

February 24, 2019

Dear Conservatory Lab Charter School community:

I am pleased to announce that earlier today the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved Conservatory Lab Charter School's charter renewal for a new five year term! I want to thank you all for your support and commitment to our school and its mission.

As you know, CLCS provides a unique educational opportunity for the students of Boston. Our school combines El Sistema and EL Education (formerly Expeditionary Learning) to create a unique musically integrated curriculum and school culture that promotes creativity, critical thinking, active engagement, hands-on learning, cooperation, and collaboration.

Over the last five years, we have undergone significant changes, from moving our facility from Brighton to Dorchester, to expanding our enrollment and grade structure. I want to thank all of you - the school's teachers, parents, students and leadership team - that supported us through these changes. The charter renewal is a nearly year long process that allows the Department of Education to review all aspects of our school, including curriculum, assessment, classroom observations, teacher focus groups and meetings with school leaders. During this process, the hard work of students and staff showcased our alignment to the mission and vision of the school, as well as the academic growth of our students. This renewal validates all of your hard work.

As part of its renewal, Commissioner Riley implemented several conditions that need to be addressed in the coming year and communicated to all stakeholders. These conditions are not related to the school's performance, but rather to the relationship between CLCS, the CLCS Foundation and the Center for Artistry and Scholarship (CAS). The conditions are:

1. *By February 28, 2019, CLCS must submit evidence to the Department that it has provided the school community with notice of the school's renewal with conditions that the school must meet. The school must inform parents/guardians, teachers, staff, board members, and students of the school's current status.*
2. *By June 30, 2019 CLCS's board of trustees must clarify the relationship among the school, the Conservatory Lab Charter School Foundation, and the Center for Artistry and Scholarship pertaining to issues including, but not limited to, services provided, funding, agreements, facilities, and staffing.*
3. *By November 1, 2019, the school must include in its annual financial audits all entities that should be reported as component units according to the standards of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) or an alternative plan, approved by the Department, to provide full financial transparency for all transactions and organizational relationships that impact the fiscal viability and health of the school.*

You will be hearing more about this in the coming months after we have been able to meet with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to better understand their concerns.

We are excited to continue the growth of our school community over the next five years, especially as we break ground on a new upper school campus in the coming months.

Sincerely,



Katherine H. Sloan
Chair, Conservatory Lab Charter School Board of Trustees