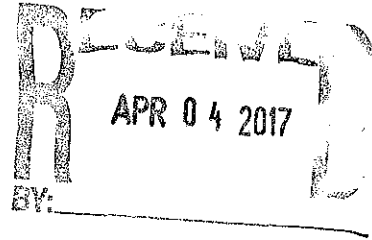




LIBERTAS ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL



Libertas Academy Charter School
1 Federal Street
Building 101
Springfield, MA 01105

March 21, 2017

Alison Bagg
Director, Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
75 Pleasant St. Malden, MA 02148

Alison:

Libertas Academy Charter School notified the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) on Monday, March 13, 2017 that, due to inclement weather, the date of the lottery would be changed without one week's notice from Tuesday, March 14, 2017 to Wednesday, March 15, 2017. All public schools were closed due to the weather and travel conditions were deemed not safe.

The Board of Trustees is requesting a waiver of the provision that "public notice given at least one week prior to the lottery" as specified in 603 CMR 1.11(1). Furthermore, Section 1.03(2) of the Charter School Regulations contains specific instructions to waive the public notice requirement for the 2017-2018 enrollment lottery. It states that:

The Board [of Elementary and Secondary Education] may waive provisions of 603 CMR 1.00 for good cause. If a charter applicant or charter school board of trustees makes a written request for a waiver, the Board may waive the applicability of one or more provisions of 603 CMR 1.00. These waivers shall be granted only under circumstances the Board deems exceptional and such waivers shall be granted only to the extent allowed by law. All such requests from the charter applicant or a board of trustees must:

- (a) be in writing, signed by the waiver applicant;
- (b) specify the provisions of 603 CMR 1.00 to be waived, the duration of the waiver, and the circumstances to which the waiver applies and the specific reason why a waiver is sought;
- (c) include a certification that the waiver applicant has made a good faith effort to comply with said provisions; and

(d) be accompanied by supporting documentation considered sufficient by the Board to support the special circumstances or the need for relief.

We have followed the guidelines above to the best of our ability. Our Board of Trustees reviewed and voted on sending the request at our regularly schedule March 21, 2017 Board Meeting. This vote was reflected in the minutes. Attached are minutes from that meeting.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Kwame Webster
Libertas Academy Charter School Board of Trustee