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April 26, 2024

Dr. Adam Amador
Richelle Peugh-Swofford
Alma d'Arte Charter High School
aamador@almadarte.org
rpeugh-swafford@almadarte.org

Dear Dr. Amador and Ms. Peugh-Swofford:

Thank you for your time and information presented to the New Mexico Public Education Commission ("PEC") last week. This letter confirms the outcome of that meeting with regard to Alma d'Arte Charter High School. It is our hope that the school can make progress on the areas of concern outlined in this letter. Given the severity of the concerns outlined in this letter, we ask that you provide all members of the Governing Board with a copy of this letter. As you know on April 19, 2024, the PEC took several actions with regard to Alma d'Arte pursuant to NMAC 6.2.9.

1. Annual report for 2022-2023 shows unsatisfactory performance, and the school is not on track for renewal. The PEC accepted the annual report for the school from the Charter Schools Division for school year 2022-2023. The PEC now provides the school a notice of unsatisfactory performance, confirms that the school is not on track for renewal and identifies the unsatisfactory performance related to:

- the Vistas designation of CSI Graduation;
- the low academic proficiency rates in math and science;
- the lack of growth in reading overall and for the subgroups identified on page 6 of the annual report;

- the lack of growth in math overall and for the subgroups identified on page 7 of the annual report;
- the low graduation rates;
- the inability to provide data for the Mission Specific Indicators resulting in no score;
- the overall designation on the Organizational and Financial Frameworks of “Does Not Meet”, and
- the unsatisfactory performance related to
 - 1.c. Rights of Students with Disabilities,
 - 3.a. Rights of All Students,
 - 3.c. Staff Credentialing,
 - 3.d. Employee Rights, and
 - 5.a. -5.f. indicators related to fiscal management

The unsatisfactory performance should be corrected by the next annual report.

2. Reporting on the School’s Condition of Renewal is unsatisfactory. As you know, the school was renewed with the following condition:

The School will provide a NMDASH plan, or other plan approved by the PEC, outlining how the school will improve student growth in both literacy and mathematics. The plan will include implementation of short-cycle assessments, use of the data from those assessments to set measurable goals for student growth in literacy and mathematics, implementation of instructional strategies (for both core instruction and intervention) for meeting those goals, and progress monitoring at regular intervals. The plan must include action steps, a timeline and persons responsible.

The PEC accepted the report on the Condition listed above and found the following:

- the progress towards improvement in proficiency and growth of students is insufficient,
- the compliance with the reporting on the Condition is insufficient, and
- the timing and information required to submit the Condition in a timely and complete manner needs to be corrected.

3. Breach of Contract. Based on concerns in the 2022-2023 annual report, the report on the Condition and concerns outlined in the letter of me from February 26, 2024, the PEC voted on April, 19, 2024 to provide notice of breach of the charter school contract and to place the school on the intervention ladder. The PEC voted unanimously as follows:

Alma d’Arte Charter High School should reestablish a respectful, safe and effective learning environment at the School and remedy the following concerns and charter contract provisions:

Academic progress	
Concern	Contract Provision
1. Show academic proficiency and growth of the students, improve inadequacies related to testing of students and improve results and complete documentation for the Mission Specific indicators and the condition of renewal	Contract Section 4; 1., 2. and 4.i. Contract Section 5; Academic Performance Framework; and Condition of Renewal
2. Correct and confirm compliance with Special Education requirements, including correcting concerns identified in the Special education annual determination letter from the Public Education Department. Include a report (without student identifying information) of pending complaints at the school level related to Special Education and how they are being addressed there.	Contract Section 4, 8.2 Organizational Performance Framework, 1.f and 3.a and Condition of Renewal
3. Confirm and ensure compliance with Attendance for Success Act, including the disenrollment processes. Include a review of disenrollments (without student identifying information) utilized by the school for the past two school years.	Contract Section 4, 8.4 as amended Organizational Performance Framework, 1.c and 3.b
Organizational and financial concerns	
Concern	Contract Provision
A. Correct inadequate financial oversight and ensure that the school has compliant finance and audit committees at all times	Contract Section 4.1 and Section 5, 4., and Financial Performance Framework, 5.e
B. Remedy audit findings through a corrective action plan derived from the audit response provided by the School with suggested improvement by CSD.	Contract Section 4.1 and Section 5, 4., and Financial Performance Framework, 5.b and 5.c

<p>C. Provide and implement a complaint policy approved by the Governing Council at the school and a plan for addressing parent and student complaints. Include a report showing the status of pending parent and student complaints (without identifying information) reported to the School.</p>	<p>Organizational Performance Framework, 1.c, 1.d, 3.a and 3.d</p>
<p>D. Confirm that the School has adequate admission and enrollment policy and procedures that allow student choice.</p>	<p>Organizational Performance Framework, 3.a</p>
<p>E. Provide and implement an adequate plan for teacher mentoring, ensure that the rights of teachers are being enforced and utilize a staff grievance policy that is consistent with the Collective Bargaining Agreement.</p>	<p>Organizational Performance Framework, 3.d</p>
<p>F. Provide timely and complete reporting and notifications to CSD and PED</p>	<p>Contract Section 5.3. ii., and Organizational Performance Framework, 2.a</p>

The PEC further has asked the Charter School Division to review the School’s compliance with Special Education and Attendance for Success requirements during the present school year and the adequacy of the processes and protocols at the School to ensure ongoing compliance and work with other agencies, as appropriate, or hire consultants to assist in the review.

Finally, the PEC has asked the school to report its Condition update and short cycle assessment data at the June meeting of PEC related to proficiency and growth.

Under the intervention ladder, the school is required to provide a Corrective Action Plan to be approved by the PEC. The Charter Schools Division will be reaching out to you immediately to work with you on this plan, which must be provided to the PEC by **May 10th, 2024** for approval by the PEC at its May meeting. The document should identify specific actions that will be taken, including information regarding the people who will take specifically identified actions by a date certain.

We appreciate your efforts to address the issues listed above. Thank you.

Sincerely,

/e/Patricia Gipson

Chair, Public Education Commission

