



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3000
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

Jeff Wulfson
Acting Commissioner

February 14, 2018

Kevin Dumpson, Chair, Board of Trustees
Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School
161 Lower Westfield Road
Holyoke, MA 01041

Dear Mr. Dumpson:

Based upon the evidence gathered over the past four years regarding the school's academic success, organizational viability, and faithfulness to the terms of its charter, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted at its January 23, 2018 meeting to renew the charter for Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School (PFSJCS) with probationary status and conditions under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00. The charter term is five years, beginning July 1, 2018 and expiring on June 30, 2023. The terms of the charter include the following:

Type of Charter	Commonwealth	Location	Holyoke
Regional/Non-Regional	Regional	Districts in Region	Chicopee, Holyoke, Northampton, South Hadley, West Springfield, and Westfield
Maximum Enrollment	500	Chartered Grade Span	9-12

This probationary status and charter renewal is explicitly conditioned as follows. Failure of PFSJCS to meet the conditions placed on renewal of its charter within the timelines specified may result in immediate suspension and revocation of the school's charter. The Commissioner shall review and report to the Board on the success or lack of success of PFSJCS in meeting the terms of probation and its charter and, based upon his review, shall recommend such further action as he deems appropriate.

1. Until further notice, PFSJCS must submit to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department), at charterschools@doe.mass.edu or 75 Pleasant St., Malden, MA, 02148, board and committee meeting agendas, materials, and minutes prior to each board meeting at the same time that these items are sent to the school's board members. Additionally, if board materials do not already include this information, the

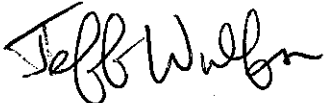
- school must also submit monthly financial statements. The documents must reflect adherence to the Open Meeting Law.
2. Until further notice, the school must submit weekly enrollment updates to the Department.
 3. By February 28, 2018, the school must establish an escrow account in an amount determined by the Department in consultation with the school to pay for any potential closing, legal, and audit expenses associated with closure, should that occur.
 4. By February 28, 2018, the school must submit financial planning documents for FY19 and FY20 using enrollment projections that take into account the school's historical enrollment trends.
 5. By April 1, 2018, the school must assess its enrollment trends over time and actual levels of demand and submit an amendment request to address, as appropriate, the school's maximum enrollment including enrollment by grade, a growth plan if needed, and any changes in the districts in the school's region.
 6. By April 18, 2018, all members of the board of trustees must participate in training on the Open Meeting Law offered by the Office of the Attorney General.
 7. By May 31, 2018, the board of trustees will work with the Department to obtain approval of its bylaws.
 8. By June 1, 2018, the school must submit to the Department a comprehensive evaluation of its mathematics, English language arts, and science programs. Such comprehensive evaluation must be conducted by an external consultant(s) acceptable to and approved in advance by the Department.
 9. By June 29, 2018, the school must submit to the Department for approval an action plan to improve academic performance. Such action plan must specify the strategies to improve mathematics, English language arts, and science performance for all student groups. The action plan must set clear and specific implementation benchmarks, with a clear timetable and deadlines for completion of key tasks sufficient to allow the school's board of trustees and the Department to monitor implementation.
 10. By November 1, 2018, the school must demonstrate actual enrollment sufficient to meet its budget, maximum enrollment, and any approved growth plan for enrollment. Should the school fail to do so, the Commissioner and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will consider revoking the school's charter during the 2018-2019 school year, with the revocation to take effect by the end of the 2018-2019 school year based on failure to meet this single condition alone.
 11. By December 31, 2019, the school must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science.

Please note, as part of completing this renewal process, your school's liaison will be in contact with you about possible additional amendments related to bylaws and/or enrollment policies due to changes in the regulations. In addition, you will need to update and amend your accountability plan for your new charter term.

Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School shall be operated in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 89, and 603 CMR 1.00 and all other applicable state and federal laws and regulations and such additional conditions as the Commissioner may from time to time establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charter.

In order to ensure transparency, the Commissioner requests that PFSJCS communicates the school's probationary status to families whose children attend the school. Please provide the Department's Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign with a copy of the letter that will be sent to families and provide confirmation once it has been sent.

Sincerely,



Jeff Wulfson
Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

C: Isabelina Rodriguez EdD, Executive Director

Enclosure: January 12, 2018 Memorandum