

January 24, 2024

Dear Quest Charter Families,

This letter is to inform you about an important development regarding Quest Charter Academy's rechartering with Peoria Public Schools ("PPS150") in Peoria, Illinois.

As you already heard, the Board of Education for PPS150, which is Quest's authorizing entity, voted to deny Quest's charter renewal application at their regular board meeting on January 22, 2024. While this decision is disappointing, please be assured that we are committed to appealing this decision. It is important to note that the vote was to deny renewal of the Charter Agreement and Quest remains chartered throughout the rest of this school year. In other words, this school year will continue as planned.

The Charter Schools law provides a mechanism for appeal of the PPS150's decision to the Illinois State Board of Education ("ISBE"). PPS150 must provide to the State Board their decision and reasoning on or before Monday, January 29, 2024. Quest will have an opportunity to make a request for appeal of the decision within 21 days of the vote to not renew. Upon that request for appeal, the State Board of Education will appoint an independent hearing officer to review the appeal and hear oral arguments from both sides. That hearing officer will then make a recommendation to the State Superintendent Tony Sanders, who will forward his findings and a recommendation to the State Board of Education for a final decision. If the State Board of Education finds that Quest is in compliance with the Charter Schools law and it is in the best interest of the students, it may reverse Peoria Public School's decision. If it does so, the State Board of Education will become Quest's authorizing entity, not Peoria Public Schools. We anticipate this process will not conclude, however, until late Spring.

We understand that this news raises not only concerns but many questions. Please be aware that we will be available to answer any questions you may have, and that we are working to appeal this decision. During this time, we want to remain focused on student learning. So, please continue to do what you always have done. Your support at this time is crucial. Together we will finish the year strong.

If Quest's appeal is unsuccessful, under charter school law, students must be assigned to a district school that is performing higher than Quest, as measured by the weighted accountability index found on the state school report card. Quest's weighted accountability index is 47.71, which was designated as "Commendable". Only 4 other middle schools in PPS150 meet this requirement: Liberty Leadership, Reservoir Gifted, Rolling Acres and Mark Bills. Only 1 high school, Richwoods, satisfies this requirement.

To address your questions, we will host virtual town hall meetings and an in-person town-hall meeting. The first in-person meeting will occur on Monday, January 29th beginning at 7pm.at the high school (room 118).

We will also have two virtual meetings. The first virtual meetings will be held Tuesday, January 30th, at 9am and 12:30pm. The next virtual meetings will be held Wednesday, January 31st, at 9am and 12:30pm. Use the following links to attend the virtual meetings:

1/30/24- [meet.google.com/hwv-wsnh-bcm](https://meet.google.com/hwv-wsnh-bcm)

1/31/24- [meet.google.com/sqx-azzj-qqe](https://meet.google.com/sqx-azzj-qqe)

Please mark your calendars to attend one of these scheduled meetings. If you are unable to attend either of these meetings, please go to the Quest website and select the rechartering dropdown to view the most asked questions/answers.

We remain committed to our families and students!

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Quest Charter Academy Administration