



JOHN DE LA HOWE SCHOOL

*"Providing a Safe Haven for Children
to heal, grow and make a lasting change"*



Dr. James A. Franklin, Sr.
Interim Superintendent

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November 28, 2017

Honorable Joseph H. Jefferson, Chair
Legislative Oversight Education and Cultural Sub-Committee
P.O. Box 11867
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Honorable Jefferson:

Enclosed are the responses to your communication of November 17, 2017.

- 1. After the external evaluation has been approved by the Board, please provide a copy to this Subcommittee.**

Response: A copy is enclosed.

- 2. What is the per student cost of EdOptions?**

Response: The student cost is \$250.00 per student for the month.

Why was there a credit from last school year?

Response: Our low enrollment left us with unused seats (reserved for anticipated students) which provided the credit.

- 3. Please provide a list of the McCain Scholarship recipients, with only the student's name, year of receipt, and scholarship amount.**

Response:

♥ FY 2015 – Total Scholarship Expenditures **\$8,342.00**

- **Jennifer L. Harris - \$6,142** payable to University of Phoenix 9/17/14 | **Jennifer L. Harris - \$927** payable to University of Phoenix 10/30/14 | **Whitney McQueen - \$200** payable to Whitney McQueen 8/19/13 | **Jennifer L. Harris - \$373** payable to University of Phoenix 3/3/15 | **Jennifer L. Harris - \$700** payable to Jennifer L. Harris 9/17/14)

- ♣ **FY 2014 – Total Scholarship Expenditures \$3,684.00**
 - (Whitney McQueen - \$3,484 payable to Lander University | Synobia C. Ferguson - \$200 payable to Synobia C. Ferguson)

- ♣ **FY 2013 – Total Scholarship Expenditures \$5,654.00**
 - (Jennifer L. Harris - \$200 payable to Jennifer L. Harris 5/29/13 and \$927 payable to University of Phoenix 5/29/13 | Jonathan Matthew Baker - \$200 payable to Jonathan Matthew Baker 12/12/12 classes at Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service, Decatur, GA and \$1,500 payable to Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Services 12/12/12 | Jennifer L. Harris - \$200 payable to University of Phoenix 1/29/13 | Jennifer L. Harris - \$927 payable to University of Phoenix 5/29/13 | Jonathan Baker - \$200 payable to Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Services 5/29/13 | Jonathan Baker - \$1,500 payable to Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Services 2/27/13)

4. Is placement available at another facility that could accommodate John de la Howe's current students?

Response: We do not know. We understand that there are three levels of facilities which serve the youth of the State of South Carolina. We are a level two facility. We serve "at risk" kids who have been expelled, suspended, or dropped out of school. We have an admissions department which may take up to two days to determine if a student should be admitted here. We don't admit all students who are referred. We don't know the admission requirements of the other schools.

Section 2 of your communication.

5. There are eleven schools and organizations listed as serving children with similar needs to students as John de la Howe. Of those, only Wil Lou Gray (state), Palmetto Youth Challenge (federal), and Job Corps (federal) are operated by a government entity. Are there other schools or organizations primarily serving students similar to John de la Howe School's and being operated by local, state, or federal government?

Response: We don't know. The response that you mentioned came as a result of us going "online" to see what facilities served "needy" children of our state. We don't know the level of those facilities, their admissions procedures, any age limitations, costs to attend those facilities, or who operates those facilities.

6. Why are students with autism disqualified from admission to John de la Howe?

Response: The John de la Howe School is a Group Care Intermediate Service provider. The students with autism will need to be referred to a Group Care Intensive Services provider.

7. Could the Board of Trustees propose a succession plan?

Response: When a Board Member is appointed to the Board by the Governor of South Carolina, he/she serves for his/her term. When his/her term expires, he/she continues to serve until a new person is appointed to fill that seat on the Board. From a staff perspective, when the Agency Head leaves the Agency, another staff member is appointed to serve as Interim until a new Agency Head is appointed by the Board. **Yes, the Board of Trustees can propose a succession plan (that is more detailed than this information) for Agency staff.**

We are also providing an update on the last report regarding a follow-up on students who attended the John de la Howe School.

Should any of this be unclear, or if you need additional information, please let us hear from you.

Sincerely,



Dr. James A. Franklin, Sr.
Interim Superintendent

jal/tlb
Enclosures