



Schools and Communities United

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January 15, 2015

Alderman Michael Murphy
President, City of Milwaukee Common Council
Chairman, Steering and Rules Committee
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee WI 53202

Subject: Item #141415 Charter School Review Committee 2013-2014 Annual Report
Milwaukee Math & Science Academy (MMSA)

President Murphy and Honorable Committee Members:

Milwaukee Math & Science Academy opened their doors as a City of Milwaukee Charter School for the 2011-12 school year, therefore they are currently in their 4th year of operation. Their school has not achieved the promised success and the academic performance has been near the bottom among the schools chartered by you (City of Milwaukee). The 2013-14 DPI Report Card score of 48.1 "Fails to Meet Expectations". Significant concerns have arisen regarding the school's stability - drop in student return rate, change in principal each year, poor teacher return rates, the lack of teacher licenses or permits, low pay for teachers and the poor academic progress of the students.

When I asked the MMSA Director/Principal if he thought many of these issues were *cultural*, his answer was "yes". This verbal exchange occurred during a Charter School Review Committee meeting in December 2014. How can you expect an inexperienced staff and this new principal with limited command of English have great success with students?

I'm sure you are wondering why culture could be considered part of their problem. The fact is this school's corporate owner is Concept Schools. Concept Schools is a group of Turkish-American educators and engineers who say they were influenced by the teachings of Fethullah Gülen, a Turkish preacher living in self-imposed exile in the Pocono mountains of Pennsylvania. Concept Schools currently operates well over 100 schools in the United States.

Our research has shown teachers for many of the Concept Schools are brought from Turkey to teach in Concept/Gülen schools on H-1B visas and often not credentialed. So, it is conceivable that language could be a barrier for both students and for the staff. According to this school's own testimony, they initially offered Spanish as a foreign language for students, however, only the Turkish language is currently offered. This school is 95% African American and 99% Economically Disadvantaged, thus I question this schools objective in the language offering. Might it make more sense to drop the Turkish language offering?

Only 4 out of 17 total staff members this year have more than 2 years of experience. There are 5 Teach for America staff, 4 of them in their first year. The principal stated there are 3 "perfect teachers in our building," and the other one is getting extra support. One committee member stated the poor teacher retention was "tantamount to the wheels coming off."

A view of the MMSA website provides absolutely no information on this school. There is no information on the schools owners, administration, curriculum, staff members, the current governing board members, board meetings or board activities. How are parents supposed to make a reasonable school choice? Parents should have this information readily available and provided. With this, they would have the tools helping them to make a school choice that better fits their needs. This is common information that should be required by the Charter School Review Committee and the Common Council of any school that is a City of Milwaukee Charter School.

MMSA reported an extremely high suspension rate of 186 for the school year. The principal could not account for the reason. However another person associated with the school stated it was caused by 22 chronic disruptors. How lacked the knowledge to account for this?

Of great concern is the FBI investigations and raids of Concept Schools in numerous mid-western cities (Chicago, Cincinnati, Akron, Dayton, Columbus and others). In July 2014, the Ohio Department of Education began an investigation into alleged "attendance rate falsification and test tampering" at a Concept Schools facility among other issues. In June 2014, the FBI raided 10 schools in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. In July 2014, the Concept corporate headquarters in Illinois was raided. Additional details of the FBI raids and investigations are detailed in the research report provided by our research agent, Jack Norman.

As the school chartering entity for the City of Milwaukee, we ask the Steering & Rules Committee to conduct an in-depth evaluation of the issues outlined in this report. The student academic performance is very poor, the teacher return rate is dismal, financial stability is in question and the Charter Management Organization and their schools are experiencing FBI raids. **You Must Take Notice.**

We have serious concerns and question the feasibility of the continuation of this school as a City of Milwaukee Charter school.

Marva Herndon, on behalf of
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DATE: January 15, 2015

TO: Steering & Rules Committee of Milwaukee Common Council

FROM: Lawrence M. Hoffman, Ph.D.
1225 E. Wright St., Apt. 1, Milwaukee

RE: Prepared Testimony on Charter School Renewals

President Murphy:

Thank you for allowing me to speak. I live in Ald. Kovac's district. My Ph.D. is in education. I taught for 15 years, mostly at the elementary level. I worked as a classroom researcher at UWM for three years, helping to evaluate charter schools and SAGE classrooms, and I've taught, subbed, or formally observed in hundreds of different classrooms.

I would like to talk about King's Academy in the context of the oversight that is provided by the Charter School Review Committee (CSRC) and the Children's Research Center (CRC). The members of the committee and the consulting company are serious adults who walk a fine line, promoting charter schools but also keeping them on the straight and narrow. The committee and the consultant have developed a clearly defined set of standards that should enable them to be consistent in the decisions they make about whether schools may continue, may not continue, or go on probation.

But somehow, their oversight – the way the committee and the consultant keep track of schools and judge them – isn't working very well.

First, oversight by the consultant. For example, when a school does not meet the committee's standards or the requirements of the charter contract, the consultant's recommendations are not always firm; they are sometimes soft. For example, for King's Academy, in spite of instability in their scores, their attendance, and their teacher retention, the consultant wasn't ready to be strict and recommend taking away their charter status. Instead, she made a plea to the committee: "I know they're coming together and really digging deep." I think they may be digging a dry well.

Also, in regard to the consultants, you might want to talk about whether you've got enough of them to monitor all the schools throughout the year. If it takes several months before the committee finds out about a problem, maybe the City needs to increase the amount of funding for consultants, so they can spend more time at each school.

Second, oversight by the Review Committee itself. The actions taken by the committee are not always consistent with their stated policies. They sometimes fudge on the consequences. Look at King's Academy again:

For 2013-14, more than one-quarter of the kids eligible to return from the previous year did not. That's a significant exodus.

At the end of 2013-14, even though the school was entering its 15th year of existence, the large majority of their teachers were brand new to the school, and they had no more than two years of experience as teachers. Does that bode well for the school?

One committee member said to the administrator from King's Academy, "When you were here last year, I think we very clearly indicated that the performance of the school at that point was inadequate.... We've had everything from material weaknesses in financial statements to academic issues." Another committee member said, "I don't think we'll see what's needed in a year's time." And another replied, "I agree. They're not even close."

With King's now in their 5th year as a City charter, the Review Committee has put them on probation. Shouldn't the school have been on probation in Year 4? Isn't it time to realize that this school is beyond probation?

And finally, Look at King's in comparison to Milwaukee Collegiate Academy. The results for Collegiate Academy are worse than King's. After 11 years, first as a voucher school and then a charter, Collegiate has had difficulty meeting expectations. Their DPI scores over the past two years were 40, and then 32 – out of 100. (See Table 1.) But they're not even on probation.

Milwaukee Collegiate Academy		King's Academy	
CSRC Score	DPI Report Card	Year	CSRC Score
67.0 Problematic/Struggling	67.3 Meets Expectations	2013-14	68.2 Problematic/Struggling
68.8 Problematic/Struggling	57.1 Meets Few Expectations	2012-13	71.3 Promising/Good
67.5 Problematic/Struggling	53.9 Meets Few Expectations	2011-12	59.1 Problematic/Struggling
N.A.			N.A.

And I should bring up a possible glitch in the review process. My understanding is that sometimes the Review Committee uses the DPI Report Card that's already one year old, because the most recent DPI Report Card hasn't come out until after the consultants' annual report has been completed. If that's true, then some kind of adjustment in the evaluation schedule may be appropriate.



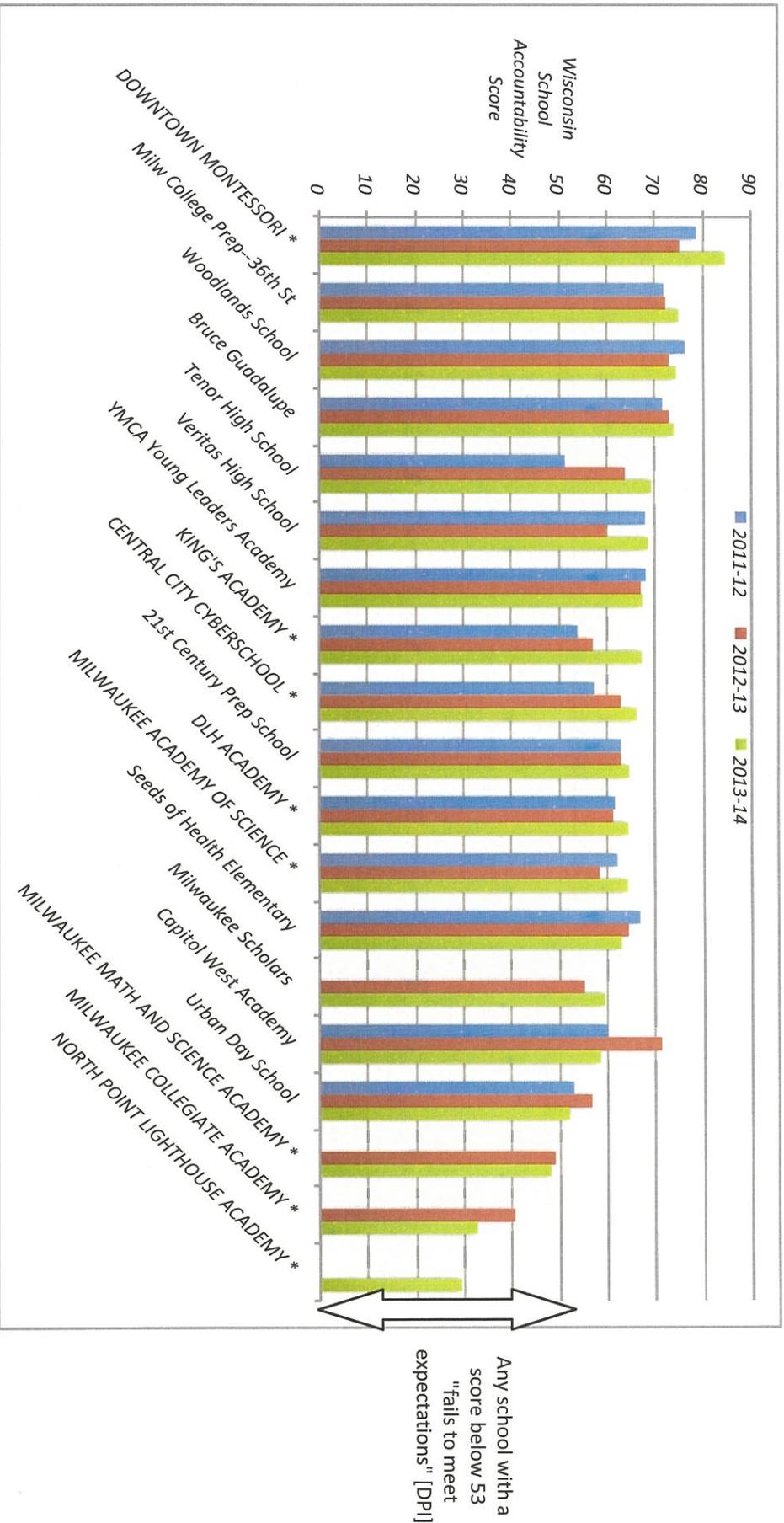
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SR 1/14/15 Exhibit 1

Some City charter schools consistently "fail to meet expectations"

The chart shows the Department of Public Instruction's "accountability score" for all Milwaukee schools not chartered by MPS. Schools in CAPITAL LETTERS with an * are chartered by the City of Milwaukee. The rest are chartered by UW-M.



Schools listed in order of 2013-14 score. See other side for details.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: Wisconsin District and School Performance Reports

Schools listed in order of 2013-14 score

Schools chartered by City of Milwaukee:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Downtown Montessori	78.7	75.2	84.7
King's Academy	53.9	57.1	67.3
Central City Cyberschool	57.3	62.9	66.2
DLH Academy	61.6	61.2	64.4
Milwaukee Academy of Science	62.1	58.4	64.3
Milwaukee Math and Science Academy	—	49.0	48.1
Milwaukee Collegiate Academy	—	40.5	32.7
North Point Lighthouse Academy	—	—	29.4

Schools chartered by University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Milw College Prep--36th St	71.9	72.2	75.0
Woodlands School	76.3	72.9	74.5
Bruce Guadalupe	71.6	72.9	74.0
Tenor High School	51.3	63.8	69.3
Veritas High School	68.0	59.9	68.6
YMCA Young Leaders Academy	68.1	67.1	67.4
21st Century Prep School	62.9	62.9	64.6
Seeds of Health Elementary	66.8	64.4	63.0
Milwaukee Scholars	—	55.3	59.5
Capitol West Academy	60.0	71.2	58.6
Urban Day School	53.0	56.8	52.1

Overall Accountability Rating

(Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction)

- 83-100: Significantly Exceeds Expectations
- 73-83: Exceeds Expectations
- 63-73: Meets Expectations
- 53-63: Meets Few Expectations
- Below 53: Fails to Meet Expectations

Ratings based on: student achievement; student growth; closing gaps; on-track and postsecondary readiness; and student engagement indicators.

<http://reportcards.dpi.wi.gov/>



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King's Academy

Grades K4-8 — 5th year as a City charter; before that 11 years as a private religious voucher school

Enrollment—Beginning of 2013-14 year: 191; end of school year: 193

Overview: In December 2014, the City's Charter School Review Committee recommended putting King's Academy on Probation, because of poor academic performance and high turnover in staff and administration. In its 16th year as a school (11 years as a private voucher, 5 as a public City charter school), it "hasn't risen to the level one might expect" (Review Committee member) and has experienced extremely high teacher turnover.

Report from Review Committee's Consultant (Children's Research Center/National Council on Crime and Delinquency):

"Because of the school's academic progress history, including annual scorecard results—particularly in the areas of student achievement on local measures and standardized year-to-year testing for students below proficiency as well as teacher return rate—CRC recommends that King's Academy be placed on probation for the fifth year of its contract with the City of Milwaukee. CRC further recommends that the CSRC develop specific measurable outcomes for the school during the 2014–15 academic year as well as a plan to address the unmet contract provision related to teacher licensure."

Local Management

- The school is locally based and not part of a national system.
- It opened in 1999 as a private voucher school affiliated with Christ the King Baptist Church. In 2010 it converted to a public school chartered by the City of Milwaukee.
- In 2012-13, it had a deficit of \$118,375 due to enrollment falling below expectations. Because of surpluses in previous years, it was able to handle the deficit while still ending the year with \$495,488 in net fund balance.
- In 2012-13, it received \$1,653,377 in state charter school aid and other state and federal government grants.
- In 2012-13, the school's board consisted of: Joseph Moore III (Chairman), Michelle Mason (Co-Chair), Evelyn Jones, Marilynn McVicker, Derek Tyus, George Hinton and Anita Peterson. The Principal was Mondell Mayfield.
- The school does not have a working web site. The information above came from its most recent filing with the Internal Revenue Service.]

Facility

7798 N. 60th St. Owned by CTK Development Corp., an affiliate of Christ the King Baptist Church. Exempt from property tax. Rent payment to CTK in 2012-13 was \$262,826.

Overall School Accountability Score from Department of Public Instruction

- 2012-13: Score 57.1; "Meets Few Expectations." Ranked 14th of 18 non-MPS charters; 5th of 7 City charters
- 2013-14: Score 67.3; "Meets Expectations." Ranked 8th of 19 non-MPS charters; 2nd of 8 City charters

Student Achievement Score from Department of Public Instruction

- 2012-13: Score 33.9—15th of 18 non-MPS charters; 6th of 7 City charters
- 2013-14: Score 35.8—14th of 19 non-MPS charters; 5th of 8 City charters

[Over]

Proportion of students considered Proficient or Advanced [DPI]

- 2012-13 Mathematics 13.8%—16th of 18 non-MPS charters; 5th of 7 City charters
- 2013-14 Mathematics 21.8%—12th of 19 non-MPS charters; 4th of 8 City charters
- 2012-13 Reading 16.3%—8th of 18 non-MPS charters; 2nd of 7 City charters
- 2013-14 Reading 15.4%—9th of 19 non-MPS charters; 2nd of 8 City charters

Students

- 2013-14: 95% Black non-Hispanic; 90% Economically Disadvantaged; 9% Special Education
- 2013-14: 6% of students who started in September 2013 withdrew before the end of the school year
- 2013-14: 27% of students who finished the previous year and were eligible to return did not return in the fall
- 2013-14: 62 students were suspended at least once during the year (30% of all students). Expulsion data not available.

Staff

- Seven of the 9 teachers at the end of the 2012-13 who were eligible to return in September did not return (78% did not return).
- Of 10 teachers to start in September 2013, 8 stayed the entire year; both teachers who left were replaced during the year.
- Eight of the 10 teachers at the end of the 2013-14 year had one year of experience or less; one teacher had two years and one 13. One teacher did not have a DPI license.
- In interviews with Charter School Review Committee consultant, teachers noted a "lack of professional development for staff," "pay is not competitive," "insufficient classroom assistants to meet children's needs," "lack of clear vision for school," and "lack of organization."

Prepared for Schools and Communities United by Jack Norman (jacknorman100@gmail.com). Sources: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; City of Milwaukee; IRS form 990; school web site not operable.



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Milwaukee Collegiate Academy

Grades 9-12 — 4th year City charter; before that 7 years as a private religious voucher school.

Enrollment—Beginning of 2013-14 year: 201; end of school year: 160.

Overview: For the past two years, its academic performance has been near the bottom among City charters. It is in its 11th year of operation, first as a private voucher school and now a City charter. In both 2011-12 and 2012-13, it expelled 11% of its students. In 2013-14 it expelled 16% of its students. These expulsion rates are at least 5 times greater than any other City-chartered high school and 10 times greater than Milwaukee Public Schools high schools. Its suspension rate was 56% in 2011-12 and 42% in 2012-13, higher than any other City charter school or MPS high school.

Report from Review Committee's Consultant (Children's Research Center/National Council on Crime and Delinquency):

"Pay special attention to MCA's progress over the next school year to improvements in writing, special education, grade promotion rates, and point-in-time academic achievement on standardized tests. Significant progress, particularly in the mentioned measures, should be achieved in the fourth year of operation to avoid the possibility of probationary status."

Local Management

- The school is locally based and not part of a national system.
- It opened in 2004 as a private Christian high school, the Clergy for Educational Options (CEO) Leadership Academy. It was a private voucher school during 2004-11. In fall 2011 it became a City-chartered school under the name Commitment, Excellence & Opportunity (CEO) Leadership Academy. In 2013, it changed its name to Milwaukee Collegiate Academy.
- In 2012-13, it received about \$1.6 million in state charter school aid, about \$350,000 in additional federal and state grants, and \$478,841 in private grants. In that year its net fund balance went from \$117,371 to \$475,841.
- In 2013-14, the school's board consisted of: Howard Fuller (Chair), Jack Gebhardt, Michelle Nettles, DeVona Wright-Contrell, Kenneth Robertson, Robert Davis, Jeff DeAngelis, Vera Graves-Davis, Archie Ivy, Kole Knueppel, Naryan Leazer, Shareka McGee, Deborah McGriff, Shunn Morrise, Jim Rowe and Joe Tate.

Facility

- 4030 N. 29th St. The building is owned by Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin (a 501(c)3 nonprofit). In 2014, the first tax year after the school moved in, the property's assessment dropped from \$850,000 to \$543,000.

Overall School Accountability Score from Department of Public Instruction

- 2012-13: Score 40.5; "Fails to Meet Expectations." Ranked 18th of 18 non-MPS charters; 7th of 7 City charters
- 2013-14: Score 32.7; "Fails to Meet Expectations." Ranked 18th of 19 non-MPS charters; 7th of 8 City charters

[Over]

- Student Achievement Score from Department of Public Instruction**
- 2012-13: Score 35.8—13th of 18 non-MPS charters; 4th of 7 City charters
 - 2013-14: Score 26.6—17th of 19 non-MPS charters; 6th of 8 City charters

- Proportion of students considered Proficient or Advanced [DPI]**
- 2012-13 Mathematics 10.2%—11th of 18 non-MPS charters; 4 of 7 City charters
 - 2013-14 Mathematics 1.6%—19th of 19 non-MPS charters; 8th of 8 City charters
 - 2012-13 Reading 10.2%—17th of 18 non-MPS charters; 6th of 7 City charters
 - 2013-14 Reading 3.2%—17th of 19 non-MPS charters; 6th of 8 City charters

Students

- 2013-14: 98% Black non-Hispanic; 8% Economically Disadvantaged; 8% Special Education
- 2013-14: 12% of students who finished the previous year and were eligible to return did not return in the fall
- 2013-14: 28% of students who started in September 2013 withdrew before the end of the school year
- 2013-14: 36 students were expelled during the year (16% of all students).

Staff

- All 15 classroom teachers to start in September 2013 stayed the entire year. Three of the 7 teachers at the end of the 2012-13 who were eligible to return in September did not return (43%).
- At the end of the 2013-14 year, one teacher did not have a DPI license.
- In interviews with Charter School Review Committee consultant, teachers noted "constant staff turnover," "heavy workload," "expectation that teachers write their own curriculum without adequate guidance," "lack of consistency in the implementation of disciplinary practices. This process needs to be revised to be more beneficial to students."

Prepared for Schools and Communities United by Jack Norman (jacknorman100@gmail.com). Sources: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; City of Milwaukee; school web sites, IRS Form 990.



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North Point Lighthouse Academy

Grades K4-6 — In its 3rd year as a City charter

Enrollment—Beginning of 2013-14 year: 276. End of school year: 263

Overview: In 2013-14 (its first time measured for proficiency), academic performance was near the bottom among City charters. Half of the 14-person teaching staff left during the year; 2 were replaced and 5 positions were left unfilled. Three remaining teachers were not DPI-licensed. The corporate parent has obtained three charters--one each from the City, Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM). It pulled out of its MPS charter before opening the school. It has not opened its UWM-chartered school (originally scheduled to open in 2013). Its City charter is its only Milwaukee school.

Report from Review Committee's Consultant (Children's Research Center/National Council on Crime and Delinquency):

"CRC recommends that [North Point Lighthouse Charter School] continue to receive regular, annual academic monitoring with particular attention to the school improvement recommendations."

National management

- Operated by Lighthouse Academies, based in Framingham, Mass.
- Lighthouse Academies operates 18 schools in 7 states. This is the only one in Wisconsin.
- Lighthouse Academies was started in in 2003 by Mike Ronan, with help from Scott Hamilton, a leader in the KIPP charter network and in Teach for America

Local management

- The corporate parent has obtained three charters--one each from the City, Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM). It pulled out of its MPS charter before opening the school. It has not opened its UWM-chartered school (originally scheduled to open in 2013). Its City charter is its only Milwaukee school.
- In 2012-13, the school received \$1,792,419 in state charter school aid (\$7,775 per) and other state and federal education grants.
- In 2012-13, the school paid \$111,378 management fee to its parent, Lighthouse Academies; paid \$100,160 to Lighthouse Academies as "paydown with interest" of prior funding; paid \$220,000 to Canyon-Agassi for rent (see below.)
- In 2012-13, its first year, had a deficit covered by a \$460,000 loan from Lighthouse Academies. The ML Tharps financial review prepared for the City noted: "It is imperative that management take the necessary steps to alleviate the accumulated deficit."
- In 2012-13, the school's local governing board consisted of: Jason Fields (President), Adam Peck, Pamela Gustafson, Paul Snyder, Kevin Hanson, Aaron Seligman, Danny Goldberg, Karole Kimble, Michael Ronan, Corrine Brantner. Information on 2013-14 board not readily available, though Children's Research Center noted that during the year, the parent representative and the chair of the community engagement committee left.
- In 2013-14, state charter school aid was approximately \$2.2 million.

[Over]

Facility

- 4200 W. Douglas Ave. The building is a former steel fabrication plant, purchased in 2011 for \$585,000 and currently assessed at \$1,937,000. The building is owned by Canyon-Agassi Charter School Facilities Fund, a Los Angeles-based for-profit company that buys, develops, leases and sells properties to charter school operators. Former tennis star Andre Agassi is co-owner of Canyon-Agassi.
- The school is located amid industrial and commercial properties and has a electricity tower and a transformer in back.

Overall School Accountability Score from Department of Public Instruction

- 2012-13: Not rated (first year of operation)
- 2013-14: Score 29.4; "Fails to Meet Expectations." Ranked 19th of 19 non-MPS charters; 8th of 8 City charters

Student Achievement Score from Department of Public Instruction

- 2012-13: Not rated (first year of operation)
- 2013-14: Score 21.0—18th of 19 non-MPS charters; 7th of 8 City charters

Proportion of students considered Proficient or Advanced [DPI]

- 2013-14 Mathematics 7.0%—17th of 19 non-MPS charters; 6th of 8 City charters
- 2013-14 Reading 8.8%—17th of 19 non-MPS charters; 6th of 8 City charters

Students

- 2013-14: 98% Black non-Hispanic; 99% Economically Disadvantaged; 11% Special Education
- 2013-14: 22% of students who finished the previous year and were eligible to return did not return in the fall
- 2013-14: 13% of students who started in September 2013 withdrew before the end of the school year
- 2013-14: 71 students were suspended at least once (24% of all students during the year)

Staff

- Of 14 classroom teachers to start in September 2013, 7 remained the entire year. Of the 7 vacancies, 2 were refilled during the year and 5 were left unfilled. Also, 2 out of 4 other instructional staff remained the entire year.
- At the end of the 2013-14 year, three teachers did not have a DPI license.
- In interviews with Charter School Review Committee consultant, teachers noted a "lack of concrete disciplinary policies," "lack of instructional support, coaching and teacher accountability," and "minimal communication and involvement with parents."



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Milwaukee Math and Science Academy

Grades K4-8 — In its 4th year as a City charter school

Enrollment — Beginning of 2013-14 year: 316; end of school year: 268

Overview: In December 2014, the City's Charter School Review Committee recommended putting Milwaukee Math and Science Academy on Probation because of poor academic performance, institutional instability and excessive staff turnover. For the past two years (the only years for which data are available), academic performance has been near the bottom among City charters. The school's corporate parent, Concept Schools, and some of its top executives are under investigation by the FBI and other authorities regarding possible misuse of federal e-rate technology grants.

Report from Review Committee's Consultant (Children's Research Center/National Council on Crime and Delinquency):

"While the school has been developing, significant concerns have arisen regarding the school's stability (drop in student return rate, change in principal each year, poor teacher return rate), the lack of teacher licenses or permits, and the slow academic progress of the students."

National management

- Concept Schools operates 32 schools in 6 Midwestern states; a 501(c)3 nonprofit charter management organization based in Des Plaines, Illinois. This is its only school in Wisconsin.
- Concept Schools was started in Columbus, Ohio in 1999 by a group of Turkish-American educators and engineers who say they were influenced by the teachings of Fethullah Gülen, "a charismatic Turkish preacher of a moderate brand," (*New York Times*) whose followers have opened over 100 charter schools in the US, where Gülen lives.
- A number of people working with Concept Schools were leaders at Wisconsin Career Academy, a charter school closed by the MPS Board in 2012, and its successor, Wisconsin College Prep Academy, a voucher school closed in 2013.

FBI and other current investigations

- Concept Schools is under investigation by federal and state authorities, as reported by newspapers in Chicago, Cincinnati, Akron, Dayton, Columbus and others. Investigations include:
 - In June 2014, FBI agents raided 19 of its schools in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. In July the corporate headquarters in Illinois was raided. An FBI statement said they were part of "an ongoing white-collar crime investigation." A company spokesperson said they were part of a "federal audit of e-rate technology grants." Milwaukee Math and Science received \$8,262 in federal e-grants in 2013.
 - In July 2014, the Ohio Department of Education began an investigation into alleged "attendance rate falsification and test tampering" at a Concept Schools facility.
 - Other investigations concern its use of H1-B visas to bring teachers from Turkey when there is a supply of local teachers.

[Over]

Local management

- The school's website is silent about staff, governing board and any scheduled meetings. Data were obtained from the school's filings with the IRS.
- In 2012-13, the school received \$1,741,600 in state charter school aid, based on \$7,775 for each of 224 students. Enrollment since then has increased, to 307 in 2013-2014. The 2014-15 per-pupil grant is \$8,075.
- In 2012-13, the school received an additional \$597,691 in other state and federal education grants.
- In 2012-13, the school paid 10% of its state charter school aid to its parent, Concept Schools: \$174,160.
- In 2012-13, the school's local governing board consisted of: Omer Yazganoglu, Kadir Celik, Ibrahim Tuna, Moufid Darwich, Lutanya Coleman and Ergun Sevilimis (principal). School leaders told the Review Committee on Dec. 16 that the current board has four members and is seeking additional members.

Facility

110 W. Burling Ave. Building was purchased from Harambae Community School in August 2014 by Good Samaritan Schools LLC for \$715,000. Good Samaritan Schools was created June 2014 by persons unknown.

Overall School Accountability Score from Department of Public Instruction

- 2012-13: Score 49.0; "Fails to Meet Expectations." Ranked 17th of 18 non-MPS charters; 6th of 7 City charters
- 2013-14: Score 48.1; "Fails to Meet Expectations." Ranked 17th of 19 non-MPS charters; 6th of 8 City charters

Student Achievement Score from Department of Public Instruction

- 2012-13: Score 20.3—18th of 18 non-MPS charters; 7th of 7 City charters
- 2013-14: Score 20.1—19th of 19 non-MPS charters; 8th of 8 City charters

Students

- 2013-14: 95% Black non-Hispanic; 9% Economically Disadvantaged; 1% Special Education
- 2013-14: 28% of students who finished the previous year and were eligible to return did not return in the fall
- 2013-14: 22% of students who started in September 2013 withdrew before the end of the school year

Proportion of students considered Proficient or Advanced [DPI]

- 2013-14 Mathematics 5.1%—18th of 19 non-MPS charters; 7th of 8 City charters
- 2013-14 Reading 5.1%—18th of 19 non-MPS charters; 7th of 8 City charters

Staff

- Of 12 classroom teachers from 2012-13 eligible to return in Fall 2013, 1 returned.
- Of 14 classroom teachers to start in September 2013, 13 were new to the school and 4 left during the year.
- In interviews with Charter School Review Committee consultant, teachers noted a "lack of sufficient staff (need teacher assistants and more staff to meet needs of special education students, "low pay, "lack of basic supplies and resources," and "too much work--too many classes to prepare for and duties plus lack of a set curriculum."

Prepared for Schools and Communities United by Jack Norman (jacknorman100@gmail.com). Sources: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; City of Milwaukee; school web sites, IRS form 990, *Akron Beacon Journal*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *WHIO-TV* (Dayton), *Columbus Dispatch*, *New York Times*.