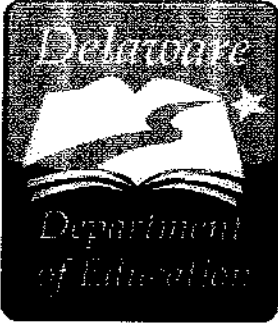


Please  by your name if you wish to speak.

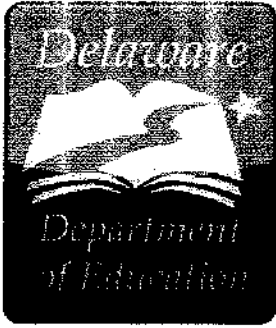


Delaware Department of Education  
Public Hearing  
of  
New Applicant  
Pike Creek Charter Middle School

June 4, 2013

SIGN IN SHEET

Name (Please Print)	Title	Signature	Speaking Yes/NO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Smith	PCCMS Board Chair	<i>[Signature]</i>	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morgan Balan	Student	<i>[Signature]</i>	Yes
Parker Balan	Student	<i>[Signature]</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Whitehead	PCCMS Board Member	<i>[Signature]</i>	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yvonne Johnson	Delaware PTA Pres	<i>[Signature]</i>	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katie Sookhoo	PCC Board Member	<i>[Signature]</i>	NO YES
JASON R. BALAN		<i>[Signature]</i>	—
BARBARA NOWELL	CO-ORD PARENT	<i>[Signature]</i>	NO
Renee Zerk	PCC Board Member	<i>[Signature]</i>	NO
Brian Sheehan	Parent	<i>[Signature]</i>	NO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robyn Sheehan	PCC Board Member	<i>[Signature]</i>	YES
Robert Skripko	Teacher	<i>[Signature]</i>	NO
Matthew Backer	PCC Board Member	<i>[Signature]</i>	NO

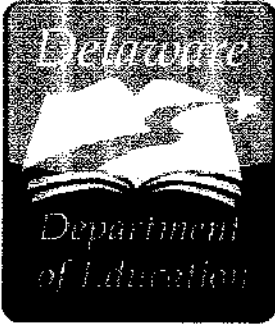


Delaware Department of Education  
 Public Hearing  
 of  
 New Applicant  
 Pike Creek Charter Middle School

June 4, 2013

SIGN IN SHEET

Name (Please Print)	Title	Signature	Speaking yes/no
✓ LeAnne Gandolfo	Parent	<i>LeAnne Gandolfo</i>	yes
Ruth Templeton	Parent/teacher	<i>Ruth Templeton</i>	no
✓ Hayley McDaniel	Teacher	<i>Hayley McDaniel</i>	yes
Trish LaBonte	speech therapist	<i>Trish LaBonte</i>	no
Jen Skripko	teacher	<i>Jen Skripko</i>	no
Joe Bruen	community member	<i>Joe Bruen</i>	no
Melissa Frost	parent occupational therapist	<i>Melissa Frost</i>	
Kathleen Nelson	parent/banker	<i>Kathleen Nelson</i>	no
Deborah Donnelly	grandparent	<i>Deborah Donnelly</i>	no
Jane Sowden	grandparent	<i>Jane Sowden</i>	no
✓ Juli Tankersly	community	<i>Juli Tankersly</i>	yes
Steve Shupe	Community	<i>Steve Shupe</i>	No
Brooke Balan	PECMS board member	<i>Brooke Balan</i>	no



Delaware Department of Education  
Public Hearing  
of  
New Applicant  
Pike Creek Charter Middle School

June 4, 2013

SIGN IN SHEET

Name (Please Print)	Title	Signature	Speaking yes/no
Emily Taylor		<i>Emily Taylor</i>	
Josh Nelson	Father	<i>JN</i>	NO
Tim Sowell		<i>Tim Sowell</i>	NO
Mary Kay Stirparo	Community	<i>Mary Kay Stirparo</i>	NO
Tom STIRPARO	"	<i>Thomas Stirparo</i>	NO
Jenna Hoagland	Friend	<i>Jenna Hoagland</i>	NO
Liz Piccinilli	AUNT	<i>Liz Piccinilli</i>	NO
Michael Ramos	SARLCO	<i>Michael Ramos</i>	NO
Christae Smith	Teacher <sup>PCC</sup> Board member	<i>Christae Smith</i>	NO
Baedon Smith	Student	<i>Christae Smith</i>	NO
Kendall Massett	DCSN	<i>Kendall Massett</i>	NO

Alexander Balan, MD  
34 Hutton Road  
Boothwyn PA 19061

To: Secretary of Education, Delaware Department of Education  
RE: Pike Creek Charter Middle School  
Date: June 4, 2013

Dear Mr. Murphy,

This letter is in support of the Pike Creek Charter Middle School. The mission of this school is based on Michele Obama's Let's Move campaign and consists of a rigorous academic curriculum as well as the inclusion of fitness and a healthy lifestyle, both of which are essential foundations for a middle school education. The research supporting physical activity in academia is abundant. There should be no debate as to the benefit of this charter school to our children's education and health.

As a retired general surgeon who practiced for over 40 years, I have seen firsthand the repercussions of unhealthy lifestyle choices. There is nothing more important than our children's health. Enabling a healthy lifestyle at the time when most children tend to choose a sedentary way of life is a pivotal step in changing their mindset and putting the children on the correct path for continued healthy living. As a father of three adult children who participated in upper level athletics and grandfather of eight, I urge you to approve PCCMS for the 2014-2015 school year. The establishment of this school can only benefit our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexander D Balan, MD

Robert M Catalano  
Rehabilitation Consultants, Inc  
3411 Silverside Road  
Wilmington, DE 19810

Mark Murphy  
Secretary of Education  
John G. Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Murphy,

Red Clay's portfolio of schools is second to none in the State of Delaware. However, the need for an additional middle school is evident. Pike Creek Charter School ("Pike Creek") is a fantastic option for Red Clay families.

I support Pike Creek for a number of reasons, among them:

- Pike Creek is an ideal environment for children due to both educational and wellness aspects.
- Pike Creek provides its students an hour of physical activity a day. The opportunity to add an hour of activity to any middle schooler's day is crucial to counteract the amount of sedentary entertainment available in this age group. Additionally, Pike Creek has a pool on-site, as well as kinesthetic movement in the classroom; both added bonuses to promote and increase movement among students. Nutrition classes, healthy food options and physical activity will lead to children being educated about and aware of healthy living choices.
- At Pike Creek there is a strong focus on health and well being. This type of class work could lead to a unique opportunity for more interest in the medical field and encourage children to explore this career path.
- Mandated community service is a component of the Pike Creek educational model. This component can only help our community as well as instill community based values in our children.
- I support the fact that Pike Creek has proposed partnerships with the local medical community and businesses in a proactive effort to further the success of the School.

I believe Pike Creek presents an innovative opportunity that could fill an important function by providing the students of Red Clay another option for middle school. I encourage your support of Pike Creek Charter School. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert M Catalano, MA PT, Cert MDT  
Director of Rehabilitation Consultants, Inc

Brian Kimble  
35 Coach Hill Road  
Newark, DE 19711  
6/3/2013

Delaware Department of Education  
401 Federal Street  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Delaware Department of Education:

On behalf of myself, this letter is to extend my support for the proposed Pike Creek Charter Middle School. I stand behind their mission to promote pre-adolescent student achievement through academic instruction while incorporating wellness and fitness strategies. PCC ideas and plan will ignite our younger generations mind and body and give them all the tools needed to promote a healthy and successful learning environment. By putting our children on a path to a healthy lifestyle in their early years, our country can fight the ever-growing problem of obesity.

PCC can help fuel the “Let’s Move” initiative and combat current problems such as:

- One in three children today are considered to be obese
- Children developing higher risk of heart disease, diabetes, asthma, cardiovascular disease, sleep apnea and social discrimination
- Low self esteem and social stigmatization

These problems can hinder academic and social functions and carry on through their adulthood. PCC has the resources to help reverse this growing trend. They are committed to highest level of child development. With the support of the DOE, we can make this a healthier America.

Sincerely,

Brian Kimble

May 3, 2012

Secretary of Education Murphy and Department of Education,

I am writing this letter in support of Pike Creek Charter Middle School. You will have the opportunity to change the face of public education with innovative school choice.

I fully support Pike Creek Charter Middle School's mission and vision of linking the body with the mind. Through my nursing education and work at A.I DuPont Children's Hospital, I see the importance of nutrition education and physical activity for children at such an impressionable age.

Pike Creek Charter Middle School is bringing a proactive choice to our education system in Delaware. By promoting physically active lifestyles and teaching children to become lifelong learners, Pike Creek Charter is helping combat other societal issues that the state will soon have to deal with.

Childhood obesity is growing epidemic in our country. Pike Creek Charter Middle School has developed a plan to change the narrative regarding physical activity, healthcare and accountability in our country.

Thank you for the opportunity to pledge my support to Pike Creek Charter Middle School. I implore you to approve this school and work with them to bring positive educational change to the state of Delaware.

Sincerely,

Brittany E. Lucas  
Nurse  
A.I. DuPont Children's Hospital  
302-722-0915

Charlene Saunders  
114 Belmont Dr.  
Wilmington, DE 19808

Mark Murphy  
Secretary of Education  
John G. Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Murphy,

Red Clay's portfolio of schools is second to none in this state. However, the need for another middle school is evident. Pike Creek Charter School is a fantastic option for Red Clay families.

I support Pike Creek Charter School for a number of reasons:

- I support this as an ideal environment for children due to both the educational and wellness aspects.
- I support the fact that there will be an hour of physical activity a day. The opportunity to add an hour of activity to any middle schooler's day is crucial to counteract the amount of sedentary entertainment available at this age. Having a pool on-site, as well as kinesthetic movement in the classroom, are added bonuses to get the kids moving. Nutrition classes, healthy food options and physical activity will lead to healthier children.
- I support the fact that there is a strong focus on health and well being. This type of class work could lead to a unique opportunity for more interest in the medical field and encourage children to explore this career path. With my husband being a surgeon we would love to see more training in this field
- I support mandated community service. This can only help our community as well as instill community based values in our children. This will help children realize that it takes a group effort to keep the community running smoothly and bring them closer together, as well as giving them something to do so that there is less trouble on the street.
- I support the fact that Pike Creek Charter School has proposed partnerships with the local medical community and businesses which will further the success of the school.

I believe this innovative opportunity will fill an important function by providing the students of Red Clay another option for middle school. I encourage your support of this school. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Charlene Saunders*  
*John G. Saunders*



September 27, 2012

Dana Adlesic  
310 Riblett Lane  
Wilmington, DE 19808

Mark Murphy  
Secretary of Education  
John G. Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Murphy,

We are thankful to live in the Red Clay School District; however, we are in desperate need of another middle school in our area. Pike Creek Charter School is a fabulous option for Red Clay families.

I support Pike Creek Charter School in that there will be a strong focus on health and well being and an opportunity for more interest in the medical field. This will encourage and motivate the children to explore their opportunities in the medical field.

I am also in favor of the children being involved in one hour of physical activity a day. This is important for children especially at this age. The pool will only be an extra bonus to help kids stay physically active during the school year.

Having this type of middle school in our area will help our community and instill community based values in our children. In addition, I support the fact that Pike Creek Charter School has proposed partnerships with the local medical community and businesses which will further the success of the school.

This opportunity will provide the students of Red Clay another option for middle school. I encourage your support of this school. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Dana A. Adlesic

September 27, 2012

Rudy Adlesic  
310 Riblett Lane  
Wilmington, DE 19808

Mark Murphy  
Secretary of Education  
John G. Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Murphy,

We are thankful to live in the Red Clay School District; however, we are in desperate need of another middle school in our area. Pike Creek Charter School is a fabulous option for Red Clay families.

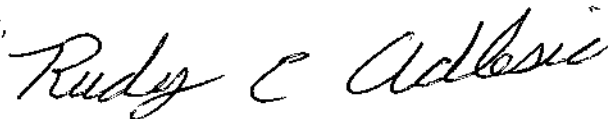
I support Pike Creek Charter School in that there will be a strong focus on health and well being and an opportunity for more interest in the medical field. This will encourage and motivate the children to explore their opportunities in the medical field.

I am also in favor of the children being involved in one hour of physical activity a day. This is important for children especially at this age. The pool will only be an extra bonus to help kids stay physically active during the school year.

Having this type of middle school in our area will help our community and instill community based values in our children. In addition, I support the fact that Pike Creek Charter School has proposed partnerships with the local medical community and businesses which will further the success of the school.

This opportunity will provide the students of Red Clay another option for middle school. I encourage your support of this school. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rudy E. Adlesic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "A".

Rudy E. Adlesic

Dear Secretary Murphy,

I am writing to you about the new Charter school proposal in the Pike Creek fitness center.

I am happy to say I have 3 children in the Red Clay School District. I wouldn't have it any other way. My oldest just graduated from Cab Calloway on Friday, my middle is in his last year at Skyline and on his way to Delcastle in the fall and my youngest is in 3rd grade at Heritage Elementary. We would love to see a Charter school for middle school. I think the idea of having one in the Pike Creek area is wonderful, what an asset to our area! The fact that the Charter would be about the health and fitness of our children is even more exciting. I have been very involved in all 3 of my children's school and would love to be as involved in this new school.

Thanks for your interest.

Pam Sayers

May 9, 2013

Dear Mr. Mark Murphy,

Through the years, I have dedicated much of my time to my passion for fitness. I am a Certified Personal Trainer, a Level 1 Sports and Conditioning USAW Coach, an instructor at the National Personal Training Institute, and owner of Delaware Barbell Club and Fitness, LLC. I have always believed that living a healthy lifestyle is an important aspect of life that is often overlooked by educational institutions and by families.

For years, I was a wrestling coach at a variety of schools. The last school I coached at, St. Elizabeth High School, I started out the season with about twenty five students interested in wrestling. By the end of the season I had three wrestlers left. The next year, St. Elizabeth eliminated the wrestling program and cut out many other athletic activities. Students do not know the importance of participating in sports and living an active and healthy lifestyle. This is very upsetting and a major contribution to the large obesity rate in children.

When I was informed of PCCMS, I couldn't think why this wasn't established sooner. This is a great idea! If fitness begins early in life, these students are most likely to live longer, healthier lives beyond school and into adulthood. Athletics and physical education programs are fading fast in schools and kids are not learning the importance of health, competition, comradely and sportsmanship. Not only will these positive experiences help them physically but it will also help them in a future in life and careers, knowing how to work with team, leadership, and goal setting.

My business, Delaware Barbell Club and Fitness, and I are in full support of Pike Creek Charter Middle School. I am willing to help in any way to make this school a success and hope to share my knowledge and passion for fitness with these students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael S. Donohue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael S. Donohue, CPT  
Owner, Delaware Barbell Club and Fitness, LLC  
302.932.4175  
[Delawarebarbell@gmail.com](mailto:Delawarebarbell@gmail.com)  
[www.delawarebarbell.com](http://www.delawarebarbell.com)

H. Donald Jones, DDS  
Family Dental Center  
1 Winston Ave  
Wilmington, DE 19804

Mark Murphy  
Secretary of Education  
John G. Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Murphy,

Red Clay's portfolio of schools is second to none in this state. However, the need for another middle school is evident. Pike Creek Charter School is a fantastic option for Red Clay families.

Family Dental Center supports Pike Creek Charter School for a number of reasons:

- It is an ideal environment for children due to both the educational and wellness aspects.
- An hour of physical activity a day. The opportunity to add an hour of activity to any middle schooler's day is crucial to counteract the amount of sedentary entertainment available at this age. Having a pool on-site is an added bonus to get the kids moving. Nutrition classes, healthy food options and physical activity will lead to healthier children.
- The focus is on health and well being. This type of class work could lead to a unique opportunity for more interest in the medical/dental field and encourage children to explore this career path.
- Proposed partnerships with the local medical community and businesses which will further the success of the school.

I believe this innovative opportunity will fill an important function by providing the students of Red Clay another option for middle school. We encourage your support of this school. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

H. Donald Jones, DDS



*everychild.one voice.*

**April 11, 2013**

**To The Charter Accountability Committee:**

This letter is to serve as a letter of support for Pike Creek Charter Middle School. Delaware PTA is excited to be able to create and foster parent engagement at this new school. If the charter is approved, Delaware PTA will work with the school leader and the building administration to identify and recruit parent leaders to start a PTA. Moreover, Delaware PTA will work with the parents to ensure sound fiscal responsibility as well as how to engage parent volunteers. Delaware PTA has a proven successful training program that trains all parent volunteers on sound leadership skills, board management, family engagement, advocacy, and money sense.

Delaware PTA is a non profit organization that is under the umbrella of the National PTA. This provides our members many member benefits such as legislative alerts, possibilities for grants and sponsorships, our arts in education program "Reflections", Common Core training, and many other programs. Most importantly PTA promotes healthy lifestyles and the Michelle Obama "Let's Move Campaign." This aligns with the mission and vision of Pike Creek Charter Middle School.

We look forward to working with the building staff and the parents of Pike Creek Charter to ensure a successful PTA that is engaged and involved in their children's education.

Best,  
Yvonne Johnson  
President Delaware PTA

June 3, 2013

Department of Education,

I am writing to express my support for Pike Creek Charter Middle School.

I've dedicated my life to health and wellness initiatives. I currently run my own fitness studio, Enduro Fitness, and I am also the Strength and Conditioning Coach for numerous Wilmington University athletic teams.

The combination of promoting healthy lifestyle and promoting lifelong learners is what's missing from our education system in the state of Delaware. Pike Creek Charter Middle School is proposing change for our school system. The Department of Education needs to approve this school and have them be the roadmap for academic and physical success in our great state.

I look forward to working with Pike Creek Charter Middle School in health/wellness events in the community and bringing my talents to their students. Approve this school. You won't be sorry.

Sincerely,

Anthony M. DiVirgilio  
Enduro Fitness  
302-377-9511

To: Secretary of Education, Delaware Department of Education  
RE: Pike Creek Charter Middle School  
Date: June 3, 2013

I am writing this letter to support the inspiration of those who see a need to incorporate academics with wellness and fitness. Although, I do not have children that will attend this school, I am strong believer in the life lessons and benefits of fitness in addition to academics. I was a graduate of the Delaware public school system and took away from the experience as much from the discipline associated with fitness as I did academics. When moving onto higher Education, the balancing act of school work and *life* can overwhelm the most prepared students. I often found the discipline and perseverance I was shown through fitness and athletics to help push me through those difficult challenges.

Without making lite of academics, the discipline, motivation and perseverance gained through realizing ones limitations is essential in life. This helps build self confidence in adolescence which creates a life long foundation conducive to success.

EP Williams  
Class of 1989  
John Dickinson High School  
1995 B.S Economics  
Alfred Lerner College of Business & Economics



June 3, 2013

Board of Directors, Pike Creek Charter Middle School  
Wilmington, DE 19808

Dear Members of the Board of Pike Creek Charter Middle School:

We are writing in enthusiastic support for the establishment of the Pike Creek Charter Middle School. We were residents of the Pike Creek/North Star area for over 34 years. Our daughters both attended Red Clay Schools in that area's feeder pattern from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. We are extremely pleased with the innovative school concept of Pike Creek Charter Middle School and feel that an alternative middle school would be of great benefit to the residents of the Pike Creek/North Star area.

We hope that this charter school will be approved without further delay for the children!

Sincerely,

Diana C. Gelman

Robert A. Gelman

Helen Jones  
Dogtopia of Wilmington  
2101A Concord Pike  
Wilmington, DE 19803

Mark Murphy  
Secretary of Education  
John G. Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Murphy,

Red Clay's portfolio of schools is second to none in this state. However, the need for another middle school is evident. Pike Creek Charter School is a fantastic option for Red Clay families.

Dogtopia of Wilmington supports Pike Creek Charter School for a number of reasons:

- It is an ideal environment for children due to both the educational and wellness aspects.
- An hour of physical activity a day and a focus on health and wellness. The opportunity to add an hour of activity to any middle schooler's day is crucial to counteract the amount of sedentary entertainment available at this age. Having a pool on-site is an added bonus to get the kids moving. Nutrition classes, healthy food options and physical activity will lead to healthier children.
- Proposed partnerships with the local community and businesses which will further the success of the school.

I believe this innovative opportunity will fill an important function by providing the students of Red Clay another option for middle school. We encourage your support of this school. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Helen Jones, Owner  
Dogtopia of Wilmington

THE  

---

**CHARTER SCHOOL**

---

  
O F W I L M I N G T O N

April 12, 2013

Secretary Murphy,

I am writing you to offer my support of Pike Creek Charter Middle School.

I've been working with Pike Creek Charter's Founding Board over the past year and admire the dedication of this community group. They have a wide variety of intellectual capital that brings different levels of knowledge and experience to the charter process.

I've been able to mentor this group in the area of charter/public school finance. This group is determined to learn and master the intricacies of public school finance. They have done an exceptional job of learning the process and researching applicable costs for necessary equipment, faculty, services and more.

I pledge my continued support and mentorship to Pike Creek Charter in the area of finance upon approval of their charter. They have uncovered an innovative mission and vision to drive positive change and choice in their community.

Thank you for the opportunity to pledge my support, and I look forward to help guide the future of Delaware's children in this mentor capacity.

Sincerely,



Jed C. Desmond  
Chief Financial Officer  
The Charter School of Wilmington

June 3, 2013

Secretary of Education Murphy and Department of Education,

I am writing this letter in support of Pike Creek Charter Middle School. I have a strong belief that Pike Creek Charter Middle School will have an extraordinary impact on the children within the educational system of today.

I am behind Pike Creek Charter Middle School's objectives and goals toward helping children maintain a healthy lifestyle within each component of their life. Through my experience as a Health and Physical Education teacher, I understand the need to educate the future of our society about the importance of health and physical activity. As a Registered Nurse, I believe that there is a strong link between an individual's wellness status and the amount of knowledge they have about living a healthy lifestyle. The best way to prevent chronic diseases and illnesses such as heart disease, hypertension and diabetes would be to increase the knowledge of young adults through their academic curriculums. Wellness promotion needs to be more focused on within the education of young adults to help prevent further health complications within their later lives.

Pike Creek Charter Middle School creates a culture that brings a balance between mind and body that is essential for an individual to be successful. Childhood obesity is a growing epidemic in our country and continues to increase as time goes on. Pike Creek Charter Middle School has focused on this serious issue within our country and has developed a plan to help form a solution to this problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to pledge my support to Pike Creek Charter Middle School. I ask you to approve this school and work with them to bring positive educational change to the state of Delaware.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Jarvis  
BS, BSN, RN  
NYU  
516-644-7598

To :Secretary Mark Murphy and the accountability committee

From :Yvonne Johnson, Parent and Child Advocate in Delaware

I am reaching out to you today to show my support for the proposed charter school in Pike Creek, Pike Charter Middle School. The mission and vision of this program aligns directly with National PTA's mission for promoting healthy lifestyles.

As a parent of 2 children in the Red Clay School District and a parent leader all over the state of Delaware for over 15 years, I along with all parents want what is best for all our children. We all strive to ensure that children get what they need in school. But most importantly children need to be healthy and safe. Research has shown that when children miss too much school, especially in the adolescent years, that they are in greater risk of dropping out of school. Helping children stay physically fit and learning healthy life styles ensures that they will be alert and ready to learn. This is exactly what I see Pike Creek Charter Middle School will bring to their students. This is right in line with our First Lady Michelle Obama, who has been instrumental in the "Let's Move!" campaign. The mission and vision of Pike Creek Charter Middle is directly aligned with the correlation between health and fit children producing better test scores and achieving higher grades.

I wish all our public schools could offer smaller class sizes, especially for the at risk students, but the reality is that it is not happening. There is simply not enough funding for this in a traditional setting. Pike Creek Charter will give the students smaller class sizes, more individual attention, and an emphasis on technology that will result in better performance academically and socially. I see this school as a small community of learners. A good fit for those who may want a smaller middle school experience with high expectations for academics. The school will prepare their students for college and career readiness which is essential in the middle school years.

I support everything about this proposed charter school. Charter schools were created to give families an alternative choice. Some students do well in a traditional environment and some do better in a nurturing alternative environment. At this point there this little choice for the middle school years in the Pike Creek Area. Many parents are not satisfied with what there is to offer and therefore choose another setting such as Cab Calloway of The Arts or Conrad School of Science. Both this programs have a limited number of seats and require an assessment for placement. Pike Creek Charter will be totally a lottery and will have no assessment or screening process. This will give everyone an equal opportunity to take advantage of this wonderful program.

Please consider that Pike Creek Charter Middle is giving parents an additional choice that is unlike the others in the most important years of a child's life.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Yvonne Johnson

2611 Pecksniff Rd

Wilmington,De 19808

To: Secretary of Education, Delaware Department of Education

RE: Pike Creek Charter Middle School

Date: June 13, 2013

This letter is in support of the Pike Creek Charter Middle School. The mission of this school is based on rigorous academic instruction with the inclusion of fitness and a healthy lifestyle, both of which are essential foundations for elementary education. The research supporting physical activity in academia is evidence-based and founded. The government has established a task force on childhood obesity. The following is an excerpt from the White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity Report to the President (<http://www.letsmove.gov/white-house-task-force-childhood-obesity-report-president>)-

“According to the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, children and adolescents should participate in physical activity for **at least 60 minutes every day**. The Physical Activity Guidelines, developed in 2008 by a committee of experts convened by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provide science-based guidance for Americans ages six and older. **They recommend that children’s activity time include moderate to vigorous aerobic activity, muscle strengthening, and bone-strengthening exercises, and that young people should be encouraged to participate in age-appropriate, enjoyable, and diverse activities. There are many examples of physical activity, including not only team sports but also walking, biking, swimming, hiking, dancing, gardening, and many other group or individual activities.**”

The evidence and support for this program are abounding. There should be no debate as to the benefit of this charter school to our children’s education and health.

As a parent of two school-aged children and a registered nurse, I urge you to approve the establishment of this school for the 2014-2015 school year.

Kristen Taggart MSN,RN  
Department of Nursing  
Delaware Technical Community College  
(302)283-3120

3 June 2013

Pike Creek Valley Running Club  
PO Box 3259  
Wilmington, DE 19804  
[www.pcvrc.com](http://www.pcvrc.com)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you on behalf of Pike Creek Valley Running Club (PCVRC) in support of the proposed Pike Creek Charter Middle School (PCCMS).

PCVRC is a non-profit organization that is centered in Pike Creek Valley. The mission of PCVRC is to encourage the sport of running as a fun and healthy activity for people of all ages and all backgrounds. Importantly, one of the objectives of our club is "To have FUN and stay physically and mentally fit through running". To this end, we believe that running and other forms of physical fitness promote not only a healthy lifestyle, but also improved mental acuity – namely concentration, focus, memory and understanding. Indeed, one recent study in the journal *Comprehensive Physiology* states that "More active or higher fit individuals are capable of allocating greater attentional resources toward the environment and are able to process information more quickly. This data is suggestive that aerobic fitness enhances cognitive strategies enabling to respond effectively to an imposed challenge with a better yield in task performance." I can personally attest to better productivity during my work day following an early morning run, and I know the majority of club members would agree with me.

We at PCVRC strongly support the mission of PCCMS, and furthermore, we believe it covers an unmet need in our community. We want to see our children not only succeed academically but also adopt a healthy lifestyle that they will carry with them well into their adult lives. Many of our current club members are parents, and, knowing the proven mental and physical benefits of regular exercise, are passionate about encouraging their children to participate in a regular exercise program, be it running or other form of activity.

Should you need to contact me for any further information regarding PCVRC's support of PCCMS, please feel free to contact me or any Board member.

Sincerely,

Claire Neilan, PhD DABT  
President, Pike Creek Valley Running Club  
Email: [claireneilan@yahoo.com](mailto:claireneilan@yahoo.com)  
Tel: 302 272 6060



Secretary of Education, Delaware Department of Education  
RE: Pike Creek Charter Middle School  
Date: June 1, 2013

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Preparing our young people for the future is not an easy endeavor, especially with the ever changing pressures and problems facing them. It is in everyone's best interest to give them every opportunity to succeed in life. Your career path indicates a commitment to improving the academic climate for students. I am convinced that the proposed Pike Creek Charter Middle School is in line with the same commitment to quality education and will provide young people with what they need to succeed.

As a BSN prepared nurse with more than 40 years experience in healthcare and as a former athlete who participated in several sports at both the state and national level, I can speak to what the planned curriculum has to offer students who will attend the school. My middle school was ahead of the curve, offering 1 hour of physical activity per day as now recommended by the US Department of Health and Human Services in the 2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans. There probably isn't research available from that time to support this but anecdotally, the students involved in physical activities were also the higher achieving students. Now there is research that documents that exercise indeed prepares the brain to learn, improves mood and attention, lowers stress and anxiety, enhances executive functioning skills, and guards against the effects of aging.\*

The short term gains of improved learning skills and daily exercise translated into the long term gains of achieving life goals and because of the routine physical activity as a youth, enjoying a healthy active life style as a senior. I have seen firsthand what the curriculum like the one planned for the Pike Creek Charter Middle School has to offer students. Now as a grandmother, I hope that my grandchildren have the opportunity to enjoy the same advantages of quality education benefitted by routine physical activity.

I urge the state to approve the establishment of the Pike Creek Charter Middle School so that our children can be better prepared to take on the responsibilities of their future.

Please grant approval of the charter for Pike Creek Charter Middle School for the 2014-15 school year.

Barbara V. Nowell, RN, BSN

\***Spark**: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain by John J. **Ratey**, with Eric **Hagerman**, Little, Brown and Company, **2008**

Dear Secretary Mark Murphy,

I have recently been notified about the consideration of establishing a new charter school in the Red Clay District with an emphasis on fitness and nutrition. As a local pediatrician and internist, I am confronted everyday with an American culture that under-emphasizes fitness and nutrition. As a result, I see both children and adults suffering the consequences with multiple medical problems that could be prevented with lifestyle change. Thus, as a father of two boys in the community, I strongly support a school that would include a culture of healthy lifestyle as an emphasis of the curriculum.

Please consider this school as a way to assist in the current and future public health of our community.

Sincerely,

John Donnelly, MD, FAAP, FACP  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
Internal Medicine and Pediatrics  
Jefferson Medical College  
Faculty Internal Medicine and Pediatrics  
Christiana Care Health System

"In today's technology-driven, plasma-screened-in world, it's easy to forget we are born movers.....because we've engineered movement right out of our lives." Ratey

To: Secretary of Education, Delaware Department of Education  
RE: Pike Creek Charter Middle School  
Date: May 27, 2013

As a parent of three school aged children and as a pediatric Occupational Therapist who works in the school system, I have always sought out innovative and non-traditional approaches to assist my own children, as well as my students, in achieving independence and success in all realms of the academic environment. Having a background and advanced degrees in Chemistry and Biology (B.S. 1990), Biochemistry (M.S. 1995) and Occupational Therapy (M.S. 2001), I have always had an interest in the biological basis of learning. I have learned through experience and my own research that all areas are strongly interconnected. As an Occupational Therapist, I often recommend physical activity, what Occupational Therapists often call 'heavy work', be integrated into the school day. My recommendations are often not fully, or even partially, carried out as activity and movement are considered a 'waste of valuable time' in a highly test result driven educational environment.

I was absolutely delighted when I was informed that a charter school was in the process of being established that directly coincided with my beliefs and ongoing area of interest. I have been to a number of the Pike Creek Charter Middle School's meetings and have spoken personally with Melissa Whitehead, Robyn Sheehan, Michael Smith and Eric Pugh. They have all presented a very organized and detailed plan along with a life changing vision. They were able to answer all my questions as well as address a multitude of scenarios I brought up that were related to my experience in the school system as a parent and a therapist. I would urge the state to seriously consider, as well as approve, the establishment of Pike Creek Charter Middle School for the 2014-15 school year so that the vision of this charter can be enacted.

With over 30 percent of children overweight or obese and many more on the cusp, there is a national epidemic of unhealthy children that are not able to learn to their fullest potential. The Institute of Medicine, as well as many other organizations, recommends sixty minutes of moderate intensity activity per day for school aged children. Estimates suggest that less than half of school aged children meet this guideline. In many middle schools, gym class will occur once a week or every other day for only two of the four marking periods. During the other days/ marking periods, no in school physical activity occurs as recess or exercise are not typically part of the school day for middle school students.

In his book *Spark* (Ratey and Hagerman, 2008), John Ratey, M.D. examines the mind body connection and he states that exercise prepares your brain to learn, improves mood and attention, lowers stress and anxiety, enhances executive functioning skills, helps stave off addiction and guards against the effects of aging. He discusses at length the effects of the Naperville, Illinois experiment. This study, as

well as this approach carried out by other school districts in the nation, has proven again and again that focus on fitness plays a pivotal role in a students' academic achievements. One study from Virginia Tech showed that "cutting gym class and allocating more time to math, science and reading did not improve test scores, as many school administrators would assume..." An important study came from the California Department of Education (CDE). The CDE has consistently shown that "students with higher fitness scores also have higher test scores." Rately summarizes that it is important to remember that "exercise improves learning on three levels: first, it optimizes your mind-set to improve alertness, attention and motivation; second, it prepares and encourages nerve cells to bind to one another, which is the cellular basis for logging in new information; and third, it spurs the development of new nerve cells..."

My hope is that the vision of this board, which is supported by extensive research across a multitude of disciplines, will be carried out. Please grant approval of the charter for Pike Creek Charter Middle School for the 2014-15 school year.

Melissa Frost  
403 Coldspring Run  
Newark, DE 19711

"In order for man to succeed in life, God provided him with two means, education and physical activity. Not separately, one for the soul and the other for the body, but for the two together. With these two means, man can attain perfection." Plato

June 3, 2013

Secretary of Education Murphy and Department of Education,

I am using this opportunity to put my support behind Pike Creek Charter Middle School (PCC). I have no doubt that PCC will equip students with the academic, social, and physical tools they will need to be successful in high school and grow into well rounded, productive adults.

Having worked in public and charter schools, the importance of physical health is often put to the side. While we can all agree that a school's main purpose is to challenge students academically and intellectually, I love PCC's approach towards strengthening the child's life outside of the classroom as well. Studies show that obesity in students can affect their brain power and therefore their academic achievement. Additionally, living a healthy lifestyle can allow the child to reap benefits socially, emotionally, and can increase self esteem.

Having known some of the board members for a while, I can also attest to their passion for the academic aspect of running the school. After several conversations I have had with Ms. Whitehead, I have been impressed by her knowledge of curriculum and her commitment to creating a rigorous academic setting where students can continually grow in the classroom.

As a teacher who understands the importance of a great education, it is with great zeal that I lend my support to Pike Creek Charter. I ask that you give strong consideration to this school, which will undoubtedly continue and aid Delaware's progression towards becoming the nation's most innovative state when it comes to education.

Best,

Michael Martinez  
BS, M.Ed  
Rutgers University, '10  
551-556-6095

Secretary Murphy,

I am writing to you to formally show my support of Pike Creek Charter Middle School. As an individual who acknowledges the importance of a healthy and active life style as well as an academically rigorous path, the concept of Pike Creek Charter Middle School is long over due in our community.

It is with great excitement that I can already foresee the positive impact that PCCMS will have on the students, families, and community. I am happy to assist in the implementation of a recycling program and other earth friendly programs that the school wishes to participate in.

As an individual who consistently participates in community service activities such as the MS Walk and Earth Week, I pledge my support to serve as a liaison to the future families, staff, and students of Pike Creek Charter Middle School. I will keep them informed and encourage participation in local community, county, and statewide events that further support the mission and vision of the school. I

Nina Vietri  
Miss Earth Delaware 2013  
Miss Supermodel Delaware 2013

December 28, 2012

Dear Delaware Department of Education,

I am writing to express my support for the Pike Creek Charter School. I am a Red Clay parent of four children all attending Red Clay Schools. I have watched our schools become overcrowded with over 35 students in a classroom. The need for a new middle school is eminent. I am a firm believer in the health benefits of physical exercise and feel our current school models do not offer adequate physical fitness. In the middle schools students are only getting actual physical activity for 1 semester. Pike Creek Charter would help both issues while offering students advanced classes in Math, English, Science, Language Arts and Social Studies. I firmly believe Pike Creek Charter would be an asset to my community. Additionally, incorporating kinesthetic learning will open new learning opportunities for students who need more movement in their school day. All this along with teaching student healthy eating habits is a win-win situation for Delaware.

As a parent of 3 school aged children with Asthma I welcome a school that will provide daily physical activity to help maintain physical fitness. I see Pike Creek Charter as a benefit to my community.

Sincerely,

Annette Pic  
152 Fairhill Dr.  
Limestone Hills  
Wilmington, DE 19808

To: Secretary of Education, Delaware Department of Education  
From: Holly Flanagan  
RE: Pike Creek Charter Middle School  
Date: June 3, 2013

As a parent of 2 school aged children and as a Director of a Venture Capital Firm, Mentor to numerous start-up ventures, and ex-board member of a national charter network, I have always sought out innovative and non-traditional approaches to assist my own children in achieving independence and success in all realms of the academic environment.

I was absolutely delighted when I was informed that a charter school was in the process of being established that directly coincided with my beliefs and ongoing area of interest. I have been to a number of the Pike Creek Charter Middle School's meetings. They have all presented a very organized and detailed plan along with a life changing vision. They were able to answer all my questions as well as address a multitude of scenarios I brought up that were related to my experience in the school system as a parent. I would urge the state to seriously consider, as well as approve, the establishment of Pike Creek Charter Middle School for the 2014-15 school year so that the vision of this charter can be enacted.

My hope is that the vision of this board, which is supported by extensive research across a multitude of disciplines, will be carried out. Please grant approval of the charter for Pike Creek Charter Middle School for the 2014-15 school year.

Many thanks,  
Holly Flanagan  
215-964-0397



Adam and Lisa Newirth  
54 Willow Creek Lane  
Newark, DE 19711  
June 03, 2013

Delaware Department of Education  
Dover, Delaware

Having children comes with a multitude of responsibilities to the parents, amongst the most important includes being the custodian of their education. Pike Creek Charter Middle School (PCCMS) satisfies, in my mind, the vast gambit of factors that are involved when deciding where to send your children for their education.

My family recently moved to the Pike Creek area, specifically into the Red Clay School District, from the Christiana School district. This move exemplifies our major focus and concern for our kids: their education. Though they are younger than school-age, we are first and foremost concerned with their futures, and a strong education helps to assist the prospect of a successful future.

I first learned of PCCMS via my manager, LeAnne Gandolfo, who attended a number of the meetings on which the future of the PCCMS hinges. Her excitement, support, and description of the establishment motivated me to write this letter of support. I support the creation of this school 100%, and envision sending my own children there when they are old enough to attend.

I strongly believe that PCCMS is poised to set a new standard of what a school should be. With a strong focus on achievement, interspersed with wellness and physical fitness, I firmly avow that PCCMS will not only be heralded as a trailblazer in their field, but also be lauded as the blueprint of many schools to come hereafter.

Along with the structure, the curriculum, which infuses the current school day with an academic experience, is more conducive to increasing the students' health, both physically and mentally. I feel that it is important these days to make sure your children are active, and I am very excited about this facet of PCCMS.

The creation of PCCMS is of dire need in the current Red Clay School District, as the schools appear to be nearing maximum occupancy. This will provide another option for students to attend, and keep the student to teacher ratio at one which assists the learning environment, not strains it.

I remain excited about the prospect of PCCMS being a reality come the time when my son and daughter are old enough to attend middle school, as I feel the school will provide an amazing option for an educational institution. By that time, the structure will be proven and successful, and lead the way for more schools of this kind in and throughout America.

Sincerely yours,

Adam and Lisa Newirth

LeAnne and Joe Gandolfo  
146 Ramunno Circle  
Hockessin, DE 19707  
December, 20 2012

Delaware Department of Education  
Dover, Delaware

This is to support and encourage the development of Pike Creek Charter Middle School. There are a number of significant factors that have created our interest in this innovative program.

First, the stated mission of the school is consistent with our goals for our children, the promotion of student achievement through rigorous academic instruction with a significant inclusion of the essentials of wellness and physical fitness. We believe this is the key to a successful academic career.

We are aware that the community needs an additional middle school to accommodate the thriving public school system currently and we support the addition of this unique charter school. We also have a personal motivation as our son will be entering middle school in the fall of 2014.

While operating in a public school setting with careful attention to the expectations of standards and testing, this charter school will be able create a smaller learning community for students and the teachers. This is an ideal environment for students and one that a parent would strive to provide for their children.

Because a charter school must demonstrate that student performance is positive in this alternative environment, the planned appropriate assessment will allow for progress to be measured and accountability backed through these results. We think this charter school feature provides a strong incentive for administrators and teachers to make Pike Creek Charter stand out and excel.

We understand that middle school years are a time when many students lose interest and let their studies slide. We think this focus on rigorous instruction along with the fitness emphasis is an important factor in academic achievement. The stated mission of the school will give the students the opportunity to become more willing participants in the process. We feel this will be essential for students to have pride in their school, which translates into pride in themselves. Our hope is that this pride and interest will promote the desire to be proud of their community which encompasses the school and encourage proactive behaviors consistent with that.

Finally, we believe this charter school opportunity, with their stated mission, is a wonderful alternative to the mainstream middle school. This can be a school filled with innovation, creativity, and a personalized instructional environment designed to encourage students to achieve educational and wellness goals along with a community involvement for the hope of a bright future.

Sincerely,

LeAnne and Joe Gandolfo

LeAnne and Joe Gandolfo  
146 Ramunno Circle  
Hockessin, DE 19707  
December, 20 2012

Delaware Department of Education  
Dover, Delaware

This is to support and encourage the development of Pike Creek Charter Middle School. There are a number of significant factors that have created our interest in this innovative program.

First, the stated mission of the school is consistent with our goals for our children, the promotion of student achievement through rigorous academic instruction with a significant inclusion of the essentials of wellness and physical fitness. We believe this is the key to a successful academic career.

We are aware that the community needs an additional middle school to accommodate the thriving public school system currently and we support the addition of this unique charter school. We also have a personal motivation as our son will be entering middle school in the fall of 2014.

While operating in a public school setting with careful attention to the expectations of standards and testing, this charter school will be able create a smaller learning community for students and the teachers. This is an ideal environment for students and one that a parent would strive to provide for their children.

Because a charter school must demonstrate that student performance is positive in this alternative environment, the planned appropriate assessment will allow for progress to be measured and accountability backed through these results. We think this charter school feature provides a strong incentive for administrators and teachers to make Pike Creek Charter stand out and excel.

We understand that middle school years are a time when many students lose interest and let their studies slide. We think this focus on rigorous instruction along with the fitness emphasis is an important factor in academic achievement. The stated mission of the school will give the students the opportunity to become more willing participants in the process. We feel this will be essential for students to have pride in their school, which translates into pride in themselves. Our hope is that this pride and interest will promote the desire to be proud of their community which encompasses the school and encourage proactive behaviors consistent with that.

Finally, we believe this charter school opportunity, with their stated mission, is a wonderful alternative to the mainstream middle school. This can be a school filled with innovation, creativity, and a personalized instructional environment designed to encourage students to achieve educational and wellness goals along with a community involvement for the hope of a bright future.

Sincerely,

LeAnne and Joe Gandolfo

Christy and Rob Haywood  
205 Winterthur Lane  
Newark, DE 19711

December 27, 2012

To the Secretary of Ed Mark Murphy:

We'd like to express our support for the development of Pike Creek Charter Middle School. There are a number of reasons why we are very interested in this innovative new program.

First, the stated mission of the school is consistent with goals we have for our children. We believe that a rigorous academic instruction combined with a significant inclusion of wellness and physical fitness to be key to successful academic and personal development.

Second, the community needs an additional middle school to accommodate the thriving public school system and we support the addition of this unique charter school. With two young sons yet to enter middle school, we feel the Pike Creek Charter would provide our family and many others an excellent option.

We understand that middle school years are a time when many students let their studies slide and many choose to become less active outside the home in sports and after school activities. We like that the Pike Creek Charter will emphasize after school engagement and additional student development.

Also, the stated mission of the school will give the students the opportunity to become more willing participants in the process. We feel this will be essential for students to have pride in their school, which translates into pride in themselves and their abilities.

Sincerely,

Christy and Rob Haywood

December 31, 2012

Stephanie & John Clatworthy

426 Walden Lane

Hockessin, DE 19707

Dear Delaware Department of Education Leadership,

We are writing to express our support of Pike Creek Charter School. We learned of the proposed charter school through various families within the Pike Creek and Hockessin communities. Although we are one family, we can share that there are many families that believe this charter school would be a great asset to this area. We watch many families move to Pennsylvania or to private schools once their child is approaching middle school. This is extremely unfortunate and is a reality that needs to be addressed. We believe that having a school like Pike Creek Charter School in the area will cause families to stay within the public school system.

Pike Creek Charter School has a solid vision. Children would benefit significantly from a middle school that can offer rigorous academic standards, cutting edge technology as well as develop and foster a passion for children and their physical health.

We ask that you would seriously consider allowing Pike Creek Charter School to become a reality for the benefit of our middle school students.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Stephanie & John Clatworthy

June 3, 2013

Dear Mr. Mark Murphy,

It is with great passion that I send you this note of support for the Pike Creek Charter Middle School.

At the age of 34 I suffered a mini-stroke and four years later a heart attack at the young age of 38. Both these horrific events lead me to get actively involved in the American Heart Association to bring light to others of the importance of maintaining healthy habits which could potentially assist others in avoiding such events in their lives. I have for the past 14 years lobbied for many 'heart related bills' on both a state and federal level. My greatest passion has been for physical activity education for our children. I have spoke in front of the New York State Assembly, spoke and assisted in creating articles for many media publications and news shows. My efforts have shown positive results, however we are still falling greatly short as a State and nation to support the importance of physical activity in our children's lives.

In my efforts, I have increased awareness not only in my own community but also on a state level, of the non-compliance of the Physical Education Regulation in the majority of Elementary Schools in the State of New York. While we have come closer to increasing awareness of this important regulation, we are still very short of compliance. I feel strongly that the statistics regarding our nation's children's life spans being cut short due to their current low activity levels, are the result of many adults being uneducated about the diseases associated with such.

The Pike Creek Charter Middle School and their Mission Statement could provide the benchmark for our schools across the nation and create the programs that many can follow in our future. I support their concepts fully and am truly excited and confident that they will set the bar for our nation and create the awareness our nation's schools, teachers, parents and students needed to bring this very important issue to light.

Cordially,

Tricia Restucci, Survivor and AHA Advocate and Volunteer, Long Island

To: Secretary of Education, Delaware Department of Education  
From: Michael Klezaras III  
RE: Pike Creek Charter Middle School Application  
Date: June 4<sup>th</sup> 2013

Good evening. I am writing this letter this tonight in full support for the Pike Creek Middle Charter School.

Growing up in Delaware my whole life I always felt that there wasn't enough athletics offered in my curriculum. I was a student that took as many Gym classes as possible. In some cases; I was turned away by counselors in taking more Gym classes, even though my grades in all required subjects were satisfied. If the clock could be rewound 20 years I would have been a perfect applicant for this school.

I feel that having a strong athletic and academic curriculum is critical; especially in the early teenager years. When I have my children one day, I would want my children to go to Pike Creek Charter Middle School.

I ask that the Delaware Department of Education please allow Pike Creek Charter Middle School's application to be fulfilled and accepted in time for the 2014-2015 school year.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Klezaras III

To: Secretary Mark Murphy

Re: Application for Pike Creek Charter Middle School

Secretary Murphy, I am writing to you today to show support for the new proposed charter school in Pike Creek. I recently attended a town hall meeting that introduced the community to the school. First, I want to commend the founders of the school for being proactive and forthcoming about the school's plans. Second, I was very impressed with the transparency of the founding board as well as the owner of the building. Mr. Ramone was honest and candid. Third, I believe in the mission, vision, and curriculum goals of this proposed charter schools.

I know that many folks are against the growth of charters. If done correctly charters bring much needed competition for our traditional programs. It forces our school districts to take stock of what they are doing right but also what they may be doing wrong. I sent both of my children to traditional schools. They received a good education. I did not like the large class size, the constant disruptions due to other students behavior, the lack on emphasis on the importance of good food choices and the lack of advanced technology. I did love the diversity and the community of the traditional system. They both received an adequate education.

Both my children struggled with weight issues most of their school years. It would have been a fortunate experience to have had such a wonderful program such as what Pike Creek Charter Middle School is proposing to offer. As you know it is proven that children perform better in school if they experience an adequate amount of physical exercise daily.

My children are grown and are both in college. I want my community neighbors to be able to benefit from such a great program. It is good for the community, for the children and a program like this will increase my property values.

Please consider approving this program so the children about to embark on the middle school years can benefit from it.

Sincerely,

Susan Kilby

2626 Pecksniff Rd

Wilmington,De 19808



Christine Osman  
Physiotherapy Associates  
855 Springdale Drive  
Exton, PA 19341

Mark Murphy  
Secretary of Education  
John G. Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Murphy,

Red Clay's portfolio of schools is second to none in the State of Delaware. However, the need for an additional middle school is evident. Pike Creek Charter School ("Pike Creek") is a fantastic option for Red Clay families.

I support Pike Creek for a number of reasons, among them:

- Pike Creek is an ideal environment for children due to both educational and wellness aspects.
- Pike Creek provides its students an hour of physical activity a day. The opportunity to add an hour of activity to any middle schooler's day is crucial to counteract the amount of sedentary entertainment available in this age group. Additionally, Pike Creek has a pool on-site, as well as kinesthetic movement in the classroom; both added bonuses to promote and increase movement among students. Nutrition classes, healthy food options and physical activity will lead to children being educated about and aware of healthy living choices.
- At Pike Creek there is a strong focus on health and well being. This type of class work could lead to a unique opportunity for more interest in the medical field and encourage children to explore this career path.
- Mandated community service is a component of the Pike Creek educational model. This component can only help our community as well as instill community based values in our children.
- I support the fact that Pike Creek has proposed partnerships with the local medical community and businesses in a proactive effort to further the success of the School.

I believe Pike Creek presents an innovative opportunity that could fill an important function by providing the students of Red Clay another option for middle school. I encourage your support of Pike Creek Charter School. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Osman, PT,DPT,OCS,FAAOMPT

Area Vice President of Physiotherapy Associates-Mid Atlantic Region

June 3, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you in support of opening Pike Creek Charter Middle School. As a charter school educator myself, I see the importance of the charter school movement and particularly the mission of Pike Creek Charter Middle School. Pike Creek Charter Middle School will prepare our pre-adolescent students to succeed in the most prestigious academic settings through rigorous academic instruction. In addition to fostering a student's mind, Pike Creek Charter Middle School aims to foster their health and physical well being. As elementary educator, I often hear stories from my students about going home from school and playing inside the home or watching television. These students are not being physically active outside of the school day. This sedentary lifestyle will potentially lead to our pre-adolescents being overweight or obese, which is definitely a concern in our society today. At Pike Creek Charter Middle School, students will get the opportunity to be more physically active during the school day, which will decrease the potential for obesity. They will also be taught how to incorporate wellness and fitness strategies into their lives and encouraged to lead healthy and active lifestyles outside of school as well. In addition Pike Creek Charter Middle School is being founded on research that shows that physical activity is helpful in preparing the brain for learning. Not only will Pike Creek's students lead healthier lives through wellness and fitness strategies, but this physical activity will also help them to learn and excel in academics. In conclusion, I fully support the opening of Pike Creek Charter Middle School and hope that you will make the decision to support their worthy mission as well.

Sincerely,



Krystin R. Brown

Donald W. Nicholson Jr.  
30 Wyndon Circle  
Hockessin, DE 19707  
(302) 379-4446

Mark Murphy  
Secretary of Education  
John G. Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Murphy,

Red Clay's portfolio of schools is second to none in this state. However, the need for another middle school is evident. Pike Creek Charter School is a fantastic option for Red Clay families.

I support Pike Creek Charter School for a number of reasons:

- I support this as an ideal environment for children due to both the educational and wellness aspects.
- I support the fact that there will be an hour of physical activity a day. The opportunity to add an hour of activity to any middle schooler's day is crucial to counteract the amount of sedentary entertainment available at this age. Having a pool on-site, as well as kinesthetic movement in the classroom, are added bonuses to get the kids moving. Nutrition classes, healthy food options and physical activity will lead to healthier children.
- I support the fact that there is a strong focus on health and well being. This type of class work could lead to a unique opportunity for more interest in the medical field and encourage children to explore this career path.
- I support mandated community service. This can only help our community as well as instill community based values in our children.
- I support the fact that Pike Creek Charter School has proposed partnerships with the local medical community and businesses which will further the success of the school.

I believe this innovative opportunity will fill an important function by providing the students of Red Clay another option for middle school. I encourage your support of this school. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,



Donald W. Nicholson Jr.

Sarah and Will MacDonald  
23 Farmingdale Lane  
Newark, DE 19707

June 1, 2013

Delaware Department of Education  
Dover, Delaware

We are writing this email to let you know that we support and encourage the development of the Pike Creek Charter Middle School.

The mission of the school is consistent with our goals for our children. The promotion of student achievement through rigorous academic instruction with a significant inclusion of the importance of wellness and physical fitness. We believe all of these factors play an important role in a successful academic career.

We are aware that our community needs an additional middle school to accommodate the thriving public school system. We 100% (plus) support the addition of this unique charter school.

While operating in a public school setting with attention to standards and testing, this charter school will be able create a smaller learning community for students and the teachers. Because a charter school must demonstrate that student performance is positive in this alternative environment, the planned appropriate assessment will allow for progress to be measured and accountability backed through these results. We believe this charter school provides a strong incentive for administrators and teachers to make Pike Creek Charter stand out and excel.

The stated mission of the school will give the students the opportunity to become more willing participants in the process. We feel this will be essential for students to have pride in their school, which translates into pride in themselves. Our hope is that this pride and interest will promote the desire to be proud of their community which encompasses the school and encourage proactive behaviors consistent with that.

This can be a school filled with innovation, creativity, and a personalized instructional environment designed to encourage students to achieve educational and wellness goals along with a community involvement for the hope of a bright future.

As parents of three active and athletic boys, this school would provide the ideal environment for them!!

We are sorry we can't attend the meeting this upcoming week. However, if there is anything we can do to support this proposal or spread the word please let us know!

Sincerely

Sarah and Will MacDonald

Susan McClain  
Keystone Rehabilitation Systems  
446 Lancaster Avenue  
Frazer, PA 19355

Mark Murphy  
Secretary of Education  
John G. Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Murphy,

I support Pike Creek Charter School for a number of reasons, among them:

- Pike Creek is an ideal environment for children due to both educational and wellness aspects.
- Pike Creek provides its students an hour of physical activity a day. The opportunity to add an hour of activity to any middle schooler's day is crucial to counteract the amount of sedentary entertainment available in this age group. Additionally, Pike Creek has a pool on-site, as well as kinesthetic movement in the classroom; both added bonuses to promote and increase movement among students. Nutrition classes, healthy food options and physical activity will lead to children being educated about and aware of healthy living choices.
- At Pike Creek there is a strong focus on health and well being. This type of class work could lead to a unique opportunity for more interest in the medical field and encourage children to explore this career path.
- Mandated community service is a component of the Pike Creek educational model. This component can only help our community as well as instill community based values in our children.
- I support the fact that Pike Creek has proposed partnerships with the local medical community and businesses in a proactive effort to further the success of the School.

I believe Pike Creek presents an innovative opportunity that could fill an important function by providing the students of Red Clay another option for middle school. I encourage your support of Pike Creek Charter School. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan McClain, MPT Cert MDT  
Director, Keystone Rehabilitation Systems



Zach Plerhoples  
5 Aldrich Way  
Wilmington, DE, 19807  
June 3, 2013

Accountability Committee

Townsend Building: Cabinet Room

401 Federal Street, Dover DE, 19901

To: The Accountability Committee,

**[In Reference to the Establishing and Opening of Pike Creek Charter Middle School]**

As a local New Castle County, Wilmington resident, and certified teacher in Special Education, Social Studies and Health and Physical Education, I could not have been more excited to hear about the concept of Pike Creek Charter Middle School.

The idea of incorporating holistic fitness & wellness policies, will involve practices which are well overdue for the general school setting. Fitness and wellness, when properly taught, are lifestyles which guide individuals towards positive goals which not only benefit themselves but all they come in contact with. From the physical to the emotional/relationship spectrum, this school will be able to integrate in-depth wellness practices that are skimmed over or not taught at all in many schools across Delaware and the Nation.

This school model has the ability to foster intellectual and emotional growth like no other. I believe Pike Creek Charter Middle School will not only work on facilitating physical fitness, it will utilize best practices to build positive paradigms for relationships with friends, loved ones and family members.

I am proud to support the opening and maintenance of this Pike Creek Charter Middle School. I personally hope to work with this school model in my own career in the near future.

Yours in Health,

Zach Plerhoples

Sarah and Will MacDonald  
23 Farmingdale Lane  
Newark, DE 19707

June 1, 2013

We are writing this email to let you know that we support and encourage the development of the Pike Creek Charter Middle School.

The mission of the school is consistent with our goals for our children. The promotion of student achievement through rigorous academic instruction with a significant inclusion of the importance of wellness and physical fitness. We believe all of these factors play an important role in a successful academic career.

We are aware that our community needs an additional middle school to accommodate the thriving public school system. We 100% (plus) support the addition of this unique charter school.

While operating in a public school setting with attention to standards and testing, this charter school will be able create a smaller learning community for students and the teachers. Because a charter school must demonstrate that student performance is positive in this alternative environment, the planned appropriate assessment will allow for progress to be measured and accountability backed through these results. We believe this charter school provides a strong incentive for administrators and teachers to make Pike Creek Charter stand out and excel.

The stated mission of the school will give the students the opportunity to become more willing participants in the process. We feel this will be essential for students to have pride in their school, which translates into pride in themselves. Our hope is that this pride and interest will promote the desire to be proud of their community which encompasses the school and encourage proactive behaviors consistent with that.

This can be a school filled with innovation, creativity, and a personalized instructional environment designed to encourage students to achieve educational and wellness goals along with a community involvement for the hope of a bright future.

As parents of three active and athletic boys, this school would provide the ideal environment for them!!

We are sorry we can't attend the meeting this upcoming week. However, if there is anything we can do to support this proposal or spread the word please let us know!

Sincerely

Sarah and Will MacDonald



E. Teresa Neild, M.Ed.  
1908 Maple Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19805  
[etneild@aol.com](mailto:etneild@aol.com)

May 30, 2013

Mark Murphy  
Secretary of Education  
Delaware Department of Education  
The Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, Delaware 19901-3639

RE: Pike Creek Charter Middle School

Dear Mr. Murphy:

As a parent and guidance counselor who works in the school system, I was thrilled when I was informed that a charter middle school was in the process of being established in New Castle County. Pike Creek Charter (PCC) is a tuition free charter school serving middle school students in grades 6-8. The foundation of the school's mission and vision was derived from Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign. Using this foundation, PCC's focus is based on research that proves physical activity fosters and conditions the brain for learning. The inclusion of physical activity and wellness into lessons will help students make healthy and positive choices routinely and continuously throughout their lives. I want my daughter to have the option to attend a middle school that encourages a healthy lifestyle in addition to a rigorous curriculum.

Students face easy access to sedentary activities such as playing video games or excessive computer use while physical activity is overlooked. Middle school students are developing their attitudes toward physical education because they are transitioning into adulthood. Pike Creek Charter will foster positive lifestyles among middle school students by including physical education to encourage social development, reduce rates of life-threatening diseases, promote lifelong health, improve students' academic abilities and overall well-being and increase physical fitness necessary for development.

I would urge the state to seriously consider, as well as approve, the establishment of Pike Creek Charter Middle School for the 2014-15 school year so that the vision of this charter can be enacted.

Sincerely,

E. Teresa Neild, M.Ed.

To The Charter Accountability Committee,

As a parent of 5 children in the Christina School District, I am very involved in the public school system. Like all other parents I want my children to have the best education they can get. They deserve it as do all the children in CSD. My children vary in their stages of education. I have a child in pre-school, 3 in elementary, and one in middle school. The experiences we have had in my son's current middle school has not been the most positive for my son. The middle school is the beginning of adolescence with many distractions and new experiences both academically and socially. I have great concerns about the large class sizes, the many disruptions that my son has to endure due to behavior issues in his classroom, the lack of follow through by staff and the lack of physical exercise my son experiences throughout the school day. Children need time to exercise and experience some type of physical fitness on a daily basis.

I recently heard about the proposed charter school focusing on fitness and healthy eating while ensuring rigorous standards and state of the art technology. I attended a town hall meeting that introduced the proposal of the school. I am very interested in my children having an opportunity to attend this school. I am writing to you today to show my support for this much needed program in the Pike Creek area.

I understand that the charter needs to be approved by the State Board of Education. I am in full support of this program and hope that you will give every consideration to this exceptional idea and approve the charter to make it a reality.

Thank you for your time.

Danielle Pyle

42 Hobart Drive

Newark, De 19713

DAVID P. SOKOLA  
STATE SENATOR  
8<sup>TH</sup> District



SENATE  
STATE OF DELAWARE  
411 LEGISLATIVE AVENUE  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

COMMITTEES  
Education, Chair  
Administrative Services/Elections  
Bond  
Children, Youth & Families  
Insurance  
Public Safety

December 19, 2012

Mr. John Carwell  
Charter School Office  
Delaware Department of Education  
401 Federal St, Suite #2  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Carwell:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a recommendation to the Delaware Department of Education in regards to the Pike Creek Charter School's application that was recently submitted.

The Pike Creek Charter School is a proposed tuition free middle school that will serve students in grades 6-8, and which will have a heavy focus on strong academics and physically active classroom settings. As I am sure you are aware, getting children motivated to be physically active can be difficult at times and I am pleased to see that the proposed Pike Creek Charter School is willing to take on this challenge. I have found that students who live a healthy lifestyle and are physically active, do very well in their studies and often exceed educational expectations.

In my capacity as a State Senator who represents the Newark and Pike Creek areas and as the current Chair of the Senate Education Committee, I believe that this proposed charter school will be an asset to the community and is the kind of unique innovative program that is consistent with the legislative intent of our Charter School Law. Having been involved in the creation of the Newark Charter School, I understand the challenges and rewards that are possible from the creation of a new charter school. In my opinion, the proposed Pike Creek Charter School will be able to meet those challenges head on, and will be able to share in the rewards that are made possible through the hard work of the charter school and its students.

It is with great enthusiasm that I make this recommendation, and I urge your most serious consideration of the Pike Creek Charter School application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David P. Sokola".

David P. Sokola  
State Senator  
8<sup>th</sup> District

To Secretary Mark Murphy  
From Theresa and Matthew Barone  
Re Pike Creek Charter Middle School

Thank you for the opportunity to give you our input regarding the proposed charter school in Pike Creek. We have 2 children who attend public school. One son in first grade and one daughter in fourth grade. Obviously we have started to explore options for our daughter for middle school this past fall. We attended a few choice open houses. Although we know our daughter will get an adequate education in one of these schools, our hope is that she can choice and get into Conrad School of Science. We have resolved that if she is not chosen in the lottery we will make it work and put her in private school.

The traditional settings are crowded and overwhelming. We are firm believers in diversity. However, we actually felt like the minority during our visits to several of the schools in our district. This would not bother us as much as it seemed that the administration focused on the attention to behavior issues over the importance of academics.

In late November we heard about a potential new school, Pike Creek Charter Middle. We were skeptical at first. We attended a town hall meeting in mid December that introduced us to the school and it's plans for academic rigor and promoting healthy lifestyles and fitness. We are sold. This was by far the best choice presentation we witnessed. We are very committed to supporting this school and making it a reality. We hope the Department of Education will as well. It is a different approach to learning yet promises to be inclusive both for special education and for diversity. This is exactly where we would want our children to land for middle school. Thank you for your time and we hope to hear good news about the grand opening of Pike Creek Charter in near future.

Sincerely,  
Theresa and Matthew Barone

To the Charter Review Board,

We are writing this letter to show support for the proposed charter school in Pike Creek. We are keenly aware that charter schools can be started by anyone. We also know that many times they face financial burdens or academic challenges. Due to these factors they sometimes fail. The plan must be well thought out and executed. This plan by all appearances will be a success!

After attending the town hall meeting that Pike Creek Charter Middle School Board of Directors hosted, we are confident that they are on the right track. They appear to have a sincere, solid, and focused plan. We are especially impressed by their academics while incorporating the importance of physical fitness and promoting healthy eating habits.

Our child requires an IEP, Individual Education Plan, therefore, we are very pleased to hear that all the teachers will be dual certified in both special education as well as regular education. Presently our children attend a public elementary school in the Christina School District. Although we are satisfied with our current situation, in two years our son will be going on to middle school. Frankly, there are few options for him. That is what peaked our interest in Pike Creek Middle School. We are very interested in all that it has to offer. Lower class sizes than traditional middle schools, focus on promoting healthy lifestyles, special education certification for all teachers, and state of the art technology.

We sincerely hope that this school is given the opportunity to open. It will fill up so fast that we are concerned that our child will not be lucky enough to get in. Please make it possible to have this option for our son and then our daughter.

Respectively,

Donna and Allan Brown

Drummond Hill

To the Delaware Department of Education,

This letter is to serve as support for Pike Creek Charter Middle School. I have 3 children in the Red Clay School District. My children began their education in private schools. When my oldest daughter entered middle school she decided on Cab Calloway. She remained at Cab throughout high school. One of the best parts of Cab was their smaller class sizes and individual attention to their students. This was due to the smaller number of students. When my middle child entered into middle school , we chose to have them attend a traditional school. The experience was different, both positive and negative. They enjoyed a traditional middle school experience however the class sizes were ridiculous, about 34 students to a class. Moreover the amount of physical activity they experienced during the school day was minimal. Only one quarter a year of physical education. That shocked me, considering the tremendous amount of child obesity that exists in the adolescent years!

There is a direct correlation between student achievement and both lower class sizes and physical activity. That is what makes the mission and vision of Pike Creek Charter Middle School so appealing. We want our current 4<sup>th</sup> grader to have the rigorous academics along with the importance of a healthy lifestyle. I am a proponent of public schools and want to continue to support them. I believe in the idea of charters and choice and would be so grateful to be able to send my child to a school that believes in the same ideas I believe in.

I urge the DOE to approve the charter application of Pike Creek Charter Middle School. Quite frankly the mission of this school is quite visionary!

Thank you for your time.

Susan McNeill

2855 E Oakland Drive

Wilmington, De 19808

To The Delaware Department of Education

As community members in the Pike Creek Area we would like to take the time to share our thoughts regarding the proposed charter school scheduled to open in Fall of 2014, Pike Creek Charter Middle School. We wish there had been an option such as this for our children. They are all grown. All of my children attended Linden Hill and then we chose the private school route for middle and high school. At the time we just felt our children would be better educated and be safer in private school.

We attended the town hall meeting on December 13, 2012 to learn more about this school. We were concerned about the traffic and the busses in our neighborhood. However, after listening to all the presentations, we are sold. What a great idea for a school! How we wish we could have had this choice for our children. We would have saved a lot of money! That said, this school will be a welcome change from the fitness center. We tend to have some late night traffic from the fitness center. A school makes a great neighbor and we are convinced this will increase my property's value!

We fully support a school that has taken so much time to showcase the importance of physical fitness and better eating choices for children. We hope our grandchildren will have an opportunity to attend.

Please consider this proposal with great thought. The founding board seemed well versed in finances and the school leaders are right on the money about the academics!

We hope to hear in the very near future that this school will be opening.

Thank you for your time.

Betty and Don Trivetts

Plum Run

To The Secretary Murphy,

I am writing to you today on behalf of a charter school that is being considered in my neighborhood, Pike Creek Middle. The mission of this school probably is the most important reason I support this charter school. The idea of students enjoying one hour of physical education a day is wonderful.

My son has extreme weight issues. He is currently a high school student at Mckean High School. He has struggled with poor eating habits and lack of physical exercise for years. Our public schools just do not seem to make this a priority. I understand the demands to push academics. However, it is proven that there is a direct link between student performance and physical exercise.

As a middle school student my son received no physical education because he chose to be part of the band and the chorus. This was our choice but it affected an important part of his adolescence. He has struggle with obesity for several years. My daughter will be in middle school in two years and I am so thrilled at the prospect of this option. I am a single mother of two and I work two jobs so after school activities are very difficult for me to manage. Pike Creek Charter will offer after school activities for all children that will be mandatory. For our family this will be great! Moreover, the academics and the technology piece will benefit my daughter.

I strongly urge the accountability committee to approve this charter and give us another option for middle school.

Thank you for your time.

Catherine Cowan

Pepper Ridge



Secretary of Education,

Pike Creek Charter is an innovative school with a mission that will benefit pre-adolescents in their education and overall well-being. This school focuses on providing children with a strenuous academic regime while educating them on a healthy life-style. First Lady Michelle Obama has identified children's healthy lifestyle as a concern in our country and Pike Creek Charter basis their philosophy on her "Let's Move Campaign".

As a speech language pathologist in the state of Delaware, I have seen the benefits of physical activity as a way to promote language skills. I incorporate many physical activities to not only motivate children but teach them vocabulary and language concepts through the demonstration of physical movements. During these lessons, my clients demonstrate increased attention, motivation and use of their language skills during these specific activities. In my career, I have also observed that when children are not physically active or maintaining a healthy diet, they frequently are more lethargic and unmotivated compared to peers that are maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Pike Creek Charter bases their school's mission on philosophies that are lacking in the Delaware school system. Physical health influences children's educational development and it is time that these issues are addressed in the schools rather than seen as an extra-curricular activity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Patricia LaBonte, M.S. CCC-SLP  
Speech-Language Pathologist

January 18, 2013

Honorable Mark Murphy  
Secretary of Education  
Delaware Department of Education  
John G. Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street  
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Secretary Murphy;

Nemours Health and Prevention Services (NHPS) is pleased to offer this letter of support for Pike Creek Charter (PCC) School's application to the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE). PCC School's philosophy of kinesthetic classroom-based learning and daily physical education classes is a sound and science-based strategy that improves executive function, enhances academic performance, and increases brain activity (Tomprowski & McDowell, 2011.) PCCs project-based learning approach, including hands-on, active and engaging classrooms in the core academic content areas will enable students to take responsibility for their own learning and helps to prepare them to transition from teaching and learning a set of facts to applying the knowledge and skills in a task-oriented way. These are essential life skills not only for students who are college bound, but for students interested in succeeding life.

In fact our recent collaboration with DDOE to analyze the relationships among Delaware students' physical fitness levels, student academic outcomes, and behaviors such as attendance and suspensions, showed that more physically fit students also scored higher on state tests, had lower suspension rates and significantly greater attendance records. In short, fit students are more likely to do well and behave well in school regardless of their gender, race, family income or school district.

As a division of one of the nation's largest pediatric health systems, the NHPS mission is to improve child health outcomes through population-level approaches to physical and emotional well-being. Our work with the Delaware Department of Education, schools and school districts have been critical partners who share our interests in the well-being of children. We continue our commitment to working with the Delaware school community in advancing our shared goals, and we look forward to the Delaware Department of Education's approval of this charter application which provides another educational option for Delaware families.

Sincerely,



Mary Kate Mouser  
Executive Director

Enclosure

Alfred I. duPont  
Hospital for Children  
Wilmington, Delaware

Nemours Center for  
Children's Health Media

Nemours Children's Clinic  
Jacksonville, Florida  
Orlando, Florida  
Pensacola, Florida  
Wilmington, Delaware

Nemours Health &  
Prevention Services

Nemours Health Clinic  
Wilmington, Delaware

Nemours Mansion & Gardens

Nemours.org

KidsHealth.org

PedsEducation.org

**From:** [Johnson Donna R](#)  
**To:** [Ann D Keen](#)  
**Cc:** [Carwell John](#); [Kay-Lawrence Sheila](#); [Moore Dani](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Pike Creek Charter School hearing - opposed  
**Date:** Monday, June 03, 2013 4:39:33 PM

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Thank you for your letter regarding the Pike Creek Middle School Charter application. It will be included as part of the received public comment and considered by the Secretary and State Board when making their final decision on this application.

Donna Johnson  
(sent from my iPhone)

Executive Director  
State Board of Education  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, DE 19901-3639  
302-735-4010  
<http://www.doe.k12.de.us>

On Jun 3, 2013, at 4:22 PM, "Ann D Keen" <[akeen@wlgore.com](mailto:akeen@wlgore.com)> wrote:

**From:** Ann Keen <[adkeen@msn.com](mailto:adkeen@msn.com)>  
**To:** "[donna.jackson@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:donna.jackson@doe.k12.de.us)" <[donna.jackson@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:donna.jackson@doe.k12.de.us)>,  
**Cc:** "[akeen@wlgore.com](mailto:akeen@wlgore.com)" <[akeen@wlgore.com](mailto:akeen@wlgore.com)>  
**Date:** 06/03/2013 04:18 PM  
**Subject:** Pike Creek Charter School hearing - opposed

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Dear Ms. Johnson,

I was just informed that an important hearing will be held tomorrow to consider an application to charter the Pike Creek Charter School on Mermaid Blvd. This is very important to me and to my neighbors. Unfortunately, because of the last minute nature of this notice and my work schedule, I cannot get to Dover to attend the hearing.

I am a long time supporter of public schools and my son graduated from Charter School of Wilmington. I am not a supporter of this particular school being located in the Pike Creek Swim Club location for a number of reasons. Here are two. The footprint of the building, in between two neighborhoods, is too small for a school that would eventually educate 400 students. It is ironic that the leadership is proposing a fitness oriented school on a property that has no outdoor space - except for a parking lot.

My other main concern is traffic. Mermaid Blvd. is a neighborhood road that is not a thruway. There is only one way in and one way out. The increase in traffic from busses and cars for the school would put a burden on the residents. If there is an accident traffic comes to a stand still. In snow and ice, the hill that leads to the school becomes dangerous. If one car gets stuck, no one can leave the neighborhood.

I would like you to take these and other concerns into consideration before the board moves on this action. A trip to Mermaid Blvd. by the approvers and a hearing in Pike Creek would be greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Ann Keen  
5804 Stone Pine Road  
The Pines  
Wilmington, DE 19808