



Bentley Academy Charter School
25 Memorial Drive
Salem, MA 01970
December 15, 2017

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Massachusetts Department of Elementary and
Secondary Education
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Board,

On behalf of the Bentley Academy Charter School Board of Trustees, I am writing to request a waiver of the provision of the charter school regulations, 603 CMR 1.10(4)(b), requiring the Salem local collective bargaining unit's approval of Bentley's request for an amendment to its accountability plan. This waiver request was approved by the full Board of Trustees during the regularly scheduled July Board of Trustee Meeting on July 26, 2017. This waiver would apply for the duration of the accountability plan (until 2020).

During the summer of 2016, the school worked with the Department and earned provisional approval of an accountability plan to establish goals and measures for the school's first charter term (2015-2020). The school sought and received approval of the accountability plan from the Salem School Committee, as required by regulations, on December 5, 2016. The school made a good faith effort to receive the approval of the Salem Teachers Union over the period of one year. The school leader also reached out to the Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign for additional support. Even with this support, the leader of the Salem Teacher's Union stated that after reaching out to AFT lawyers they did not have to approve the Accountability Plan put forth by the Bentley Academy Charter School.

The Board of Trustees requests that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approve this request at its January regular meeting on 1/23/2017, if possible.

Please contact Ryan Lovell, ryan.lovell@gmail.com, or Marlena Afonso marlenaafonso@bentleyacademy.org, 978.740.1260, if you have any questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Ryan Lovell
Board Chair of the Bentley Academy Charter School Board of Trustees