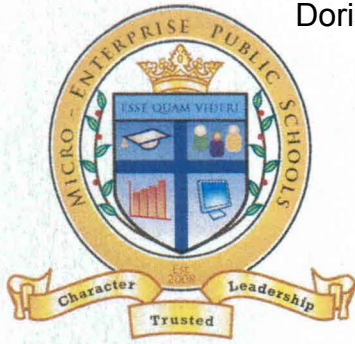


Doris Topsy-Elvord Academy Response to Notice of
Concern Dated November 3, 2011

Doris Topsy-Elvord Academy
a Micro-Enterprise Public School



Address:

DTEA
5951 Downey Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90805

Phone:

562-630-6096
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www.gomeca.org

November 3, 2011

Ms. Bonnie Galloway
Charter School Division
California Department of Education
1430 N. Street, Suite 5401
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Galloway:

This letter is in response to Stephen Work, California Department of Education's correspondence dated October 19, 2011 (attached) and is intended to specifically address concerns expressed in that communication. As you will see, our board has taken immediate action directing and authorizing measures to address all of the expressed concerns.

The following were steps taken to remedy the California Department of Education's (CDE) concern:

Adjustment and Balance of the Budget

- Problem
 - Budget did not adequately address average daily attendance (ADA) requirements
- Background
 - ADA was misaligned due to reduction in students and ADA prior year trend of 91%
 - Student/Teacher Ratio out of proportion
- Corrective Action
 - Eliminated two teacher positions
 - Reduction of executive director's salary
 - Reduction in all staff salaries by 7%
- Results Achieved
 - Balanced Budget
 - Small Cash Reserve

Board Minutes

Our board takes seriously the concerns and direction expressed in the letter, and has had two official meetings, with the full board present to address this situation. The board, in separate meetings, voted to... a) direct and authorize me to do what was necessary to eliminate our budget deficit while maintaining an alignment with our petition, and b) approve an amended budget that reflected that order.

Detailed List of Staff

Attached you will find a list of our entire staff as it pertains to our charter. Their educational background, unique qualifications are key elements in support of our petition. Their credentials speak for themselves, what cannot be reflected in their credentials is the care and concern they give to our students and parents each and every day, above and beyond the normal call of duty.

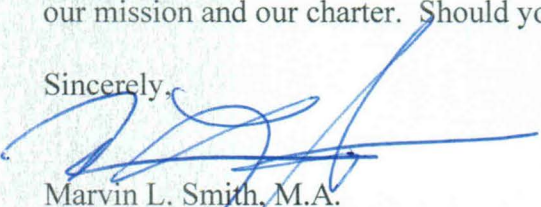
Additionally, our board and staff is currently engaged in a program to augment our budget with an aggressive plan of action to close any budget gaps. We have three-year projection of funding from major donors including the National Football League Players Association, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, and Southern California Edison.

Background

Doris Topsy-Elvord Academy (DTEA) petition under Element 1 - Statement of Need, communicates purpose of location and target market. After three years of having the opportunity to analyze our data, we have discovered, and have a clear understanding, of the area we serve. With a drop in ADA, it must be noted and recognized, according to DTEA's petition, major emphasis to strategically recruit students from the local subsidized housing complexes was at the forefront of recruitment. We discovered nuances that affected DTEA's grass-root recruitment outreach... high turnover in management and occupancy within these complexes. We have been marketing to a sub-culture within a culture, whereby requires a different type of outreach and resources. Additionally, with DTEA not having a high school, parents are reluctant to enroll their child, and not having a designated pipeline of elementary school students has affected ADA at the core. Moving forward, DTEA's student recruitment strategy is inclusive broadening its efforts to fully outreach the surrounding communities.

We thank you for taking the time to review the needs of our school and the students that we are mutually concerned for. After a review of our remedies, we hope that you will agree that our plan sufficiently addresses your specific areas of interest, while allowing us to maintain the integrity of our mission and our charter. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Marvin L. Smith, M.A.
Founder and Executive Director
Doris Topsy-Elvord Academy
A Micro Enterprise School

Attachments: Amended budget, board agendas, board minutes, staff list