



**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
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July 16, 2019

Meaghan Hindman-Stern and Lissa Hines
Altura Preparatory School
955 San Pedro Dr SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

8650 Alameda Blvd NE
Bldg. 2B
Albuquerque, NM 87122

Sent via email: lissa.hines@alturaprep.org; Meaghan.stern@alturaprep.org

Re: New Location for Altura Preparatory School

Dear Ms. Hindman-Stern and Ms. Hines;

The Public Education Commission (PEC) received the notice from your school that it was changing location from San Pedro Drive, SE to Alameda Blvd, NE. It was discussed at the June 14, 2019 PEC meeting. Your school and Governing Board complied with the PEC Notification of School Location within School District requirements. The school is providing transportation for its students and testified that only 5 families are not returning. However, as you know, several Commissioners had questions about the reason for the move, and why the move was 14 miles away from the original location on San Pedro Drive. The PEC was concerned because there was no community input hearing at the new location, and there appeared to be no communication with Albuquerque School District, or consideration of other charters in the Alameda area.

During the meeting you represented that the landlords on the San Pedro property let you “know that they would be unable to work with us on the growth needs that we needed to become a K-5 school.” (June 14 , 2019 meeting transcript page 38, lines 7-9.)

In a subsequent conversation with a representative of the landlords on July 11, 2019, the landlords had a different perspective. The landlords indicated that they spent \$500,000 on the current build out for the school. The landlords stated that school representatives contacted them in early Spring and asked for more space to be built right away. The landlord estimated that would be another \$200,000 expense. Space they had currently invested in would hold 3 times the number of students and the landlord could not justify another \$200,000 investment at this time. The School informed them that they would need to move on. The representative also stated that the school’s lease payments were late several times this spring.

The PEC is not in the position to evaluate the legality of the lease terms or details surrounding the school’s decision to vacate the leased property on San Pedro. But the PEC is aware of a significantly different perspective between the school and landlord on the reason for moving the school to a new location in a different neighborhood. When a new charter school locates within a neighborhood, there are community input hearings and other evaluations and recommendations to the PEC about the new school and the students it will serve as required by New Mexico law.

The school’s new location was not reviewed in this manner, nor were community considerations brought to the PEC in June, as such review or information is not currently required.

The PEC is reviewing its policies and notification forms for school changing locations within a school district. If there are changes that may impact your school in the future, the PEC will be in contact with you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

s/ Patricia E. Gipson
Patricia E. Gipson
Chair, Public Education Commission