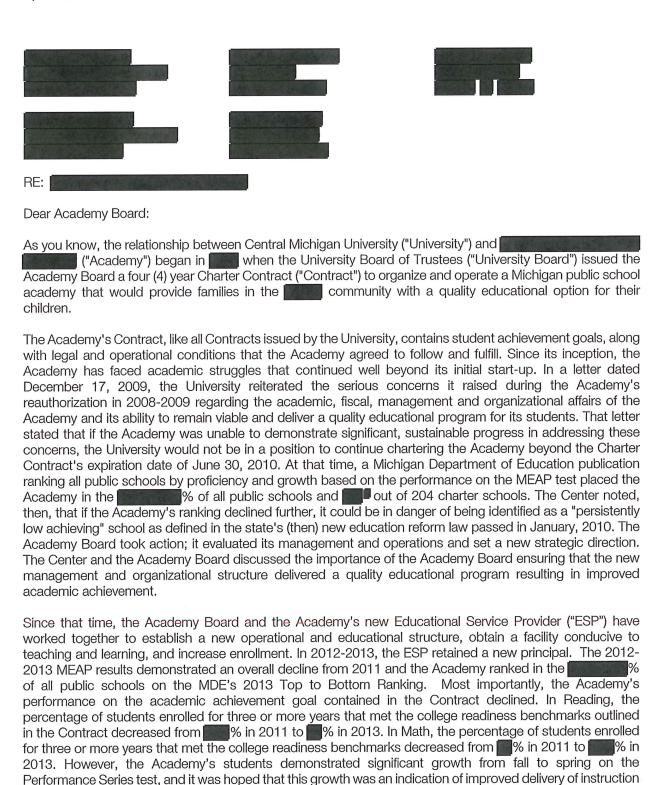


April 24, 2014



which would result in continued improvement.

The Academy purchased and renovated a new facility and moved operations in September, 2013. The Academy also added the 7th grade and gained approximately 90 additional students. In a letter dated November, 2013, the University noted that the Academy had completed its strategic re-design and was now in a position where it must demonstrate that it has focused all of its efforts on the delivery and support of a quality educational program that meets the needs of the students it serves. The correspondence stated that the University's decision concerning reauthorization beyond June 30, 2014, was dependent upon the Academy's ability to demonstrate measurable progress towards improving academic outcomes and the capacity to sustain improved performance in the future. A component of the Center's assessment of the Academy's capacity for sustained improvement included the Educational Program Review conducted in January, 2014. The review team found a lack of a comprehensive curriculum, and limited evidence of high quality instruction. The review team also found that the Academy had not put in place structures or processes for monitoring curriculum or instructional planning. In addition, the Academy's academic performance has unfortunately continued to decline. On the 2013 MEAP math and reading tests, the Academy underperformed its Composite Resident District on all ten tests administered by the Academy.

The University's assessment of an Academy's performance remains based upon three core questions:

- 1. Is the Academy's academic program successful?
- 2. Is the Academy's organization viable?
- 3. Is the Academy demonstrating good falth in following the terms of its charter and applicable law?

An honest assessment of these questions finds that the Academy is not fulfilling the terms and conditions of its Contract and is failing to consistently deliver a quality educational program to its students. Over the past thirteen years, the University has made over 300 site visits to meet with the Academy Board, staff, and advisors to clarify roles and responsibilities and help the Academy understand its legal, contractual, academic, financial, and facility obligations. In addition, the University has provided opportunities for orientation and training programs for board members, and supported the Academy Board with its policy development efforts. The Center also provided support to Academy staff, such as training, oversight, and analysis for Performance Series testing, as well as facilitating with other matters such as the state required MEAP.

In summary, the Academy has failed to fulfill the terms and conditions of its Contract and is failing to consistently deliver a quality educational program and meet its student achievement goals. The Academy's poor academic results over several years, combined with its inability to demonstrate significant and sustainable improvements, has forced the University to conclude that it would be in the best interest of the students and the public if the University does not issue a new contract allowing to operate as a public school academy when its current Contract expires June 30, 2014.

While this is a difficult decision, the University is committed to holding schools it authorizes accountable and cannot justify authorizing a school that is unable to consistently deliver a quality educational program and meet its student achievement goals. We believe this action is in the best interest of the Academy's students, their families and the community.

Please know the University is dedicated to helping ensure as smooth a transition as possible for the Academy's students. The Center has contracted with an entity that can provide transition information to both staff and students. If the Board chooses to utilize this service, the cost will be funded by the Center. We will be contacting to inform them of our decision so that information regarding application and enrollment procedures can be gathered and provided to families as they select a new school for their children.

The Academy now faces the challenge of completing this school year in the best possible manner and maintaining an orderly school environment where teaching and learning can occur. Please know that the University is committed to supporting the Academy's ability to finish the year and meet the academic needs of

its children. To that end, will continue to serve as the University's lead to the Academy and will be available to assist as necessary.

The University will schedule a meeting in the near future with representatives of the Academy, Michigan Department of Treasury, and the Michigan Department of Education to discuss the wind-up and dissolution process. Copies of the Michigan Department of Education's checklist (see Attachment 1) and Procedures for Voluntary Dissolution of a Public School Academy (see Attachment 2) are enclosed for your review.

While it saddens me to deliver this message, I anticipate it is even more difficult for you and the Academy to receive. You have guided the Academy through some very challenging issues and you initiated fundamental changes that you hoped and expected would result in a strong program and significant improvement in academic achievement. Although things have not progressed the way we all envisioned, the University is appreciative of the time everyone gave to improve the educational opportunities for the students at

Sincerely,

Cindy Schumacher Executive Director

Enclosures

- 1: Michigan Department Wind-up and Dissolution Checklist
- 2: Procedures for Voluntary Dissolution of a Public School Academy

