

November 9, 2009

Michael T. Duffy
Executive Director
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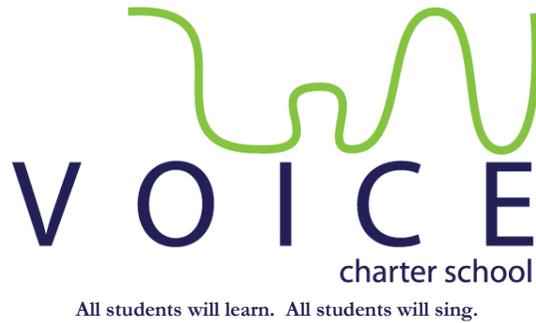
Dear Mr. Duffy:

We want to thank the NYC DOE Charter School Office (CSO) for their time and efforts in conducting the school quality review for the school year of 2009-2010. We appreciate how thinly staff the CSO is at this time. The presence of members of the CSO staff at the school demonstrates their commitment to quality education for all students in NYC Charter Schools.

It is the conclusion of the management of VOICE that we concur with the findings of the CSO, as described in their draft report. Further, we have outlined our understandings of key ideas of this feedback and our plan for next steps.

We developed from these findings six areas for VOICE to address:

- 1) VOICE should develop agreed-upon strategies for carrying out the three core values of the school (efficacy, professional learning community, and arts-infused education). Staff should set priorities for the whole school development for the year and agreed-upon success criteria as part of a strategic plan. Staff should develop 3 to 5 goals with interim check points. [This addresses Bullets 1 and 2 on page 3 of the areas of concern.]
- 2) VOICE should further develop student goals. Staff will set measurable interim goals for subgroups and individuals students based on performance data analysis and inquiry. Students should have a simple goal that they can express. [This addresses bullets 3 and 4 on page 3 of the areas of concern.]



3) Staff should establish more differentiation in the teaching of music. [This addresses second paragraph of QR Statement 3 feedback, p 5]

4) The Board will take under consideration have some meetings at the school. [This addresses bullet 5 on page 3 of the areas of concern.]

Beyond SQR Areas of Concern

5) Planning of curriculum should include more differentiation for higher achieving students. [This addresses QR Statement 3, bottom of page 5]

6) Staff should continue to work on building curriculum in alignment of standards rather than rely on the sequence of published curricula. [This is an extension of first paragraph of QR Statement 3 feedback, p 5]

Thank you allowing us to respond. We look forward to developing our strategic plan and the school quality review process this year.

Sincerely,

Franklin Headley

Principal