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BEFORE THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

TRANSCRIPT OF COMMUNITY INPUT HEARING
GREAT JR. ACADEMY
August 19, 2014
3:10 p.m.
MCM Elegante
2020 Menaul Boulevard, Northeast
Albuquerque, New Mexico

REPORTED BY: Susan M. Hilton, CRR, CCR 108
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APPEARANCES

COMMISSIONERS:

- MS. CAROLYN SHEARMAN, Chair
- MR. EUGENE GANT, Vice Chair
- MR. VINCE BERGMAN, Secretary
- MR. J. TYSON PARKER
- MR. JAMES CONYERS
- MS. CARMIE TOULOUSE
- MS. MILLIE POGNA

STAFF:

- MR. MATT PAHL, Interim Director, Charter Schools Division

I N D E X

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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1 CHAIR SHEARMAN: We are back in session,
2 and I understand Mr. Matthews has a statement for us.
3 So let's just go right to that.

4 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Do we have to have a
5 roll call? Do we need to establish a quorum?

6 CHAIR SHEARMAN: No, I don't think so.

7 MR. MATTHEWS: Madam Chair and
8 commissioners, thank you again for having us. I
9 basically have a letter here, and I provided Mr. Pahl
10 with a copy. I'm just going to read it into the
11 record.

12 The letter states, On behalf of the
13 founding board of the Great Jr. Academy, we would
14 like to notify the CSD and the PEC that we are
15 withdrawing our charter application effective today,
16 August 19, 2014. We feel that we can reach our same
17 goals by asking for an amendment to expand our grades
18 rather than opening a second school. Thank you very
19 much for your hard work and your commitment to
20 educational reform in our state, signed Jasper
21 Matthews and Keisha Matthews.

22 CHAIR SHEARMAN: Okay. Commissioners, you
23 have heard the letter. I do think we need to vote to
24 accept the withdrawal of this application. So the
25 chair would entertain a motion.

1 COMMISSIONER PARKER: Madam Chair,
2 commissioners, I move that we accept the letter
3 withdrawing their application for the school.

4 COMMISSIONER GANT: Second.

5 CHAIR SHEARMAN: We have a motion and a
6 second to approve the withdrawal of the Great Jr.
7 Academy application. Any discussion?

8 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Madam Chair, I would
9 just like to say, I salute you for coming to this,
10 whatever it is, accommodation because that was the
11 question I had on your application is why didn't you
12 just go the easy route and add the classes. So I
13 salute you for taking this step. Thank you.

14 MR. MATTHEWS: And if I may say, after
15 meeting with Mr. Pahl during our capacity hearing,
16 the application -- the idea of the application came
17 about, as you know, many, many, many months ago, and
18 then once we submitted the letter of intent in
19 January, we were having a high turnover rate in the
20 high school. So we said, Well, if we had a natural
21 feeder, and then we were getting a lot of interest
22 for a high school. But during the time of drafting
23 the application until the hearing, we actually
24 achieved an 89 percent retention rate in the high
25 school. So we kind of solved the problem itself in

1 the drafting of the application itself, just not
2 knowing what the numbers were going to be until
3 school started. So it kind of just worked itself
4 out.

5 CHAIR SHEARMAN: Well, we do thank you, and
6 we appreciate it very much.

7 Any other comments?

8 COMMISSIONER GANT: I call for the
9 question.

10 CHAIR SHEARMAN: Mr. Secretary, may we have
11 a roll call?

12 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Commissioner
13 Conyers.

14 COMMISSIONER CONYERS: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Commissioner
16 Toulouse.

17 COMMISSIONER TOULOUSE: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Commissioner Parker.

19 COMMISSIONER PARKER: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Commissioner Pogna.

21 COMMISSIONER POGNA: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Commissioner Gant.

23 COMMISSIONER GANT: Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Commissioner
25 Shearman.

1 CHAIR SHEARMAN: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER BERGMAN: Commissioner Bergman
3 votes yes.

4 Madam Chair, that is a seven to zero vote
5 in favor of the motion.

6 CHAIR SHEARMAN: The motion passes
7 unanimously, and the withdrawal is accepted. And we
8 thank you very much.

9 MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you very much.

10 MS. MATTHEWS: Thank you very much.

11 CHAIR SHEARMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, I
12 believe we are done for the day.

13 (The hearing concluded at 3:14 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO)
2 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO) ss

4 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

5 I, Susan M. Hilton, New Mexico Certified
6 Shorthand Reporter, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I did
7 report in stenographic shorthand the testimony set
8 forth herein, and the foregoing is a true and correct
9 transcription of the proceeding had upon the taking
10 of this hearing.

11 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed by
12 nor related to any of the parties or attorneys in
13 this case, and that I have no interest whatsoever in
14 the final disposition of this case in any court.

15 *Susan M. Hilton*
16 _____

17 Susan M. Hilton
18 BEAN & ASSOCIATES, INC.
19 NM Certified Court Reporter #108
20 License expires: 12/31/14

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22
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24 (1164L) SMH
25 Date taken: August 19, 2014
Proofread by: LR