



To: Dr. James D. Smith  
Grand Valley State University Field Representative

From: Dr. Timothy H. Wood  
Special Assistant to the President for Charter Schools

Date: November 12, 2010

Re: Detroit Enterprise Academy Board Minutes, October 13, 2010

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At the upcoming Detroit Enterprise Academy Board meeting, please clarify Number 7, Item g. of the Academy's proposed minutes dated October 13, 2010. While the essence of the statement is accurate, the account requires further clarification.

The Detroit Enterprise Academy is scheduled for reauthorization in 2011. The reauthorization process is an evaluative process where Grand Valley State University determines if the Academy has complied with the contractual standards agreed to by the authorizer and the Academy and whether the contract should be renewed for an additional seven years.

The evaluative components of the reauthorizing process include, but are not limited to, student academic performance on the State MEAP Test and the Measure of Academic Progress Assessment as well as comparative data with neighboring schools and districts.

Additionally, the evaluative review includes compliance with state and federal standards, sound fiscal policies, steadily increasing enrollment, and teacher and administrative certification.

My position regarding Detroit Enterprise Academy's reauthorization is that the evaluative measures we would use to evaluate the school's performance would cease to exist if the Board were to not employ National Heritage Academies (NHA). NHA employs the faculty and administration; NHA owns the building, curriculum, and the equipment.

If NHA were replaced as the management company, these components would cease to exist. The students would be forced to attend another school other than Detroit Enterprise Academy. The metrics used by Grand Valley State University would not be available to determine the school's future success, as the only entity still in existence would be the Detroit Enterprise Academy Board of Education.

Thus, GVSU could not reauthorize Detroit Enterprise Academy without a stable management agreement, as the historical data we use to evaluate school effectiveness would not be in existence. The school's historical performance would not be an indicator of future success.