

## ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

3520 General DeGaulle Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana 70114



Thursday, July 07, 2016

Ms. Leslie Bouie, Chair  
New Beginnings School Foundation  
2045 Lakeshore Drive, #415  
New Orleans, LA 70122

Ms. Bouie,

The purpose of this letter is to memorialize our conversation on July 1<sup>st</sup> regarding the current status of organizational leadership at New Beginnings School Foundation, as well as specifically address concerns regarding the stagnant academic performance at the organization's schools, including Pierre A. Capdau ES.

I continue to maintain significant concerns regarding NBSF's governance, its lack of stable and permanent leadership, and especially the declining performance of the organization's elementary schools. As you are aware, several of your schools are subject to high-stakes renewal evaluations by both OPSB and RSD in the next few years, and based on the school's current performance and trajectory, there exists uncertainty regarding the outcomes of those reviews. Further, Capdau is currently slated to be assigned to the Avery Alexander ES building upon that facility's completion – given our district's need to ensure the appropriate and full utilization of public assets, including our school facilities, I am obligated to review this assignment to ensure that the appropriate actions are taken to address the school's persistent low enrollment and declining levels of academic performance.

Key organizational decisions regarding the continued operations of NBSF's current network of schools need to be made in short order, to provide sufficient time to successfully implement operational changes, to provide adequate notice to families, and to reflect any potential modifications in the EnrollNOLA process for the 2017-18 school year, which will open in early fall. It is imperative on the board of NBSF to take immediate and significant steps to address these concerns, and place the schools it operates and the students they serve on a viable pathway to success.

Pursuant to our conversation, by this communication I am formally requesting that New Beginnings School Foundation submit to me by no later than Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

1. A plan and timeline for addressing the organization's interim leadership, including the appointment of a permanent CEO and any other structural or organizational changes, and
2. A plan and timeline for addressing and reversing the academic decline at Capdau, and for ensuring the full utilization of the Avery Alexander building upon its completion.

As always, please feel free to contact me or my team directly should you have any questions or concerns, or if we can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

Henderson Lewis, Jr., Ph. D.

Superintendent of Schools, Orleans Parish School Board

CC: Mr. Patrick Dobard, Superintendent, Louisiana Recovery School District  
Ms. Mary Garton, Chief Portfolio Officer, Orleans Parish School Board