

**From:** [George King](#)  
**To:** [Kathleen O'Toole](#); [Mike Harner](#); [Eric Coykendall](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Notes from conversation with Erica Donalds - George and Eric, to do items for you at the end  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 12:15:15 PM

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Katy,

If mediation does not fail, our path is clear.

If it does fail, as we discussed, the tone we need to take with Erica (which I will discuss with Eric) is to treat her group as one solution of potentially others out there. We will need to be careful and deliberate with her. We will want to have a posture that at an arm's length and go through the steps of getting the background on her prospective board, interviewing them, vetting them and keeping a posture of treating them as we would other candidate groups. Being too close to them, especially in this litigious-rich circumstance, could be highly problematic. I think we keep our poise, talk to Erica in a tone of interest, but not with an insider's familiarity, and stick to our guns on running our traps. Expectations need to be clear and we will likely appear more rigorous than she's experienced to date with her group in Jacksonville.

That's not say that if, with the right prowess in the group, what we know to be a typical timeframe for new schools can be expedited locally and we can effectively vet the group with an eye on our pillars of sound and stable organization, who can also attract a very strong head of school in the next few months, we can't put them in the chamber for an effective relaunch in this market next school year – maybe replacing an expected opening that may be a candidate to push to another year.

If we wake up the day after mediation and creating a safety net for this school is suddenly a priority for THIS year and their timeline is a possible match – we have a lot of heavy lifting to do with them and I'd recommend two or three emissaries get on the ground soon after for an extended involvement in the process.

George

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**From:** Kathleen O'Toole  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2019 10:56:43 AM  
**To:** Mike Harner; George King; Eric Coykendall  
**Subject:** Notes from conversation with Erica Donalds - George and Eric, to do items for you at the end

### **Erica Donalds**

Mike Harner, Katy O'Toole

Thinks that mediation is going to fail

Met in person with a group of parents and community members who would be willing to serve as the board  
Matt Matthias willing to be the chair  
Tim hall

Bill truog is a Hillsdale grad

There are also 5 parents of MCA students willing to serve on the board

Matt wants to have a 9 person board

Because important to show a strong support base

One is a CPA

One owns a construction company

One is an OBGYN and was on the board of the private school that preceded MCA

One works as an accountant for the city of Naples

Did the name nick reid come up?

No she says

She doesn't know who he was

These people had an initial meeting last night

They are going to file to be a corporation with the state

Erica is going to assist them in filing for nonprofit status

Their intention is to submit the application as soon as termination is pursued by the district

Erica says if mediation fails she has no doubt that the school will be closed

Then she backs up a bit

The district is begging Erica to have an application ready if mediation fails

Three CCPS board members and the superintendent have come to her asking her to submit an application

The district doesn't have much choice, doesn't want to run a classical charter school.

Their best option is to hand over the assets of MCA to this new group

Mike: we are not going to work exclusively with Erica

If someone else comes forward we are willing to consider supporting them

Out goal is to keep the school open

This is not Hillsdale College and the optima foundation getting together and conspiring to take over the school

Erica says she is willing to help but is not actively pursuing anything

GEORGE and ERIC : We need to review the profiles of these board members very carefully

What kind of application process do we make them go through

This is a chance to have more oversight than we had before

The conversation will start happening next week when Eric is in Florida meeting with Erica re: Jacksonville