



MAYOR DENNIS TYLER
City of MUNCIE
MUNCIE, INDIANA

October 31, 2018

Joshua Owens, Chairman
Indiana Charter School Board
143 West Market Street, Suite 400
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Owens:

Please accept this letter as my official opposition in regards to the WAY Academy's submission of a charter application in Muncie, Indiana. As Mayor of the great city of Muncie and strong advocate for Muncie Community Schools (MCS), I strongly oppose the application by WAY Academy to operate a charter school in Muncie.

This year, dramatic changes have been made to reform MCS, beginning with the positioning of Ball State University (BSU) to govern the school district. With this newly implemented change in leadership, the students, parents, staff, and community deserve the time to allow this transition to work.

After thorough review and consideration of many factors including that of the WAY Academy's application, I have concluded the following:

- The addition of a new charter school to the city of Muncie would disrupt the improving enrollment in MCS and would have adverse effects to not only MCS as a whole, but most importantly to the children left behind.
- Locally run schools are in the best interests of the children and taxpayers in the Muncie community, not an out-of-state charter company who has no stake in our children nor the success of their futures.
- Charter schools are not a proven solution to helping children. Increasingly more research suggests that charter schools can have a negative impact on student learning.
- Charter schools exacerbates segregation of public schools.
- The proposed services and programs being offered are no different and likely inferior to the services and programs already offered through MCS. Furthermore, with BSU, a highly recognized university governing MCS, academic services and programs will only be reinforced and become more expansive.
- Evaluations of WAY Academy's other charter schools according to the Michigan Department of Education has given me reasons to doubt their ability to provide the quality education that our children deserve.

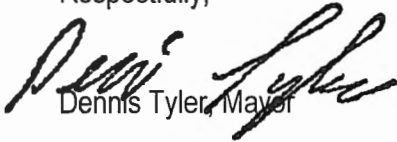


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BSU and the newly appointed MCS school board are vigorously working to create and implement a long-term plan for MCS with a focus toward heightened academic excellence and financial growth and stability. This change in leadership has given renewed hope to our community, students, and staff. Those actively involved in the revitalization of MCS have personal connections with this community and strive for its prosperity and success.

I strongly urge you to disallow WAY Academy charter school from invading the city of Muncie when our community and school district are finally recovering from an arduous contrivance earlier this year. We are adapting and adjusting and making great efforts with BSU for the betterment of our children and community.

Respectfully,


Dennis Tyler, Mayor