

August 19, 2016

Via Email

Patricia Gibson, Vice Chair
Members of the Public Education Commission
New Mexico Public Education Commission
300 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: Students that Aspire to Teach Charter School

Dear Vice-Chair Gibson and Members of the Commission:

This letter is in reference to the August 15, 2016 email from Ms. Katie Poulos regarding the CSD Final Recommendation and Opportunity to Provide a Response.

Based on the CSD Analysis and Final Recommendation, I (as the primary founder) would like to formally request the withdrawal of the Students That Aspire to Teach (STAT) new charter school application.

The process by which the application was reviewed afforded the greatest authority to the CSD. This preliminary rating superseded the power of the Public Education Commission who by charter school law has complete authority over the authorization of new charter schools.

A public input hearing for STAT Charter School was held on August 18, 2016. During the August 18 meeting, Commissioners informally took action to vote against the authorization of the STAT new charter school application (see attachment). This action did not afford the applicant team the right to answer questions from members of the commission, and for this reason did not constitute a public hearing.

As the primary founder of STAT Charter School, I adamantly disagree with the analysis and final recommendation provided by Katie Poulos, CSD Director. Furthermore, it is my belief that facets of the review and authorization process created inconsistencies within the requirements of the Charter School Act. For this reason, I am requesting that the STAT 2016 new charter school application be withdrawn from consideration for authorization.

Respectfully,

Chris Jones
Founder, STAT Charter School

cc: Ms. Katie Poulos, *via email*