

**From:** [Eric Ahner](#)  
**To:** [Chavez, Corina, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [Jerry Wallace](#); [Valery Parker](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: J Paul Taylor 2023-2024 PEC Annual Report Letter  
**Date:** Saturday, February 8, 2025 2:28:40 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Corina,

Firstly, I wish to commend and thank the CSD team who conducted their visit at J. Paul Taylor Academy. Lucy, Cheryl, and Bridgette were great to work with as we reviewed the charter indicators outlined by the Performance Framework. The best part was having open dialogues surrounding various charter practices in an honest way to help inform my practices. They were even nice enough to listen to my untethered opinions about areas of concern and alleged broken systems. They heard me, and sometimes that's all I ask!

Below are my preliminary responses which are required for the February Public Education Committee meeting in relation to findings.

One area mentioned in your email dated January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, was inadequate growth for black students on the last SBA test. This does not correlate to my data and our black student population results are masked due to being identifiable information and statistically irrelevant.

“i.CSD general report on school ELA growth scores related to black students”

I suspect that you intended to instead mention the staff credentialing which received a “does not meet” rating. As such, I will write a draft response to this and not the low SBA testing growth of our black students. If this is in error, please let me know.

#### 4c. Staff Credentialling

We had a new and young Physical Education teacher who had her secondary license. She was in the process of obtaining her specialty license for PE as per our actions and reporting during the 40<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> day NOVA processing. I failed to understand the parallel K-8 licensing that was also required for her credentialling. While I did receive information from licensure, the NOVA system was unhelpful and misleading as errors did not show in that system.

Our PE teacher is now fully licensed, and we have no known or reported credentialling concerns as of the review of our 80<sup>th</sup> day NOVA data.

## 2b. Accounting Principles from the CSD 2023-2024 Annual Report

JPTA has continued to be challenged with poor audit results. For the 2024-25 audit cycle of the FY24 financials, we attempted to hire Betty Seeley. As she was soon hired to consult for the PEC, she felt that this might create a conflict of interest. As per her recommendation, we then retained Diane Gunn who reviewed much of our financials and assisted with the audit process. Unfortunately, it was arguably too late to impact changes in a timely fashion.

As the head administrator, I believe that the following has negatively impacted our financial practices with our current Business Manager. Too low pay (or FTE equivalent), challenges with remote practices as opposed to being on site, and single person practice hinders the multiple areas that fall under the work of a NM public school business manager. As such, our current business manager will complete his work with the school at the end of March and The Vigil Group has already begun layering in as the new business manager. The official date that The Vigil Group will take over is March 1, 2025 where our current individual will finish at the end of March by cleaning up his work and transitioning the remaining services.

Because of the significant concerns, we decided to transition services mid-year. This comes as a challenge as we have had four different business managers since 2021. We believe that the track record of The Vigil Group and their multi-staff structure will improve our financial performance.

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Eric B. Ahner  
Executive Director

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On Jan 27, 2025, at 2:45 PM, Chavez, Corina, PED  
<Corina.Chavez2@ped.nm.gov> wrote:

Dear Eric and Jerry:

The PEC expects to review a plan with the school at their meeting on February 21, 2025 per the letter received here. Any documents should be sent to CSD by Feb

11 to be included in the PEC meeting materials for that meeting. Here are the items of concern from the CSD 2023-2024 Annual Report:

1. Action to correct performance (uncorrected unsatisfactory performance identified in PEC annual notice) regarding 2b. Accounting Principles from the CSD 2023-2024 Annual Report

i. CSD general report on school ELA growth scores related to black students

Let me know if you have any other questions!

Thanks,

Corina

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**From:** DistrictSeven, PEC, PED <PEC.DistrictSeven@ped.nm.gov>

**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2025 1:55 PM

**To:** Ahner, Eric <eric.ahner@jpaultayloracademy.org>;

valery.parker@jpaultayloracademy.org; Chavez, Corina, PED

<Corina.Chavez2@ped.nm.gov>; HOSFORD BARNES, JULIA <Jhbnm1@gmail.com>

**Subject:** J Paul Taylor 2023-2024 PEC Annual Report Letter

Please see attached letter regarding your 2023-2024 Annual Report.

Best Regards,

Pattie

Patricia Gipson, Vice Chair NMPEC

PEC District 7

[Pec.districtseven@ped.nm.gov](mailto:Pec.districtseven@ped.nm.gov)

575-405-9135