

North Point Lighthouse Charter School

January 15, 2016
City of Milwaukee
Charter School Review Committee

Dear Mr. Ingram,

It is with regret that the Board of Trustees of North Point Lighthouse Charter School informs the Charter School Review Committee (CSRC) that by unanimous consent of the board and joint agreement with Lighthouse Academies, that on June 30, 2016 we will relinquish the charter to operate a public charter school in Milwaukee.

The climate and culture of the school has stabilized and great progress has been made. The hiring of a skilled and highly effective turnaround leader allowed students and staff to focus on academic growth and increased student achievement. We are very pleased with the progress that the school has made in a very short time.

However, North Point is scheduled to appear before the Steering and Rules Committee on February 18, 2016 to present progress since the school's last appearance in October to the CSRC, when the school was placed on probation. The board has considered the very strong possibility that the CSRC will vote to close the school at the end of the school year. Given that strong possibility of the authorizer closing and the timing of the next official review of the school's progress, the board has concluded it is in the best interests of the students and their families to move towards a closure decision and announcement at this time. Please see below some of the considerations that have led to these conclusions.

- Enrollment has declined.
- Staffing has been very, very difficult. As expected, some staff was replaced during the initial fall restart of the school and other teachers left in search of more certain employment opportunities. It has been nearly impossible to find certified replacement teachers to fill the vacancies that occur every week because of the uncertainty.
- Average daily attendance is below targets.
- The school's financial position is in jeopardy due to lease agreements that require the dedication of financial resources that ideally are needed to hire and retain highly effective urban educators.
- A possible closure decision made after February 18, 2016 does not allow our families the opportunity to participate in important upcoming enrollment fairs. Should closure announcements be made in mid to late February, our students and their families will have missed two key choice enrollment initiatives:
 - All-School Enrollment Fair, January 30, 2016
 - Three-Choice Enrollment February 1-19, 2016

The board, staff and Lighthouse Academies will continue to cooperate with the CSRC and will comply with all directives and requirements put forth as we wind down the school year. We await instructions for submission of the formal wind down plan and will make every effort to meet the needs of our students, families and staff up until the very last day.

Sincerely,


Adam Peck
Chair, North Point Lighthouse Charter School Board

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