

Final Public Hearing



November 14, 2019

Locations
**106 West State
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**Bonny
Anderson,
MSS**
*Managing
Director*

**Deborah L.
Dart**
Financial

To whom it may concern:

In 2014 we received a call asking if we worked with clients on Board and leadership development. The call was from Gateway Lab School, at the time a group seeking a new approach to student learning within the charter school framework.

We met with school leadership and conducted board and staff leadership workshops and met with them over the next several months. We were impressed with several things:

- The student was the primary focus.
- Parents were involved
- The arts were a path to learning
- Everyone knew everyone
- The leadership was intentional about their responsibility
- The faculty had an amazing capacity for teaching in this special environment.

Over time leadership changed and while we were saddened to see the decline, we are gladdened to see the original intensity of leadership return as well as the focus on the school's mission and vision. We will be working again with Gateway Lab School on leadership and organizational development. After an overview session the first topic to be examined will be succession planning.

The school provides a special learning environment to a special child. We have every confidence in their current and future success.

Sincerely,

Bonny Anderson, MSS
Managing Director

Final Public Hearing :: Public Comment 12/3/19



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Sincerely,

Bonny Anderson, MSS
Managing Director

Final Public Hearing :: Public Comment 12/12/19

December 10, 2019

To the Charter School Accountability Committee:

I am writing to support the renewal of Gateway Lab School's charter and appreciate the Committee's and Secretary Bunting's consideration for approval. I have been on staff at Gateway since 2012, first as a teacher and currently as a Special Education Case Manager as well as a member of the Gateway Board of Directors. I was drawn to Gateway because of its mission and the staff dedication to serving students who struggled to succeed in a traditional school environment. The transformation that I have observed in so many of our students from when they entered our building to their graduation in 8th grade convinces me that Gateway Lab School has made a significant positive difference in their education.

I have worked with many students who came to us with learning challenges whose frustrations were often manifested in behavioral issues. With patience, building trusting relationships, and a passion to help students grow and succeed, our teachers and staff have helped our students become leaders, self-advocates, and develop a belief in themselves as learners. Every day, as students leave to go home, I see them give their teachers (both current and former) hugs, smiles, and high fives. When I speak to parents and guardians, I often hear them say that their child is once again excited to come to school, that they see their child's confidence and self-esteem growing, that their child finally has made friends. These social-emotional differences translate into academic growth, and Gateway Lab School values both of these as critical to our students' success.

Finally, as a relatively new member of our Board of Directors, I am excited to work with a focused, dedicated team whose desire and goal it is to hold true to our mission to maximize each student's academic ability and social growth through innovative arts-based learning in a safe and nurturing environment and to be an innovative school of excellence that prepares students for life.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Heidi Shanus
Special Education Case Manager
Gateway Lab School

Final Public Hearing :: Public Comment 12/13/19

December 2, 2019

Dear CSAC Committee,

My name is Kenyatta Austin, and I am writing to express my support for the charter renewal of Gateway Lab Charter School. Gateway Lab Charter school's mission is to help students identify their strengths and interest and provide them with an extraordinary educational experience. Gateway was founded with the intent to provide students who struggle academically within a traditional school environment, with the opportunity to have an arts-based learning experience. Within this experience, students are provided with tools to help them build self confidence, advocate for themselves, and simply try their best.

I have had the honor of being a witness to the wonderful things Gateway Lab school has done, and continues to do. Students, parents, and community members always speak so highly of the school and the impact Gateway has had on their students. I support the charter renewal because I have witnessed how students come back and share how wonderful their experiences were at Gateway, as well as how much they have grown. There are numerous students who came to Gateway and would have a hard time walking into the school because of past experiences at others school. By the end of the school year that same student is more confident, self advocating, and poised. Gateway Lab Charter School is not just a school, it is a community filled with wonderful educators, administrators, and most importantly ready to learn scholars.

Gateway Lab Charter School is an important piece of the Wilmington community, and deserves the opportunity to continue to build their legacy. I would love to know that we have your support to continue to make such an impact within the community. Thank you for your time, and consideration.

Best Regards,

Kenyatta Austin