

c/o Dr. Amy George-Hirons

[REDACTED]
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Superintendent John White
P.O. Box 94064
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9064

December 26, 2012

Dear Superintendent White,

Thank you for taking the time to address the tenuous situation at the Lycée Français de la Nouvelle-Orléans. As parents, we look forward to Ms. Roemer and Mr. Hunnewell's assistance in refocusing our school back to its initial Charter application and the strong curriculum that attracted us to this school in the first place. We look forward to a professional search process for a strong, highly qualified CEO to lead this school into the future in concert with the highly effective and motivated teachers of our school.

However, we hope that the LCSA, LDOE and BESE will not stop at this much-needed step. In your letter to the Board of Directors, you praise the Board for having hired "an experienced academic director, who can ensure implementation of [our] unique curriculum." This statement is optimistic but may not be entirely true and also discounts the unorthodox way in which Ms. Schexnider was appointed to her position. Indeed, Ms. Schexnider was appointed without any public job posting and with only minimal discussion of her qualifications at the Board meeting at which her appointment was ratified. While Ms. Schexnider might be qualified for this position, we are not certain that she is: her resume has not been shared with the general public, by her own admission she has never worked within the construct of the French curriculum, and she has never been in a supervisory position over teachers. We are appreciative that you are taking steps to ensure that the new CEO will not be selected in equally sketchy circumstances, but would like to know how you intend to address this initial hiring and by what criteria you are labeling Ms. Schexnider "an experienced academic director." We hope that, if she is to stay, she can develop into a good leader, but we take exception with your suggestion that she already has experience as such when everything she has told us indicates that she does not, at least in an educational arena.

The circumstances surrounding the hiring of Ms. Schexnider are but one example of the Board's lack of professionalism in terms of hiring, firing and staffing retention procedures, and we would like you to investigate this area in a broader context. Your assessment of the CEO situation seems quite apt, but we hope that you will also investigate the crisis of confidence of our "highly motivated and skilled teaching staff" as well as of many parents at this school. Your letter gives no indication of how you will address the ways in which the past mistakes on the part of the Board have eroded the confidence and trust of our teaching staff nor does it acknowledge that these same teachers are stressed and fearful given the recent dismissals or abrupt resignations of so many of their colleagues and support staff. We would like your oversight to include an investigation of the Board missteps you allude to, including suggestions for hiring and dismissal protocols and best practices, contract awarding protocols (which should surely include Request for Proposals, given that public money is at stake here) and other serious administrative issues. We request that you expand your oversight of the Lycée Français Board to directly and explicitly address these concerns.

In closing, we welcome Ms. Roemer and Mr. Hunnewell's assistance but hope that you do not limit their input to the CEO search. Please address the issues our teachers have brought to your attention as well.

Wishing you a safe and prosperous 2013.

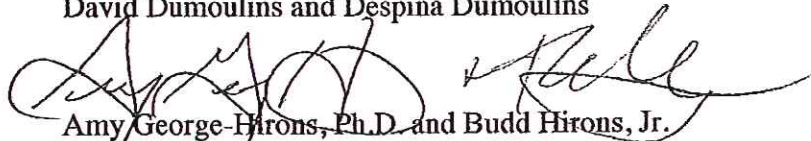
Sincerely yours,



Larisa Diephuis

*Andrea and Michael Dewenter **
Andrea Dewenter and Michael Dewenter

*David and Despina Dumoulino **
David Dumoulins and Despina Dumoulins



Amy George-Hirons, Ph.D. and Budd Hirons, Jr.

*Jackleen Leed **
Jackleen Leed

Scott McLetchie


Niki Rachal * *Niki Rachal **

Wendy Romero
Wendy Romero

Molly K. Vigour
Molly K. Vigour

PETE R ARGAO
PETE R ARGAO

Stewart Young
Stewart Young

CC:

Hon. Kira Orange-Jones, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education District 8

Hon. Jean Claude Brunet, Consul General of France in New Orleans

Mr. Joseph Dunn, Executive Director, CODOFIL

Ms. Caroline Roemer, Executive Director, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools

Mr. Jeremy Hunnewell, Elstrott, Mauer & Hunnewell, LLC

** Printed names signed by proxy as signees were traveling*