

May 20, 2022

Katy Anthes, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education
Colorado Department of Education
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Terry Croy Lewis, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Charter School Institute
terrycroylewis@csi.state.co.us

Re: Colorado Springs Charter Academy

Dear Dr. Lewis and Dr. Anthes:

I am writing you as the Board President of Colorado Springs Charter Academy. I do not speak on behalf of the CSCA Board but as a single Board member and President. I believe that CSCA has been severely mismanaged due to divisions and dysfunction within the Board. I am concerned that the extreme mismanagement at the Board level will result in a mass exodus of both employees and students.

The CSCA Board met last night, and we had it on the agenda to approve the budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year and approve the employment agreements for the same period. The Board disagrees on where the current year's income and expenses are or how many students should be included in the budget for next year. Thus, we have still not adopted a budget for next year, we don't know if we need to adopt an amended budget for the current year, and we have not approved the hiring of any staff for next year. Additionally, we had staff members attend our meeting asking whether they would be receiving the merit pay historically provided at this time of year. School is out in one week, and the Board was unable to give an answer about merit pay or employment agreements for next year because we do not know where our finances are currently. In my opinion, we do not have answers to these critical budget questions because of the extreme disfunction being created by the Board.

With my knowledge of the inner workings of CSCA, it is my opinion that an emergency exists at CSCA that necessitates either the Charter School Institute or the Colorado Department of Education to take over the operations of the school to stop the damage being done. Without this intervention, I believe that CSCA will not be able to recover.

I also want to clarify that I am unaware of any financial wrongdoing or intentional mismanagement of CSCA's resources. Nonetheless, if the school's operations are not taken over by either CSI or CDE, I do not think the school will have the staff, students, or finances to operate next year.

Sincerely,

Breckenridge Merkle, Ph.D.
Board President
Colorado Springs Charter Academy

cc: CSCA Board
 Zoe Ann Holmes, CSCA Head of School
 Dustin Sparks, CSCA Legal Counsel