



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION  
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PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

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SECRETARY of EDUCATION

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April 23, 2021

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Albuquerque Institute of Science and Mathematics  
933 Bradbury, SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87501

Melissa Armijo, Member  
District 1, Albuquerque

David L. Robbins, Member  
District 2, Albuquerque

sent via email: [bwalton@aims-unm.org](mailto:bwalton@aims-unm.org)

Georgina Davis, Member  
District 5, Aztec

Re: Letter of Concern

Michael Chavez, Member  
District 6, Deming

Dear Governing Board President Walton:

Michael Taylor, Member  
District 8, Roswell

The Public Education Commission (PEC) met at a public meeting Friday April 16, 2021. At that meeting, the PED Special Education Bureau (PED SpEd) presented and provided information on the current status of the Special Education Complaint and Corrective Action Plan (CAP) issued by PED SpEd for AIMS. AIMS school representatives did not attend the PEC meeting due to a scheduling conflict. At the meeting, the Commissioners discussed their concerns about the school's lack of responsiveness to PED SpEd and the student's family inquiries, failure to timely meet with the PED Charter School Division, and the ongoing outstanding and unresolved CAP issues. The PEC voted to issue this Letter of Concern.

K.T. Manis, Member  
District 9, Hobbs

Steven J. Carrillo, Member  
District 10, Santa Fe

Intervention Ladder Notice

This Letter of Concern is the first step in the Intervention Ladder contained in AIMS Charter Contract and Performance Framework. (AIMS Charter Contract Section 5, p. 11 *et seq.* and Attachment A. AIMS Charter Contract Performance Review and Accountability System, Intervention Ladder p.7 *et seq.*) The outstanding issues for the PEC stem from CAP step 2, because the school did not discuss the IEP plan including compensatory services with the parents and the student, and outstanding issues with step 5, communication

including IEP meeting, and discussion of services was not provided to PED SpEd timely. The PEC is also concerned about the ongoing general lack of responsiveness to PED inquiries and requests for information and meetings.

What Response PEC Needs to Resolve with this Letter of Concern

The PEC will include AIMS on the agenda for the May 14, 2021 PEC monthly meeting. At that time, the School should attend the meeting and be available to answer questions from the Commissioners related to the PEC SpEd CAP, and resolution of any outstanding CAP issues, and any other SpEd issues the school is addressing.

It is important for the school to know that if the issues raised in this Letter of Concern are not resolved to the satisfaction of the PEC at the May meeting, it could result in moving up to the second step of the intervention ladder, which is a Notice of Breach of Contract. If the PEC is satisfied that the issues are resolved, then the PEC will notify the school that it was been returned to Good Standing.

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

Sincerely,

*s/Patricia E. Gipson*

Chair, Public Education Commission

cc: Katharina Sandoval-Snider, Head Administrator (ksandoval@aims-unm.org)  
Martin Esquivel, Counsel to AIMS (mesquivel@esqulawnm.com)