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December 20, 2022

Isaac Casados
Governing Board Chair
La Tierra Montessori School for the Arts and Science
Via email: Isaac.Casados@montessorilatierra.org

Patricia Herrera
Head Administrator
La Tierra Montessori School for the Arts and Science
Via email: patricia.herrera@montessorilatierra.org

RE: Notice of Contract and Notice of Possible Revocation

Dear Mr. Casados and Ms. Herrera:

This letter will confirm the action taken by the Public Education Commission (“PEC”) at its December 16, 2022 regarding concerns at La Tierra Montessori School for the Arts and Science (“LTMS”) and provides notice the breach of the following charter contract provisions:

Section 2,	Scope, paragraph 2, i. and ii. The school must act through the designated charter representatives in its contract negotiations.	The Governing Board breached the contract either: 1) by representing to PEC that the Charter Contract was negotiated by a person with authority and approved by the Board when the present board now represents that those people did not have such authority, or 2) if the designated charter representatives were appropriately acting on behalf of the
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		<p>school, then the present board has failed to comply with the signed contract and implement it.</p> <p>3) Further, if there was an issue with authority to enter into Charter Contract, the School failed to timely remedy any possible issues related to the contract from the time period May – July 2022 even after being directed to correct these issues by the PEC on August 19, 2022.</p>
<p>Section 4,</p> <p>Section 5</p>	<p>1, Purpose 2, Mission 4, Comprehensive Educational Program of the School</p> <p>Performance Framework</p>	<p>The Governing Board breached the contract by failing</p> <p>1) “to institute a Montessori program with trained Montessori staff”; to provide documentation to CSD regarding how the mission-specific goals are being implemented, and to fully implement the mission and educational program as negotiated,</p> <p>2) to set up the mission-specific goals and set up a scoring sheet for the implementation of the mission-specific goals, and</p> <p>3) to timely seek to amend the contract if the board had concerns with the contract when this requirement was requested of them in August 2022.</p>
<p>Section 4.5, Governance, vi., viii. and ix.</p> <p>Section 4.6, Operation, ii., iii, vi. and viii.</p>	<p>Comply with all provisions of the Contract and law, hiring and overseeing the Head Administrator, and comply with Board Training requirements.</p> <p>Comply with all federal and state laws relating to the education of children with disabilities, comply with all laws related to safety, notify the Commission of allegations</p>	<p>The Governing Board breached the contract by inadequately overseeing the Head Administrator to ensure that</p> <p>1) the educational program is being implemented in the school;</p> <p>2) the school staffing is appropriate, and the staff is trained to implement the mission and educational philosophy;</p> <p>3) the school is not appropriately working to meet the needs and requirements of special education students; and</p> <p>4) to address safety and health issues at the school.</p>

	or inappropriate contact with a student	
Section, 5.2, i., ii. and iv.	Participate in State-required assessment and meet State’s standards of excellence	The Governing Board breached the contract by failing to meet or make substantial progress toward achievement of the department's standards of excellence or student performance standards identified in the charter contract including achieving academic outcomes and participation in state-wide testing.

LTMS is directed to

- i. have a Corrective Action Plan submitted to the Charter School Division on or before January 6, 2023 fully addressing how each issue set forth above will be remedied, and
- ii. if the school wants to request a proposed amendment change to the PEC to submit a complete amendment to CSD prior to January 6, 2023.

For each element of the Corrective Action Plan, the school must identify who will take what action by a date certain. Any proposed amendment must be presented on the PEC amendment forms with all required attachments.

LTMS and the Charter School Division are directed to look into the compliance with the rights and education support for special educational students at the school and report back to PEC at the January 20, 2023 meeting of the PEC.

Finally, LTMS is put on notice that the PEC may issue a Notice of Intent to Revoke the Charter at its January 20th meeting if all contract breaches set forth above are not sufficiently addressed through

- A) a Corrective Action Plan, or
- B) a complete proposed amendment or

if there are any findings of issues with the special education compliance at the school.

Sincerely,

Rebekka Burt
 Chair, Public Education Commission
Pec.districtfour@state.nm.us
 505 205-2054

cc:
 Charter Schools Division
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