



Boulder Valley School District
Board of Education
6500 East Arapahoe Road
Boulder, CO 80303

January 22, 2019

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

It has come to our attention that Mrs. Paige Rodriguez, a disgruntled former Board member of the Golden View Classical Academy (GVCA), has been making claims of wrongdoing against GVCA and members of the Ascent Classical Academy team.

We are unsure of the exact nature and scope of Mrs. Rodriguez claims, but you should know that she has leveled accusations of wrongdoing for well over a year. The GVCA, its Board of Directors, and multiple state and district authorities have investigated Mrs. Rodriguez's claims. In every instance, Mrs. Rodriguez's claims have been soundly rejected. These include:

1. **The Jefferson County School District.** Recently, in the fall of 2018 Mrs. Rodriguez claimed that misused public funds. She also provided hundreds of pages of confidential information to the school district. The school district took a keen interest in her accusations, fully reviewed the issues, and satisfied itself that the GVCA and its board fully complied with Colorado law and district policy.
2. **The Jefferson County District Attorney.** Mrs. Rodriguez lodged a criminal complaint against GVCA with the district attorney for First Judicial District, claiming that GVCA misused public funds. That office conducted an investigation and quickly determined the accusations to have no merit.
3. **The Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI).** Mrs. Rodriguez presented herself to the Executive Director of CSI, again claiming the misuse of public funds and conflicts of interest among the board, and provided a substantial amount of collateral material. CSI reviewed the matter and satisfied itself that her complaints had been taken seriously, and had not violated Colorado law or Department of Education policy.
4. **The GVCA Board.** When Mrs. Rodriguez first made her accusations, the GVCA Board promptly sought an independent review from Mr. Jason Dunn, now United States Attorney for the District Colorado. Board members subjected to Mrs. Rodriguez's accusations recused themselves from the selection process. Mr. Dunn thoroughly

investigated the claims, and he issued a findings letter that stating there was no wrongdoing. At the conclusion of the investigation, Mrs. Rodriguez stated she did not have any more questions or accusations.

5. **Hillsdale College, GVCA's Sponsoring College.** Mrs. Rodriguez's complained to Hillsdale College about the GVCA's misuse of public funds and misconduct by board members. The college took these accusations seriously, flying the chief of staff Hillsdale College to Colorado for the sole purpose of investigating the matter. Following his review, he determined there was no wrongdoing.
6. **The GVCA Legal Counsel.** Even before the above investigations and reviews, Mr. Brad Miller, of Miller Farmer Law, investigated Mrs. Rodriguez's specific claims in the spring of 2018. He did not find any wrongdoing. And Mrs. Rodriguez did not raise additional concerns following Mr. Miller's investigation and review.
7. **GVCA Donors.** Prior to any formal review, Mrs. Rodriguez demanded that Mr. Shuler, the Chair of the Board of Directors resign from the Board of Directors of Golden View Classical Academy, stating she could manage the school better. Mrs. Rodriguez went so far as to complain to GVCA's donors. GVCA's largest donor expressed concern and scheduled a meeting with Mrs. Rodriguez and Mr. Shuler. The donor satisfied himself that GVCA, its board, and Mr. Shuler had conducted themselves with integrity. Mrs. Rodriguez has subsequently written an incomplete and misleading memorandum regarding this meeting – a characterization with which the donor strongly disagrees.

In short, Mrs. Rodriguez has made multiple accusations against GVCA to a variety of people and institutions. GVCA and its Board has received exceptional scrutiny, all of which has discredited Mrs. Rodriguez's claims. Indeed her actions have now taken on the flavor of a personal vendetta, without basis in law or fact.

Please understand that Golden View Academy, the Golden View Classical Academy Board of Directors, Ascent Classical Academies, and I all stand prepared to refute, in detail, any accusations brought by Mrs. Rodriguez.

At the same time, I ask that the Board to disregard the recent accusations, and not allow Mrs. Rodriguez to derail Ascent Classical Academy Flatirons's application.

Sincerely,



Derec Shuler
Executive Director
Ascent Classical Academies