

February 5, 2018

Dr. Susan Bunting
Secretary of Education
Delaware Department of Education
John G. Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901-3639

Dear Secretary Bunting:

Newark Charter School respectfully requests your consideration and approval for a minor charter modification that would allow the school to purchase land adjacent to our 2001 Patriot Way campus.

Delaware Freezers, Inc., a refrigeration company, has owned property adjacent to Newark Charter School since the school's permanent site was built in 2003. The company has not actively utilized the freezer building for some years and has approached the school to determine if the school had interest in the property. Previously, in the 2006-2007 school year, Newark Charter School purchased 5 acres from Delaware Freezers, Inc. to create an athletic field for the 2001 Patriot Way campus.

The primary interest the school has in this property is creating a more streamlined, safer form of egress for our Patriot Way campus as the purchase includes the roadway to an existing intersection with a traffic light (see attached map). The existing form of egress from the Patriot Way campus has traffic merging directly onto Elkton Road. The school contracts with the City of Newark police daily to manage traffic patterns at arrival and dismissal. Creating an additional form of egress from the Patriot Way campus would allow arrival and dismissal to occur without the assistance of a contracted service.

Additionally, Newark Charter School has developed a strategic planning committee to develop a long range plan for the school and its students. Working with a consultant provided through the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA), this committee will develop alternatives with detailed cost benefit analysis that will be brought before the Board of Directors for review, modification and approval. This land purchase will be factored into this long range plan.

This project has no impact on the levels of enrollment already approved.



As demonstrated by the school's Financial Statements and the sale price of the property, the school has the financial capacity to complete this purchase utilizing the reserves within the school's Local Appropriations. The Board of Directors and the school's administration have worked with commercial property agents and their attorneys to draft a purchase agreement in the amount of \$1,500,000. A deferred payment plan is proposed whereby \$600K is paid in FY 18, \$600K in FY 19 and the remainder \$300K in FY 20.

If you would like to visit the school or discuss this request in more detail, please don't hesitate to contact either me or School Director Gregory Meece. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Franklin A. Newton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Franklin A. Newton, Ed.D.

Chairperson, Newark Charter School Board of Directors

Copy: Gregory R. Meece, School Director