



Martin Matson
City Comptroller, *Ex Officio*

Kevin Ingram
Chair

Desiree Pointer-Mace

Glenn Steinbrecher

Melinda Scott Krei

Gayle Peay
Committee Members

Charter School Review Committee
DRAFT

October 28, 2015
Mr. Adam Peck, President of the Board of Directors
North Point Lighthouse Charter School
789 N. Water Street, Suite 500
Milwaukee, WI

Ms. Beverly Echols, Principal
North Point Lighthouse Charter School
4200 W. Douglas Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53209

Dear Mr. Peck and Ms. Echols,

On October 14, 2015, the Charter School Review Committee (CSRC) received and accepted the North Point Lighthouse Charter School (NPLCS) 2014–15 *Programmatic Profile and Educational Performance* report from the NCCD Children’s Research Center (CRC). That report included the following CRC recommendation for ongoing monitoring and charter renewal.

The school has had four leaders over the past three years and just this past June brought on a fifth. In addition, NPLCS did not meet all of its contract requirements and demonstrated problems meeting all of its recommendations for school improvement. While showing actual numerical score improvement, NPLCS has scored in the problematic/struggling category on the CSRC scorecard for three consecutive years.¹

For all of these reasons, CRC recommended that CSRC place NPLCS on probation for the 2015–16 academic year. CRC further recommended that CSRC develop specific measurable outcomes for the school during the 2015–16 academic year along with a plan to address the unmet contract provision related to teacher licensure.²

At the meeting on October 14, 2015, the CSRC members expressed grave concern about the ability of the school to accomplish significant turnaround and considered the possibility of closing the school at the end

¹ Gramling, S., Ereth, J., & Covington, S. (2015). *North Point Lighthouse programmatic profile and educational performance, 2014–15 school year*. Madison, WI: NCCD Children’s Research Center.

² Since the 2014–15 report was released, the school has again replaced its principal for a total of six principals in three years.

of the 2015–16 school year. Rather than taking that step at this time, CSRC made a decision to place NPLCS on probation for the 2015–16 academic year with an additional requirement to provide CSRC with specific information about the school’s mid-year progress. Specific deadlines are described below.

In order to meet this requirement, please submit a report to CRC and CSRC within five days after the end of the second quarter, or January 15, 2016, addressing the progress that the school has made during the first half of the school year to respond to the recommendations for school improvement in the 2014–15 annual report.³ Those recommendations are:

- Develop and implement a full Response to Intervention (RtI) plan;
- Continue to provide training and appropriate use of data for classroom instruction in reading, math, and writing;
- Continue the focus on family engagement; and
- Develop and implement strategies focused on the retention of teachers throughout the school year.

The expectation for the sufficiency of the above information is that it be factual and include specific data that demonstrate progress toward implementing the recommendations.

In addition, to further inform CSRC of the mid-year status of the scorecard engagement indicators, the following information must also be submitted to CRC for analysis no later than January 15, 2016.

- An instructional staff roster reflecting all staff hired by the school from the first day of school through the last day of the second quarter, or January 8, 2016.
- A spreadsheet including all of the student data indicated on the school’s learning memo related to student enrollment/termination and attendance (including in-school and out-of-school suspensions) through the end of the second quarter, or January 8, 2016.

Please provide a list of the school’s administrative leadership and a list of the board of directors (including the date appointed to the board) as of the end of the second quarter.

At this time, all parents need to be notified in writing that a decision about the school’s future with regard to closure will be made in January. In addition the mid-year report must include a detailed school closure plan.

As soon as possible after the receipt of the above information and CRC’s analysis, CSRC will meet to determine whether to revoke the city’s charter and terminate the city’s contract with NPLCS at the end of the 2015–16 academic year.

Regarding NPLCS’s probationary status for 2015–16, the following conditions must to be met in order for the NPLCS probation to be lifted.

³ The school’s calendar indicates the last day of the second quarter is January 8, 2016. The first day of the third quarter is the following Monday, January 11, 2016,

DRAFT

- The scorecard results for 2015–16 and all subsequent years must be 70% or better and improve from year to year.
- Improve the stability of the school's leadership by maintaining at least 80% of the current administrative and board leadership through the 2015–16 academic year. NPLCS's current administrative leadership consists of a principal, director of school culture, director of teacher leadership, and school operations manager. The board of directors currently consists of six members, including a president; treasurer, Lighthouse Academy Board Representative; and three other board members, two of whom are parent representatives.
- Meet the CSRC expectation that at least 75% of the first graders who met the summed score benchmark on the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening in the spring will remain at or above the second-grade summed score benchmark in the spring of the subsequent year (i.e., spring 2015 to spring 2016).
- Ensure that all instructional staff hold a Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction license or permit for each year of operation.
- Fully address the school improvement activities recommended in the 2014–15 report. Specifically:
 - » Develop and implement a full RtI plan to provide training and appropriate use of data for classroom instruction in reading, math, and writing;
 - » Continue the focus on family engagement; and
 - » Develop and implement strategies focused on the retention of teachers throughout the school year.

If CSRC determines not to revoke the NPLCS charter, CSRC will review the school's 2015–16 Programmatic Profile and Educational Performance report from CRC and assess the extent to which NPLCS has addressed the probationary conditions.

Sincerely,

Kevin Ingram
Chair, Charter School Review Committee