

**From:** Doris Wells-Papanek [<mailto:doris@designlearning.us>]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** Bunting Susan <[Susan.Bunting@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Susan.Bunting@doe.k12.de.us)>  
**Cc:** Doris Wells-Papanek <[doris@designlearning.us](mailto:doris@designlearning.us)>  
**Subject:** URGENT - Delaware Design-Lab High School Charter Modification  
**Importance:** High

TO: Dr. Susan Bunting, Delaware Secretary of Education

Dr. Bunting:

Please allow this message to serve as a *letter of disapproval* for the charter minor modification that is before you for Delaware Design-Lab High School.

I find current events at the school far more than troubling. It is beyond comprehension that the charter that Dr. Martin Rayala and Dr. Cristina Alvarez developed be changed to excise these two outstanding school founders. I cannot in any way support this shift in leadership and decision-making practices.

As Founder and Director of the Design Learning Network, we collaborate with educators, practitioners, and learners to design and research mindful learning experiences. Anchored in an action research, human-centered, and sustainable approach, the aim of the network is to enhance educational experiences for all educators and students involved.

My organization reaches an international audience that is carefully watching the development of this school. Simply put, this story will have significant impact on far more than the great state of Delaware.

I am honored and delighted to share that have known and collaborated with the Founders of DDLHS for more than eight years. The work Dr. Rayala and Dr. Alvarez do in the world of design-based education is unlike any other, a critical component of exactly what must be taking place in our country today, to nurture and facilitate the development of outstanding creative problem solvers. I am also a member of the Design-Lab high XQ Super School Team.

As you may know, the \$10 million XQ prize was awarded on the basis of the application that Dr. Rayala and Dr. Alvarez wrote and on the school as a prototype for their ideas. With \$10 million in the balance and certain negative press that will follow if you allow the charter modification to go through as written, why would you take such a chance?

Therefore, I ask you without question – to **not** approve the charter modification for Delaware Design-Lab High School.

Sincerely,  
Doris Wells-Papanek



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**From:** Iris Leon [<mailto:iris.m.leon@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 2:49 PM

**To:** Bunting Susan <[Susan.Bunting@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Susan.Bunting@doe.k12.de.us)>

**Subject:** public comment - minor modification for Delaware Design-Lab High School

Dear Dr. Bunting:

I am a founding member of the Board of Directors of Delaware Design-Lab High School. I am disheartened to learn of the recent actions by the current Board and the changes being proposed to the school's charter. For three years, I witnessed the sweat and financial equity, the innovative ideas and thought leadership, and the sheer force of will put forth by Dr. Cristina Alvarez and Dr. Martin Rayala to open the school.

**Simply put, there would not be a Delaware Design-Lab High School if not for Drs. Alvarez and Rayala.** To remove them at such a critical juncture in the life of this young school is unfathomable and short-sighted.

Furthermore, I cannot see two professionals better suited to implement the \$10 million XQ Super School prize. **Their ideas and intellectual property form the basis of Design-Lab High School's entire curriculum and educational and cultural ethos.** The consequence for removing Drs. Alvarez & Rayala from the charter will, no doubt, be that they are no longer contributing to implementing the prize. And without their intellectual property, what is Delaware Design-Lab High School?

I ask you not to approve the modification of Delaware Design-Lab High School's charter.

Sincerely,  
Iris Leon