



Robin McDonald <robinm@mypcm.org>

Fwd: Next steps

PCM Board <board@mypcm.org>
To: Robin McDonald <robinm@mypcm.org>

Sun, Jun 2, 2024 at 11:59 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Sat, Jun 1, 2024 at 10:56 PM
Subject: Next steps
To: board@mypcm.org <board@mypcm.org>

Thank you all for answering the call and stepping up when our school and community was in need. I am inspired by your passion, engagement, and grit. My heart wants to fight this all the way. We have the willpower no doubt. But I worry about the costs. The uncertainty that it prolongs for our staff and our kids.

We have an opportunity now to end it with dignity at the end of the school year. To come together as a community to provide closure and support for everyone to transition over the summer. It is a safe and dignified option.

Part of me wants to fight on. I was inspired by the support I saw at the commission meeting and I believe I heard some remorse from the commissioners prior to the vote. It seems to me that the major obstacle is being able to modify the charter and adopt the new budget. The commission wants a months long inquiry to study the support and potential impacts the charter modification would bring. We simply do not have that kind of time or resources for that, and the commission must know that. I believe they set the bar so high knowing it was out of reach in our situation. Doing so gives them an easy way to deny us a needed change to survive and allows them to save face as being good stewards for charter school success.

Is it possible that the charter changes we are proposing could be approved as part of a probation stipulation for our school's survival? I have read of sanctions and probation being applied to a charter school as part of a Corrective action plan, but it seems like the Commission skipped that option and went straight to revocation. Unless I'm missing something.

Perhaps that can be an avenue for an appeal. Given the progress we have shown in the past few months, would the commission be willing to grant us probation status rather than revocation. I would be in favor of proposing our school be placed on a probation that allows the charter changes and stipulates strict oversight by the commission. Where our school would be subject to frequent review over the next academic year. Criteria such as student safety, fiscal solvency, and academic achievement could be used for a summary judgment at the end of the 24/25 year.

However, I keep coming back to the time this process takes and the unfair uncertainty it prolongs. Particularly for our staff. I believe the choice to fight should be theirs. They fulfilled their obligation by sticking it out til the end of the school year. If we continue to fight, it must be with their unanimous consent.

Thank you,

Shane McDowell