

September 16, 2014

Fellow Board Members

After receiving an alarming e-mail from Gregory James Blount on Friday and numerous calls and e-mails over the last 24 hours from parents and staff complaining of poor leadership and snap decisions affecting the school population, I can honestly say I am concerned about the future of Eagle Arts Academy and whether it will survive over the next 30 days. The most recent e-mails and calls involve the sudden cancellation of the before care program; overcrowded classrooms; poor communication from the school's leadership; sudden staff firings; and a lack of technological equipment promised as part of recruitment. I understand that a school may struggle in its infancy, but the complaints have become so burdensome that they are now being funneled beyond our school community.

As you may or may not know, I have spoken to Principal Sloan on numerous occasions about developing an effective plan to address some of the issues above and also these specifics: communicating with parents and staff in a timely and professional manner; becoming more approachable and accessible to staff; alerting the Board about emergencies and potential public relations disasters; addressing low morale and correcting the lack of instructional materials as well as class sizes. I also addressed the tasks Principal Sloan has given to staff without the appropriate appointment of personnel.

I hoped these issues would be resolved. Unfortunately, five weeks into our nine-week semester, I continue to receive e-mails and calls from parents and staff that are just as or even more concerning than events prior to my last meeting with Principal Sloan on September 4.

I am deeply angered at how the principal and the management company appear to thwart the mission of Eagle Arts Academy by delaying the instructional curriculum promised to students as defined in the charter and promoting an uncomfortable teaching and learning environment by deviating from many of our basic tenets. I'm also confused by the true objective of both

the principal and the management company as it appears that they lack the skills to manage a school at which parents, faculty, the founder and the board have a 100 percent stake in promoting an educational and arts powerhouse. As one parent put in her email, "This is not what we signed up for." This also is not what founder Gregory James Blount and I envisioned when we negotiated the contract with iSchools, the management company.

With so much dissent among parents and also staff, I think it is apparent there is a problem with leadership. I feel that Principal Sloan lacks the finesse and knowledge to promote the type of nurturing educational environment required to handle this student and parent population. I fear that iSchools did not do due diligence when matching the principal with the school nor do they iSchools understand the dynamics of this particular educational environment.

I also question the financial solvency of our institution as we have not received a budget as dictated by law and seek full transparency via balance sheets and bank accounts immediately.

I implore the Board to consider these failings as a vote of no confidence in leadership and seek a swift remedy.

C. Ron Allen
Vice Chair