

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Marshall Orson

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 02, 2015 10:25 AM

**To:** Melvin Johnson ; James McMahan ; Michael Erwin ; Vickie Turner ; Stan Jester ; Joyce Morley ; R. Stephen Green (Superintendent's Office)

**Subject:** Proposed DeKalb Charter policy and regulation

As I look more closely at the proposed policy, I have additional concerns about the policy and accompanying regulation. In fact, I believe that parts are in direct conflict with state law. To get clarity on these issues, it might be prudent to ask the State DOE for guidance by requesting they review these proposed changes in advance of any action on our part.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Stan Jester

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 02, 2015 9:12 PM

**To:** Stephen Green

**Cc:** Melvin Johnson (melvin\_johnson@dekalbschoolsga.org); James McMahan (jim\_mcmahan@dekalbschoolsga.org)

**Subject:** Clarifying Questions

CHARTER POLICY

I would like to be a good partner with the state and request they review the proposed charter policy and provide guidance. After seeking my own counsel, I'm concerned about a couple parts of this policy.

----- Original Message -----

**On Sep 9, 2015, at 8:42 PM, Jose Boza (Leadership Development) <Jose\_Boza@dekalbschoolsga.org> wrote:**

**To:** Mr. Lou Erste, State Charter Office

**Through:** Dr. R. Stephen Green, Superintendent

On behalf of Dr. Green, the proposed IBB policy and regulation is attached for your review in commitment to work collaboratively in a renewed partnership. It is Dr. Green's expectation to seek Board approval on Monday, September 14, 2015. We look forward to receiving your feedback.

Regards, José

Dr. José G. Boza, Jr.

Director, Leadership Development & Charter Schools

DeKalb County School District

----- Original Message -----

**On Sep 9, 2015, at 9:01 PM, Louis Erste <LErste@doe.k12.ga.us> wrote:**

Thanks Jose.

Are these documents identical to those shared with us by Laura Lashley on Thursday afternoon, September 3, 2015?

Lou

Louis J. Erste  
Associate Superintendent for Policy, Charter Schools,  
District Flexibility, and Governmental Affairs  
Georgia Department of Education

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Laura Lashley [mailto:laura.lashley@nelsonmullins.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 09, 2015 10:15 PM  
**To:** Louis Erste <LErste@doe.k12.ga.us>  
**Cc:** Jose Boza (Leadership Development) <Jose\_Boza@dekalbschoolsga.org>; Richard Woods <rwoods@doe.k12.ga.us>; Ramona Tyson (Superintendent's Office) <ramona\_tyson@dekalbschoolsga.org>; Alice Thompson (Sch Leader/Op Support) <alice\_a\_thompson@dekalbschoolsga.org>; R. Stephen Green (Superintendent's Office) <RSGreen@dekalbschoolsga.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Policy IBB and Regulation

Hi Lou,  
Yes, they are.

Thank you,  
Laura Lashley

----- Original Message -----

**On Sep 11, 2015, at 4:03 PM, Louis Erste** <[LErste@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:LErste@doe.k12.ga.us)> wrote:

September 11, 2015

R. Stephen Green, Ed.D.  
CEO and Superintendent  
DeKalb County School District

Robert R. Freeman Administrative and Instructional Complex  
1701 Mountain Industrial Blvd.  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Dear Dr. Green:

Thank you for submitting the DeKalb County School System (DCSS) proposed charter school policy and regulation for our review. We sincerely appreciate the spirit of partnership you have demonstrated as we move forward together in ensuring that only high quality charter schools with strong academic results and well-trained and high-functioning

governing boards that can and do ensure financial sustainability and legal and regulatory compliance are created and renewed in DeKalb County.

We have reviewed these documents for compliance with Georgia's charter school laws, State Board of Education (SBOE) rules, and Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) guidance. The guidance for each rule has recently been combined into each rule, and references to rules in this letter are to the combined rule/guidance versions (see attached). We have identified several things in DCSS's proposed policy and regulation that require revision.

One of the major changes needed is to clearly state what DCSS charter schools are authorized to do, specifically as it relates to charter school governing boards making decisions related to personnel, finance, curriculum and instruction, resource allocation, and school operations. Charter schools cannot be truly held accountable by a local board of education unless the local board is, in fact, providing the flexibility, autonomy, and support outlined in Georgia law and SBOE rules/guidelines.

The list below includes 36 revisions to the proposed DCSS charter school policy and regulation. These changes are designed to provide charter schools with the maximum flexibility to which they are entitled by law.

[Revisions to Proposed DCSS Charter Schools Policy](#)

Thank you again, Dr. Green. We look forward to assisting your team as it incorporates the revisions included in this letter. These changes are essential to the very nature of chartering – providing increased autonomy in exchange for increased results and accountability. Additionally, these revisions are necessary for DCSS to have charter school Policy and Regulation that is legally congruent to the SBOE Rules as well as state and federal law. We are committed to DCSS's success as a strong charter school authorizer. Please let me know if you or your team have any questions or needs any clarification about the contents of this letter.

Lou

Louis J. Erste  
Associate State Superintendent for Policy, Charter Schools,  
District Flexibility, and Governmental Affairs  
Georgia Department of Education