

In The Matter Of:
Department of Education
In re: Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School

Public Hearing
March 9, 2018

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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-- PUBLIC HEARING --

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School)

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Department of Education
The Collette Education Resource Building
35 Commerce Way
Conference Rooms A and B
Dover, Delaware 19904

Friday, March 9, 2018
5:10 p.m.

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BEFORE: Denise Stouffer, Lead Education Associate
Charter Office, Department of Education

Donna Johnson, Executive Director
State Board of Education

ATTORNEY: Laura Makransky, DAG
Attorney for Department of Education

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-- Transcript of Proceedings --

WILCOX & FETZER
1330 King Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
(302) 655-0477
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1 MS. STOUFFER: Good evening. I
2 declare this public hearing to be open. My name is
3 Denise Stouffer, and I'm the Lead Education
4 Associate. And I have been appointed by the
5 Secretary of Education to conduct this public
6 hearing.

7 At this time I will ask my partner
8 beside me to introduce herself for the record.

9 MS. MAKRANSKY: Hi. I'm Laura
10 Makransky. I'm the Deputy Attorney General sent to
11 represent the Department of Education.

12 MS. STOUFFER: The Academia Antonia
13 Alonso Charter School has filed an application for a
14 modification to their charter.

15 As it is required by law, the matter
16 was referred to the Charter School Accountability
17 Committee for investigation and report. The joint
18 public hearing is being held by the Department of
19 Education and the State Board of Education to
20 receive public comments on the application.

21 I would like the record to reflect
22 that the notice of the time, date, and place of
23 today's public hearing was published in the News
24 Journal and the Delaware State News on February 19,



1 2018.

2 In addition, notice was posted at the
3 Charter School Accountability's official place of
4 business, on the Delaware Department of Education's
5 official website, and on the State Public Meeting
6 Calendar on the State's official website on
7 February 14, 2018.

8 Further, the applicant was personally
9 notified of the time, date, and place of today's
10 public hearing on February 19, 2018.

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

16 The record of this hearing will be
17 provided to the Secretary of Education and the
18 members of the State Board of Education together
19 with any written or electronic comments received
20 during the course of the modification application.

21 To date, we have not received any
22 comments on the application above and beyond what
23 were received at the last public hearing.

24 We will proceed in the following



1 manner: First, we will hear from any
2 representatives of the charter school who wish to
3 comment on the modification application. Then we
4 will take comments from anyone else who desires to
5 speak.

6 There are sign-up sheets at the front
7 of the room at the table as you enter.

8 Viewing the room, there are two
9 people, and one of them has signed up to speak, and
10 there are no other people in the room right now in
11 order to make comment.

12 So we will begin with the school
13 representative making comment?

14 MS. MATOS: Maria, M-A-R-I-A, Matos,
15 M-A-T-O-S. And I am the treasurer of Academia
16 Antonia Alonso.

17 We have put in this major
18 modification due to the change in direction from the
19 CMO that was part of the original charter and the
20 charter renewal.

21 Since they have decided to go in a
22 different direction, we have brought on board -- we
23 have kept Karen Thorpe, who is excellent with
24 finances. She knows exactly where every single



1 penny is going. And I follow suit right behind her,
2 so I know where every penny is going, too.

3 And we have Shelly, we kept Shelly as an
4 HR. So the back office services that CMO was
5 providing, we have slowly brought people on board to
6 help.

7 Right now we are interviewing a COO that
8 has financial background and has property management
9 expertise.

10 And I think we are doing fine. So thank
11 you. Thank you so much. Thank you for approving
12 the charter modification.

13 MS. STOUFFER: Thank you. Is there
14 anyone else who desires to speak?

15 I want to thank you all for
16 participating today. The Secretary will consider
17 your comments in making her decision at the
18 conclusion of the modification application process.
19 This hearing is now closed.

20 (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 12th day of March 2018.



Lorena J. Hartnett
Registered Professional Reporter



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