

**In The Matter Of:**  
*Department of Education*  
*Academy of Dover Charter School*

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*Public Hearing*  
*March 11, 2020*

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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-- PUBLIC HEARING --

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
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Academy of Dover Charter School )

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Department of Education  
The Townsend Building  
2nd Floor Cabinet Room  
410 Federal Street  
Dover, Delaware 19901

Wednesday, March 11, 2020  
5:00 p.m.

.. . . . .

BEFORE: Leroy Travers, Lead Education Associate  
Charter Office, Department of Education  
  
Jen Ahner, Executive Director  
State Board of Education

.. . . . .

-- Transcript of Proceedings --

WILCOX & FETZER  
1330 King Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
(302) 655-0477  
www.wilfet.com



1 MR. TRAVERS: Good evening. I  
2 declare this public hearing to be open.

3 My name is Leroy Travers. I'm the  
4 Lead Education Associate with the Charter  
5 School Office, and I have been appointed by  
6 the Secretary of Education to conduct this  
7 public hearing.

8 The Academy of Dover Charter School  
9 has filed an application to modify its  
10 charter to include a sixth grade.

11 As is required by law, the matter  
12 was referred to the Charter School  
13 Accountability Committee for investigation  
14 and report.

15 This joint public hearing is being  
16 held by the Department of Education and the  
17 State Board of Education.

18 Now I will ask the other at the  
19 table to introduce themselves.

20 MS. AHNER: Hi. I'm Jen Ahner,  
21 Executive Director of the State Board of  
22 Education.

23 MR. TRAVERS: I would like the  
24 record to reflect that the notice of time,



1 date, and place of public hearing was  
2 published at the Charter School  
3 Accountability Committee's official place of  
4 business, on the Department of Education's  
5 official website, and on the State Public  
6 Meeting Calendar on the State's official  
7 website.

8 A court reporter is present so that  
9 a record of this hearing can be made. It  
10 will be necessary for each speaker to clearly  
11 identify his or herself before beginning to  
12 speak so that the court reporter will be able  
13 to note who you are.

14 The record of this hearing will be  
15 provided to the Secretary of Education and  
16 members of the State Board of Education,  
17 together with any written or electronic  
18 comments received during the renewal decision  
19 process.

20 To date, comments received on this  
21 renewal application are posted on the Charter  
22 School Office's website.

23 We will proceed in the following  
24 manner: First we will hear from



1 representatives of the Charter School who  
2 wish to comment on the renewal application.

3 Unless otherwise waived by the  
4 presiding officer, the charter school  
5 representatives shall be limited to 15  
6 minutes total.

7 Next, we will take comments from  
8 the public. There are sign-up sheets at the  
9 table in the back. If you desire to speak  
10 and have not signed up, please do so now.

11 Those that have not signed up will  
12 not be permitted to speak and instead be  
13 asked to submit written comment.

14 All public speakers are limited to  
15 three minutes. I reserve the right to impose  
16 reasonable time, place, and manner  
17 restrictions if the speakers prevent this  
18 hearing from accomplishing its goals in a  
19 reasonable manner.

20 This hearing's purpose is strictly  
21 to collect public comment. Questions of the  
22 Department of Education, the State Board of  
23 Education, or the charter school are not  
24 permitted and will not be acknowledged.



1           At this point the committee will  
2           accept comments from any school  
3           representatives.

4           At this point the committee will  
5           accept comment from anyone else who has  
6           signed up to speak.

7           Sir, please make sure you identify  
8           yourself for our court reporter.

9           MR. IRIOWEN: Good evening,  
10          everybody. It's my first time here. And the  
11          reason I'm here is because I'm excited about  
12          what I'm experiencing in my home and in my  
13          community.

14          My name is Esosa Iriowen. I'm a  
15          doctor of chemistry --

16          MR. TRAVERS: Did you get that?

17          MR. IRIOWEN: Esosa Iriowen. I'm a  
18          doctor of chemistry and an adjunct professor  
19          at the university here.

20          I'm also on the board of this great  
21          school, which they are here.

22          Like I said, the reason I'm here is  
23          because I'm excited of what I'm experiencing  
24          for my son. It has been a great privilege.



1                   My first child is in Dover Academy  
2 Charter School. And since he started that  
3 school -- before I put him there, I used to  
4 get some funny information about the school  
5 and all. And that was my first child, so  
6 everything is more experimental.

7                   But we were like three or four  
8 minutes from his school. My wife and I said  
9 let's just try it, at least. If it's not  
10 okay, we will just put him somewhere.

11                   So we tried them. And so far it  
12 has been exceptional. And I'm on the board  
13 for productive parents.

14                   And I'm so glad -- I'm so glad what  
15 I'm seeing so far. That is the reason I'm  
16 here.

17                   For now, I don't really have any  
18 comment. Everything I had before I put my  
19 son there is the opposite of what I'm  
20 experiencing.

21                   And I told the principal, I said,  
22 look, if you have a -- if you need help,  
23 count me all the time, because I'm the  
24 recipient of what they are doing in that



1 school.

2 And the parents, too. I think have  
3 been on behalf of parents. I'm getting good  
4 feedback of what a good school.

5 So it is the joy and excitement  
6 that makes me here right now so that I can  
7 speak on behalf of the parents for the  
8 school.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. TRAVERS: Thank you, sir.

11 (An off-the-record discussion was held  
12 to get spelling of Mr. Iriowen's name.)

13 MR. TRAVERS: At this point we will  
14 go off the record until approximately 5:15  
15 just to make sure there are no others that  
16 show up and want to make comment, and we will  
17 go back on. Thank you.

18 (Off the record 5:06 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.)

19 MR. TRAVERS: I want to thank  
20 everyone for their participation today.

21 The Secretary will consider your  
22 comments in deciding, at the conclusion of  
23 the renewal process, what decision to submit  
24 to the State Board for assent. This hearing





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is now closed.

(Concluded at 5:15 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, Lorena J. Hartnett, a Notary Public and Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing is an accurate and complete transcription of the proceeding held at the time and place stated herein, and that the said proceeding was recorded by me and then reduced to typewriting under my direction, and constitutes a true record of the testimony given by said witnesses.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, or attorney of any of the parties or a relative or employee of either counsel, and that I am in no way interested directly or indirectly in this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office on this 12th day of March 2020.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Lorena J. Hartnett  
Registered Professional Reporter

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