

**From:** Aaron Bass <[Aaron.Bass@ESCS.k12.de.us](mailto:Aaron.Bass@ESCS.k12.de.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2022 10:20 AM  
**To:** Travers Leroy <[Leroy.Travers@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:Leroy.Travers@doe.k12.de.us)>  
**Cc:** Jocelyn Stewart <[jocelynstewart1@gmail.com](mailto:jocelynstewart1@gmail.com)>; Nicholas Medaglio <[Nicholas.Medaglio@va.k12.de.us](mailto:Nicholas.Medaglio@va.k12.de.us)>; Charles McDowell <[cmcdowell@potteranderson.com](mailto:cmcdowell@potteranderson.com)>  
**Subject:** EastSide CSAC response for Charter Modification

Leroy,

Please see our responses to the 4 additional questions from CSAC. Please let me know if you need anything else.

**Additional Questions to be answered in school's response:**

- 1. Given your past challenges with obtaining bus transportation, are you able to provide proof of your ability to obtain an appropriate number of buses for transportation?**

We are in talks with 3 bus companies to supplement transportation for next year. We have been given assurances that these companies will be able to meet the bus needs of our student body. We would also like to highlight the fact that the bus driver shortage was not unique to EastSide and has impacted the entire state and nation. EastSide has been proud to serve as a national leader in innovation to ensure that children were able to make it to school this year. Our plans have been implemented in several cities and states across the nation and national media outlets have covered our solution and the abundance of need for bus drivers as America recovers from the pandemic.

- 2. How will new positions be funded?**

EastSide is projecting enrollment to grow each year starting in FY24. We have capacity in our current staffing plan to increase students without adding new staff, but by FY25 we will need to start adding FTEs to meet our student's needs. These additional FTEs will be funded by the increased revenue brought on through higher enrollment.

- 3. How is the school currently ensuring that its students are meeting the Next Generation Science Standards?**

EastSide is using Amplify Science. In 2021 the Department of Education had made a recommendation that members of the Science Coalition should move to Amplify to address the Next Generation Standards. The start date for all members to move to Amplify Science has been delayed by the Department but EastSide had already begun conversations with the representatives for Amplify. We have begun full implementation of Amplify Science in this school year. We have also engaged with a

number of external partners to allow a number of STEM extra-curricular activities through our external partnerships. This has included 3D printing, computer coding, physics clubs, web design, and a number of other activities. We have also provided a number of speakers to speak with our children about STEM careers. This has included pilots, NASA scientists, chemists, and industrial leaders.

**4. Provide additional details about your bond bill request. What will your foundation seek to get through the Bond Bill Committee or what process have they taken to have those discussions?**

From Charlie McDowell, the CEO of the First Community Foundation

“We wish to elaborate on the plans for funding the new CHEMOURS STEM HUB. As previously stated, the property currently occupied by EastSide Charter as tenant is owned by the First Community Foundation (“Foundation”), a separate 501c3 community serving organization. The STEM HUB will be built by the Foundation, connected to its existing facilities and added to the property leased to the School. All contributions are being paid to the Foundation and the Foundation will be responsible for the construction of the STEM HUB. In addition the building will be managed by the Wilmington Public Library on evenings and weekends and will be made available to our program partners and the public at large. Attached is a letter from the Foundation’s CEO which explains the financing plans for the STEM HUB.”

*Aaron Bass*

CEO

EastSide Charter School

3000 N. Claymont St

Wilmington, DE 19802

FIRST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

March 17, 2022

Mr. Aaron Bass.  
Chief Executive Officer  
EastSide Charter School  
3000 N. Claymont St.  
Wilmington, DE 19802

RE: CHEMOURS STEM HUB at RIVERSIDE

Dear Mr. Bass,

You have asked me to describe the financing plans for the CHEMOURS STEM HUB at RIVERSIDE. As you know First Community Foundation (“Foundation”) owns the land and buildings that are leased to EastSide Charter School (“School”). The Foundation engages in many activities that promote the Riverside community in NE Wilmington, including holding job fairs, hosting COVID health screenings and vaccination sites, raising funds for the School and hosting an annual Unity Fair and other community events. The School requested the Foundation to expand the facilities now occupied by the School by constructing an addition to house its growing middle school and to concentrate on STEM subjects.

The Foundation recruited Chemours as the lead donor for the Project and Chemours has pledged \$4M to its cost. In recognition of that magnanimous gift the Foundation will name the new facility the CHEMOURS STEM HUB at RIVERSIDE. The project is now estimated to cost about \$17M. Toward that cost the Foundation has now raised about \$7.6M in contributions including the expected proceeds from a New Market Tax Credits transaction. The balance of the project costs (about \$9.4M) are now being sought from various sources. After conversations with appropriate decision makers, the Foundation will submit a grant request to the State of Delaware for community reinvestment funding through the annual Bond Bill process.

During non-school hours the facility will be staffed by the Wilmington Public Library and will be open to the public. The grant from Chemours also

comes with mentoring and other assistance to be provided by Chemours employees. Chemours has agreed to have their staff, along with other STEM leaders in Delaware, offer courses and trainings to students and adults at the STEM Hub. Students and adults from the entire community can come and make use of a Maker's Space as well as engage in Job Fairs and trainings that will prepare them for jobs in STEM.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you need more information about the development of the STEM HUB. We greatly value our association with the School as our primary tenant.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles S. McDowell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

Charles S. McDowell  
CEO