

June 27, 2013

Parents and Teachers of North Star Charter School,

I want to take this opportunity to provide an update on Tuesday's Meridian School District Board meeting and thank you again for your continuous support of North Star as we've worked through the financial issues of the past year. As you know, we were successful in negotiating a Forbearance Agreement with the Trustee and Bondholders that resulted in:

- 1) Approximately \$650,000 from reserves to finish this past school year,
- 2) A reduction of nearly \$850,000 from the amount of money they would normally take from our State funding that will allow us to continue to provide the quality education next year that you all expect from North Star, and
- 3) A respectful working relationship with the Bondholders, their Trustee, and their legal counsel that will help us as we negotiate a long-term solution to our debt problems.

This information was presented to the Meridian School Board Tuesday night. However, they were not satisfied by the terms of the Forbearance Agreement and acted to issue an "intent to revoke" our Charter. We are convinced that their action is unsupported by fact and is improper by law. It is unclear why they decided to proceed in this way, and we are still awaiting their formal notification and action.

Be assured that while the Meridian School District may not appreciate North Star, your Board of Trustees does very much appreciate everything that is North Star!

Tuesday night's motion is legally nothing more than a declaration of their intent to continue the process to revoke our Charter (which began when they issued the Notice of Defect), so **the Charter has not been revoked**. Once we receive their official notice of intent, we will have 30 days to respond. Upon receiving North Star's response, Meridian has 30 additional days to hold a public hearing about the issue – a hearing that we will urge you all to attend and show support for keeping the school open. If, after that public hearing, Meridian decides to attempt to revoke North Star's charter, we would expect to appeal such a decision to the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education is the ultimate decision-maker with respect to our Charter, not the Meridian School District. We are confident that we are right in terms of both the law and the financial stability of North Star, and will explore all possible avenues to fight what we perceive to be an unjustified and inappropriate effort by the Meridian School District to end the life of North Star.

So, while we continue down this bumpy road, I want to stress that nothing has changed in our hearts or our profound desire to keep North Star in the business of teaching our kids. We plan to proceed as intended and will be working to form a parent action committee to respond as an information conduit and resource while

we work towards a resolution. **We fully expect be open for school on August 22nd** and urge you to continue to support us and be there to join us and kick off another enriching year at North Star.

We have not yet scheduled another town hall meeting, but one will be held as soon as we have more information to share with you. We also ask for your help at the right times to make it clear to Meridian School District that there are too many people who care deeply about North Star to allow the school to fail at their hand. Stay tuned and stay positive!

Deepest thanks and regards,

Jim Miller, Board Chairman