

Deborah Kaplan  
1225 Street Road  
Chester Springs, PA 19425

September 1, 2005

Dear Renaissance Academy Board of Directors,

I am a proud and dedicated parent of 2 Renaissance Academy students. Before its charter was passed, I supported the Renaissance Academy, by attending meetings at the Holy Ghost Hall, Steel City Café and numerous Phoenixville Area School District Board Meetings. I helped build floats for the Dogwood Festival Parade and marched in the parades as well. My husband Erik helped to literally put the modules together and helped build the fence and outside stage. I sewed and hung the curtains in the class rooms. I was on the board of the FSO and am still an active member. I chaperon field trips, help with classroom parties and bake endless cupcakes. When the Renaissance Academy board solicited financial help, I pledged generously. I am starting my 6<sup>th</sup> year as a part time employee at the Renaissance Academy where I interact with the staff and students daily. As you can see, I am knowledgeable of the Renaissance Academy and committed to its success.

Referring to the minutes to the June 13<sup>th</sup> – board meeting, under New Business –Discuss: New CEO Position. One line item away under other *announcements / **new business** -- **Announce** resignation of Andi McGunnigle, Board President as of June 30, 2005...that motion passes. VOTE: Peg made a motion to nominate Andi McGunnigle for CEO position, that motion passes. Responsibilities will include: Financial and strategic planning, operations of the school, grant writing, leading activities related to the vision, i.e. marketing, enrollment and other duties as assigned. The CEO will report to the Board at monthly meetings formally and ongoing as necessary.*

*(Whew that was fast)*

***I can't help but wonder -- was there a conflict of interest? Was Andi still the President of the Board when this position was created? I don't remember reading about this in minutes of previous meeting. Was this position discussed at a public meeting? If not, why not? An extensive national search took place to when Angie Padrnos left last year. Why not for a CEO? How did the president of the board move to CEO in one swift move?***

Why do we need a CEO? Why do we pay Edison a huge management fee? Isn't it their responsibility to manage the *Financial and strategic planning, operations of the school, and grant writing and the rest?*

*Financial and strategic planning -* The Board is about to successfully finish the bond issue. Most of the work was done *before* we had a CEO.

As for strategic planning I *can't help but wonder* isn't it the Board of **Directors** who are supposed to give **direction**?

Operations of the school. - From Home?

Grant writing – The October 11, 2004 minutes of the board meeting state that a motion was passed to pay any person 10% of the grant award except board members. What are the CEO goals for grant writing? *I can't help but wonder*, are we paying the CEO the 10% in anticipation of a very large grant award?

Enrollment --- what increases in enrollment can we expect with the addition of a CEO?

*I can't help but wonder* didn't this happen once before? Five years ago Andi was a member of the board and in one swift move went from board member to Business Services Manager. After only a few months, Andi resigned as Business Services Manager. *I can't help but wonder*, were there other qualified people that could have filled *that* position?

What are the goals for the CEO and what if those goals are not reached?

*I can't help but wonder* did you follow the appropriate business measures to fill this swiftly created, highly visible and well-paid position?

Did you the Renaissance Academy Board of Directors, in good conscience, use the core values of Responsibility and Integrity when you made your decision?

Respectfully,

  
Deborah Kaplan

CC: Andi McGunnigle ,Founder and CEO  
Jenifer MacFarland, Principal and CAO