
5 I'm the Executive Director of the Charter School  
6 Office to the Delaware Department of Education, and  
7 I have been appointed by the Secretary of Education  
8 to conduct this public hearing.

9 MOT Charter School has applied for  
10 the renewal of its charter. As required by law, the  
11 matter was referred to the Charter School  
12 Accountability Committee. The Committee has issued  
13 its final report, which recommended renewal of the  
14 charter without conditions.

15 This joint public hearing is being  
16 held by the Department of Education and the State  
17 Board of Education to assist in the decision of  
18 whether the criteria set forth for renewal in the  
19 Delaware Code have been satisfied. This hearing  
20 provides the school with an opportunity to receive  
21 public comment.

22 I will now ask the others with me  
23 today to introduce themselves.

24 MS. HICKEY: My name is Catherine



1 Hickey. I'm a Deputy Attorney General with the  
2 Delaware Department of Justice, and I am serving as  
3 counsel to the hearing officer this evening.

4 MS. JOHNSON: I'm Donna Johnson, the  
5 Executive Director of the Delaware State Board of  
6 Education.

7 MS. BUNTING: Nina Lou Bunting, State  
8 Board of Education.

9 MS. NAGOURNEY: I would like the  
10 record to reflect the notice of the time, date, and  
11 place of today's public hearing was published in the  
12 News Journal and the Delaware State News.

13 In addition, notice was posted with  
14 the Charter School Accountability Committee's  
15 official place of business, on the Department of  
16 Education's official website, and on the State  
17 Public Meeting Calendar on the State's official  
18 website.

19 Further, the school was personally  
20 notified of the time, date, and place of today's  
21 public hearing.

22 A court reporter is present so that a  
23 record of this hearing can be made. It will be  
24 necessary for each speaker to clearly identify



1 himself or herself before beginning to speak so that  
2 the court reporter will be able to know who you are.

3 The record of this hearing will be  
4 provided to the Secretary of Education and members  
5 of the State Board of Education, together with any  
6 written or electronic comment.

7 We will proceed in the following  
8 manner: First, we will hear from any  
9 representatives of the charter who wish to comment,  
10 and then we will take comments from anybody else who  
11 desires to speak. There is a sign-up sheet in the  
12 back. I have four representatives from MOT and one  
13 speaker. Is that correct? Excellent.

14 I will ask you to keep your statement  
15 to about three minutes. I tend to be as liberal as  
16 time and reason allow in accepting comments.  
17 However, I do reserve the right to limit comments if  
18 it's purely repetitive or cumulative. At this point  
19 we will accept comments from your representative.

20 MR. STRANGE: All right. So, hello.  
21 My name is Christian Strange. I'm in tenth grade.  
22 I go to the MOT Charter School. And today I'm here  
23 to like talk about how great the school is and like  
24 what progress they made out of me and like all the



1 students.

2                   And I must say that like out of all  
3 the schools I have been to, this one stood out to be  
4 the most. Because a little bit about myself back  
5 then: I used to be a student that didn't really  
6 work that much. I didn't really put that much  
7 effort into his work and didn't really like want to  
8 get himself motivated to want to do better.

9                   And like the day I went to ninth  
10 grade, this is at MOT, I mean, of course some of the  
11 stuff carried on with me, because I was kind of like  
12 still the same person that I was back then. But  
13 then I just didn't really show that much  
14 improvement.

15                   It was like I was like rejecting some  
16 of the teachers that were really trying to help me.  
17 But then first marking period came. I failed. It  
18 was bad. Second marking period came. I was like  
19 having a meeting, of course, and we were talking.  
20 And we were talking about how I'm going to get  
21 better. And I did fail the second marking period.

22                   However, the third marking period,  
23 things have changed. Because in this school the  
24 teachers, the tutor that works with me, they stay



1 after school with me. And like they put as much  
2 effort into a student. They just want to see you  
3 rise up. They don't want to see you go down. They  
4 will do whatever it takes for you to understand a  
5 question, a problem, or anything that like is being  
6 given to you.

7 I mean, because they are not just  
8 going to let you just sit back and say oh, I get it,  
9 and then like just move on to the next question.  
10 They are going to make sure that you understand so  
11 that you can like move on to the next.

12 And, I mean, like this school,  
13 honestly, changed my life. Because, like, I mean,  
14 nowadays I did pass third marking period, fourth  
15 marking period. I passed summer break happy. And  
16 now here I am in tenth grade.

17 And, I mean, I must say I was really  
18 happy that I passed this school and now I'm in tenth  
19 grade now in this school. And it's still the best  
20 progress I ever made. Because back then I didn't do  
21 anything. But now, since I came to this school,  
22 here I am now talking to you about so much progress.  
23 Because this school, I mean, all this information --  
24 I mean, it just comes from the heart. I don't even



1 have to use a paper, because like all this -- all  
2 this experience from the school, I mean, just how it  
3 gives me so much to say.

4 I mean, this school, excellent. I  
5 mean, I don't know what other words to use to tell  
6 how great this school is. But the time and effort  
7 they put with with their students.

8 The amount of work they give, it is a  
9 lot. However, all of the things you get out of  
10 that, it's worth it at the end.

11 Because I learned so much from the  
12 school, the teachers staying after with you, of  
13 course, and tutors tutoring you one on one. I mean,  
14 because not many kids do get that. And, I mean,  
15 like it's a struggle for a lot of people. But here  
16 in this school, they did everything they could to  
17 get that student like to where that student needs to  
18 be.

19 And, like, they don't give up. They  
20 stand up. They don't sit down. They rise up. They  
21 stand on the peak of the mountain to make sure that  
22 that student is getting what he or she needs to like  
23 be successful in the future.

24 And with the progress they made with





1 me, for example, I must say I was just really  
2 impressed, I mean. I was really happy to -- I was  
3 like relieved that all the bad flows are gone,  
4 because this school has helped me out a lot.

5 I mean, and if there is like anything  
6 I would say -- well, not say. I mean, if there was  
7 anything I could give, if I had a million dollars, I  
8 would just give it to the school, because they  
9 just -- they just changed my life. I was just  
10 really happy. I love this school.

11 I mean, sure, it may be a lot of  
12 work, and not many students may like it. All worth  
13 it at the end, though.

14 And here I am today sitting with you  
15 guys just talking to you about how great the school  
16 is. And thanks to Ms. Jenny and Ms. Olsen for  
17 inviting me here, I mean, because they heard me  
18 talking to one of the board members and all of the  
19 information that came out from the heart.

20 I really love this school. I mean,  
21 yeah, I hope you guys love the school, too.

22 (Laughter) Thank you.

23 MS. NAGOURNEY: Thank you. Is there  
24 anyone else who decided to speak? If not, I want to



1 thank you all for participating today. The  
2 Secretary will consider your comments as part of the  
3 decision-making process. And your comments will  
4 also be available to the State Board to consider.  
5 Thank you.

6 (Concluded at 5:33 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 11th day of December 2015.



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Lorena J. Hartnett  
Registered Professional Reporter



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