

From: Charter Schools <CharterSchools@fldoe.org>
Subject: RE: conflict between the CCSB and MCA
Date: December 18, 2019 at 3:44:16 PM EST
To: Mirosław Białkowski <mmbialk09@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Białkowski,

Thank you for contacting the Florida Department of Education. Commissioner Richard Corcoran has asked our office to respond to your correspondence regarding the conflict between the Collier County School Board and Mason Classical Academy.

As you know, charter schools are public schools that operate under a performance contract between the charter school's governing board and the sponsor (local school district). The charter school's governing board has oversight of its charter school policy and the local school district monitors the governing board's performance. Any concerns regarding the district's actions with the school's governing board should be directed to the district. The Collier County district charter liaison is Ms. Judith Delgado. She can be reached at 239-377-0088 or delgaj5@collierschools.com for assistance.

We hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Adam Emerson
Charter Schools Director
Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
850-245-0502



From: Miroslaw Bialkowski [<mailto:mmbialk09@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, December 08, 2019 10:20 AM
To: Commissioner <commissioner@fldoe.org>
Cc: David Bolduc <dbolduc@masonacademy.com>; Kelly Lichter <klichter@masonacademy.com>; patton@collierschools.com
Subject: conflict between the CCSB and MCA

Dear Commissioner:

Yesterday, I sent the letter to the Collier County School Board (please, see it below).

Today, I am copying it to you and to the Governor De Santis, since it looks to me the problem will not be solved easily. There is so much politics going on (this may be only a tip of the iceberg) and the children are the victims.

Sincerely

Miroslaw Bialkowski
(a very concerned father)

Ladies and Gentlemen, Naples, FL, Dec.7, 2019

I am a very proud parent of one of the students at the Mason Classical Academy. I would like to attend the Board Meeting on Monday but I have a busy day at work. Nevertheless, I would like to share some of my thoughts:

You are the elected officials overlooking the education process in the county. Anyone responsible in your position would say: the buck stops here. Regretfully, with deep sorrow I have to say: you have failed! You have failed really badly!

Mason Classical Academy (MCA) is one of your schools. It is a real gem that anyone associated with it should be proud of. Is it perfect? Close, but maybe not exactly. Look at other schools in the district (we had children in two of them). None of them comes even close to MCA. Look at your own friends and families. Do you always agree with each one of them? Be honest with yourself. So, there were a few Mason families that had disagreement with the school. But there are procedures and laws (we live in a bureaucratic paradise!) for everything. These cases should have been handled quickly and quietly without too much unhealthy publicity. I would support any process/procedure leading to the just resolutions. Unfortunately, you have taken sides! That has unleashed the enemies of the school. I have heard the terms criminal, demented, illegal, lying, etc. while people (I can point specific names) were talking about the Board of Directors of the MCA. I hope the School's legal counsels take care of these individuals. Unfortunately, your so called counsel failed as well. He conducted a kind of kangaroo investigation without any regard to the allegedly accused side. Looks like the verdict and the "sentence" were decided at the very beginning. I have a strong impression that it is more complicated political situation and I do not want to get there (yet). Definitely, Joseph Stalin would be proud to have him as a staff member.

That whole process, literally witch-hunt has done a lot of damage to the Mason Classical Academy. Mr. Hull's career has been destroyed (although he was an outstanding Administrator) and before the new Principal was even hired, she was viciously attacked as well. But, the most harmed are the students of MCA. On the first day of school after the summer my daughter told me: "Dad, my all friends feel like we did not have the summer. We feel like last semester ended yesterday and we are back to school".

This summer, summer of fear that the school may close any time, is your legacy. It is criminal. And that is not all. Many students panicked and left the school, quickly realizing that the best public schools they moved to were not anything like MCA. Some of them have already returned. I do not want to hear from any of you that all you do is for the children. It is a lie. The kids are pawns in your political games.

The school is taking legal steps to defend itself and rightly so. But, you also should reevaluate the situation. First, fire Mr. Fishbane because he is not representing the interest of the Collier County children (neither yours, unless you ordered him to conduct that shameful “investigation” in such an unethical, borderline illegal way). Please, read the so called Coleman Report and take it seriously before the conflict escalates.

And let me remind you, there are about 3300 schools in Florida, MCA was classified by the State in the 40ies (barely missing to be within the best 1%). This kind of success does not come from the thin air, it is not created by people with sick egos or small minded manipulators. It requires vision, dedication, hard work and great leadership (Kelly Lichter and David Hull both showed these qualities over the last few years). Lets support the school, teachers and the school administration so this year they are within the best 1% or better. I believe they can do it - just let them do their job.

Thank you.

PS: I am sending it to the Collier County Board Members hoping to open their minds, eyes and hearts. Forgive me using strong words, but the situation is serious and you are responsible for all of that.

I would like to get attention of the members of FLDOE to let them know what is going on in Collier County.

Also, I am sending it to the Board of Directors of the MCA (I do not have all of their emails, please share) to show them my support.

Sincerely

Mirosław Białkowski