

FEB 17 2016

State Superintendent's
Office

February 12, 2016

The Honorable Molly M. Spearman
State Superintendent of Education
Rutledge Building
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Superintendent Spearman:

I have received a copy of your letter dated Feb 1, 2016 in which Chairman Hodges was copied. Initially, I did not receive a copy of this letter by email. However, the Board of Trustees' secretary later delivered it. After reviewing carefully, I have a few thoughts to share with you.

Thank you for recognizing the efforts in addressing identified accreditation deficiencies. The building administrators have worked hard and were surprised to learn the accreditation status in the February 1st accreditation report. They thought all known issues had been resolved. The IGP concern was first mentioned in February 1 report from Mr. Roy Stehle. The SDE report shows Timmons ville as having completed 100% of IGPs for grades 9-12. Florence 4 is continuing to investigate the 52% completion rate for grade 8 students. I have spoken with Ms. Prevatt about the resolution of this issue. The issue with the JAG certification has been resolved. In the 1/19/16 report of deficiencies, GT was listed as a *District Office* deficiency. In the 2/1/2016 accreditation status report, it is listed as a deficiency, which prevents *Brockington Elementary School* from being "All Clear". I am requesting consideration based on documentation which will be provided to Mr. Stehle for *Brockington Elementary School and Timmons ville High School to be listed as All Clear*. I am still hopeful that documentation will be available for clear the IGP deficiency for Johnson Middle School. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

I understand the seriousness of the financial and student performance concerns and acknowledge that the *District Office* remain on probation status with a clear understanding that changes are necessary.

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The Honorable Molly M. Spearman, State Superintendent of Education

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Efforts have already begun in planning for next year. Parents and community (including the faith community) are expressing the desire for Florence 4 to be successful and are pledging their support to see if this happens.

Several partnerships are in process:

- A. Florence County School District One/Darlington County School District- Meetings have occurred over the last several weeks to discuss educational opportunities for Florence County School District Four students (vocational/visual and performing arts opportunities)
- B. Rock Hill School District- Visual and Performing Arts Collaboration
- C. Florence Darlington Technical College
- D. Francis Marion University (Center for Excellence, Add-on/Endorsements)
- E. Coker College
- F. University of South Carolina (Center for Excellence- Grant will bring student teachers to Florence 4 and instructional strategies implementation)

I want Florence 4 to capitalize on all of these positive efforts as we seek to provide additional opportunities for our students. We understand that we have tried to operate in isolation and are now prepared to seek all positive educational opportunities for our students.

I would not dare close this letter without acknowledging the support and resources that you thoughtfully provided. We have experienced recent progress due to the support of your fine staff working with us. The District is indebted to you for allowing Mrs. Linda Allen to enhance our instructional and leadership value. Her placement alone has caused a district of educators to examine all aspects of the school program. She has helped us see the need for collaboration and cooperation with all stakeholders to provide the best educational experience for our students. Please extend my gratitude to Tina Jamison, Jennifer Morrison, Roy Stehle, Geri Martin, Darlene Prevatt, Ann Castro, Andrea Cannon, Colette Reamer, Libby Ortmann, Tria Grant, Rinice Sauls, Keri Zeman, Lamont Moore, the External Review Team and others for their services.

Lastly, thank you for your continued support of district efforts that will lead to meaningful change. My request for your consideration is to allow Florence 4 the opportunity to become a turnaround district. I ask that you allow Florence 4 to show that success is possible for the Timmonsville Community. I am convinced, with continued technical support from SCDE for the remainder of this year and the 2016-17 school year, this can be a reality. If the recommendations from the forthcoming ERT report have not been successfully implemented at the end of the 2016-17

school year, the SCDE should take action to provide improvement of educational outcomes for students in Florence County School District Four. I would greatly appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AB', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Andre Boyd, Florence County School District Four Superintendent



FLORENCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUR

304 Kemper Street • Timmonsville, SC 29161

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