Questa Independent School District

2556A Wildcat Road / P.O. Box 440 / Questa, NM 87556
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Valerie Trujillo, Superintendent
Martha Sanchez, C&I/Reads to Lead Dir.
Susie Martinez, Finance Director
Hector Cavazos, Questa Jr. /Sr. High Principal
Martha Sanchez, Alta Vista Elem. Principal
Carla Moralez, RCSLA Lead Teacher

June 10, 2015

VIA Electronic Mail and First Class U.S. Mail

Roots and Wings Community School
Attn: Nancy Gonzalez
HC 81 Box 22
Questa, New Mexico 87556

Re: Notice of Deficiencies and need for Corrective Action Pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 22-8B-12(F)

Dear Mrs. Gonzalez:

I am writing to follow up on the recent inspection and audit, conducted on May 20, 21, 22 and 28, 2015 by Dr. Daniel Trujillo, independent contractor for Questa Independent School District ("Questa"), and by POMS & Associates, contractor for the New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority ("NMPSIA") at Roots & Wings Community School (the "Charter School"). The Reports prepared by both contractors following their inspections (collectively "the Reports"), are enclosed herein for your review.

These inspections and audits were conducted pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 22-8B-12 (D) and (E), which authorize a chartering authority, such as Questa Independent School Board, to visit a charter school under its authority, at least annually to determine the status of the charter school and its progress toward the performance goals in its charter contract. In addition, these Sections also authorize a chartering authority to conduct oversight activities to ensure the charter school is in compliance with fiscal, overall governance, and student performance requirements, as well as legal compliance.

Similarly, NMSA 1978, § 22-8B-12(F) directs Questa, as the chartering authority for Roots & Wings, to notify the Charter School of any unsatisfactory findings from such inspections, audit oversight in order to provide a reasonable opportunity for the Charter School to propose corrective actions to remedy the identified problems. In addition, this same Section authorizes Questa to impose sanctions on the Charter School for unsatisfactory performance.

The Questa Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs, activities or employment and provides equal access to the Boy scouts and other designated youth groups. Questa Independent School District also prohibits the use of racial, ethnic, and/or sexual slurs, including sexual harassment. If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in a school meeting or hearing, or if you wish to receive assistance or information regarding student grievances, language translations, Section 504 or Title IX, please contact the Superintendent's Office at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Title IX,-Hector Cavazos, (JR/HS Principal) and Section 504-Nora Sanford (Special Education Director) 57 Sagebrush Rd., 575-586-1604;

POMS & Associates had inspected Roots & Wings in 2011, and subsequently prepared a Report based on its 2011 inspection (the "2011 Report"). That report is also enclosed herein. Where the 2011 Report appears to have found compliance on many elements of its inspection, the 2015 Report finds that none of the audit factors meet compliance. As such, it is evident that Roots & Wings' compliance with the state's requirements for its facilities and programs has deteriorated instead of improved. In addition, the areas found to be non-compliant in 2011 had not been addressed by the time the 2015 inspection took place.

The Report prepared by Dr. Daniel Trujillo also identifies several deficiencies within the Charter School's programs, including but not limited to, three conflicts of interest presented by business transactions occurring between the Governing Board of the Charter School and school staff; Special Education files are not complete and missing integral pieces; Personnel files are not complete; the Education Plan for Student Success has not been updated for three (3) years; there is no evidence of a Maintenance Prevention Plan, or a Complete Safety Plan. There is minimal evidence of a complete Fire Drill Report or Safety Procedure Compliance. There are transportation problems as well as nutrition problems. Students are allowed to walk around barefoot or in socks. In addition, the Governing Board only has three members, where the relevant statute calls for a five member Board.

Accordingly, based on the deficiencies exposed by the Reports, we are hereby providing notice, pursuant to § 22-8B-12(F), that the Charter School is being placed on "corrective action notice" and is hereby directed to develop and submit a Corrective Action Plan ("CAP") setting forth time-frames and methods for compliance with all fiscal, overall governance, and student performance requirements, as well as legal requirements. The Corrective Action Plan shall be submitted to District's Superintendent by no later than July 1, 2015. All items listed on the CAP must be proposed for and completed by no later than September 30, 2015. The District will then review and determine whether to approve your proposed CAP. If the District finds that your proposed CAP requires supplementation or revision, those findings must be addressed within five (5) school days of your receipt of the District's proposed supplements and revisions.

Should you fail to remedy each of the problems identified in the Reports within the time-frame specified herein, the Questa School Board intends to initiate action to suspend or revoke Roots & Wings' charter.

Sincerely,

Valerie Trujillo
Superintendent

Cc: Ms. Katie Poulos	Ms. Julie Lucero	Mr. Paul Aguilar
Director	General Manager	Deputy Secretary
Charter Schools Division	Charter Schools Division	Finance & Operations
PED	PED	PED

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