



Red Bank Borough Public Schools

Dream BIG... We'll help you get there!

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Jared J. Ramage, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

October 13, 2016

Ms. Kimberley Harrington
Acting Commissioner of Education
New Jersey Department of Education
100 River View Plaza
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

Dear Commissioner Harrington:

On behalf of the Red Bank Borough Public Schools and our Board of Education, I am writing this communication to express our continued opposition to any forthcoming proposed expansion requests by the Red Bank Charter School. In addition, at this time we are also in opposition to the Red Bank Charter's School charter renewal for the 2017-18 through 2021-22 academic years.

As part of this correspondence, I have included a link to the Formal Presentation and Supporting Documentation submitted as part of our rebuttal to last winter's expansion request. I have also included a brochure which provides a glimpse into the great things happening in the Red Bank Borough Public Schools, as well as some information from recent School Performance Reports and our 2015-16 PARCC student achievement results.

Last year's expansion request was based upon an outdated narrative. The request inaccurately characterized our community engagement, provided only specifically selected student achievement data, and failed to recognize the Charter School's impact on diversity within the Red Bank Borough Public Schools. Most importantly, the Charter School's previous expansion request and current renewal application both fail to acknowledge the unfair financial burden the Charter School imposes on the taxpayers of Red Bank and those throughout the State of New Jersey.

The existence of the Red Bank Charter School greatly inhibits the ability of our schools to meet our goals, yet in spite of this challenge, we do so successfully making our achievements more noteworthy. Moreover, the Red Bank Charter School does not offer any unique opportunity or instructional programming beyond what our Borough schools offer. For years, the Red Bank Charter School has tied their identity and justified their existence by spreading a false narrative – that the Red Bank Borough Public Schools are disengaged and failing. Now that the true story

has been revealed, it is time to re-evaluate the need for the Red Bank Charter School. The small community of Red Bank Borough can no longer support two separate school districts, and based on any objective comparison, we no longer have the need to do so.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need any specific information. Also, we would love the opportunity to host you for a site visit and show you why #RBBisBIA!

Thank you for your consideration and your attention to our concerns.

Link to Formal Presentation and Supporting Documentation in Response to 2015 Expansion Request: <http://rbb.k12.nj.us/Page/893>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Ramage', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jared J. Ramage, Ed. D.

cc: Mr. Peter Schulman, NJDOE Deputy Commissioner
Mr. Robert Bumpus, NJDOE Assistant Commissioner of Field Services
Mr. Joshua Koen, NJDOE Chief Innovation Officer
Ms. Katherine Czehut, NJDOE Acting Director of Charter Schools
Dr. Lester Richens, Interim Monmouth County Executive Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Frederick Stone, President, Red Bank Board of Education
Mr. Armen McOmber, Esquire