



July 16, 2023

Board of Directors
Academia Cesar Chavez
1800 Ames Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119

Dear Board of Directors and Executive Director Garces,

In April 2022, the University of St. Thomas issued a Notice of Extended Review (Intervention Level 4) to Academia Cesar Chavez. This notice was issued due to concerns in the following areas:

- Academic performance with highlighted concerns of academic programming and school-wide assessments
- Board training compliance
- Financial Oversight
- Student safety

Due to the progress noted in all areas cited above as well as observations by the renewal team and in site visits, we are pleased to report that the Charter Authorizing Board has voted to decrease the level of intervention to Notice of Probationary Status (Intervention Level 3).

Through the contract renewal process during the 2022-23 school year, it was clear that ACC was taking concerns seriously and many strategies were being put into place to improve academic performance as well as financial oversight and organizational compliance.

In the area of academic performance, ACC moved to full implementation of the NWEA in both English and Spanish. A Data Assessment Coordinator was put into place to help teachers make sense of the data and use it to drive their instruction. A board-approved dual-language program focused on biliteracy has been put into place and good progress was made on implementation during SY22-23. Professional development increased, especially in the area of dual-language programming.

Another integral position added in SY22-23 was that of Head of Middle School. This position has helped with disciplinary issues and has improved the overall cohesiveness of the middle school, which had been an issue previously.

The board has been involved in strategic planning in partnership with Education Evolving throughout the SY22-23. New members with strong experience have been added to the board. Education Evolving also provided professional development for the

administrative team. A Director of Operations has been added to assist with the creation and implementation of internal operational systems. Various School Safety partnerships have been created which has helped to improve the overall safety and security of the school.

The FY21 compensatory revenue data was appealed successfully which has helped to contribute to a substantial fund balance. David Greenberg has been retained as a consultant to support the review of the school's finances.

Both the board and school leadership team were highly involved in creating student-centered progressive metrics for the performance rubric in the new contract. This insightful collaboration was appreciated by the St. Thomas renewal team and further supports the dedication of all stakeholders to the success of Academia Cesar Chavez.

While the University of St. Thomas is impressed by and appreciates all of the time and effort involved in the progress thus far, it will be imperative to continue moving forward in all areas to return to good standing. The St. Thomas authorizing team is excited to continue this partnership and we look forward to watching the continued success of Academia Cesar Chavez.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns regarding this communication. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Moffatt", written in a cursive style.

Terry Moffatt
University of St. Thomas
Program Manager, Charter School Authorizing Program