

CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FILED
JUL 11 2016

EDDIE JEAN CARR, CHANCERY CLERK
BY _____ D.C.

Charles Araujo, Evelyn S Garner Araujo,)
Cassandra Overton-Welchlin, John Sewell,)
Kimberly Sewell, Lutaya Stewart, and Arthur)
Brown, all on behalf of themselves as taxpayers)
and as next friends of their minor children,)

Plaintiffs,)

v.)

Governor Phil Bryant, the Mississippi)
Department of Education, and the Jackson Public)
School District,)

Defendants.)

Civil Action No. 62-2016-1008 93

COMPLAINT

1. This is a state constitutional challenge to the funding provisions of the Mississippi Charter Schools Act of 2013 ("CSA"), Miss. Code § 37-28-1, *et seq.* The CSA diverts public money to charter schools through two funding streams: ad valorem tax funds from local school districts and per-pupil funds from the Mississippi Department of Education ("MDE"). Both funding streams are unconstitutional and must be struck down.

2. Section 206 of the Mississippi Constitution provides that a school district's ad valorem taxes may only be used for the district to maintain its own schools. Under the CSA, public school districts must share ad valorem tax revenue with charter schools that they do not control or supervise. Requiring a school district to distribute ad valorem tax revenue to a school outside its control is unconstitutional. Therefore, the local funding stream of the CSA is unconstitutional.

3. Section 208 of the Mississippi Constitution forbids the Legislature from appropriating money to any school that is not operating as a “free school.” A “free school” is not merely a school that charges no tuition; it must also be regulated by the State Superintendent of Education and the local school district superintendent. Charter schools – which are *not* under the control of the State Board of Education, the State Superintendent of Education, the Mississippi Department of Education, the local school district superintendent, or the local school district – are not “free schools.” Accordingly, the state funding provision of the CSA is unconstitutional.

4. Currently, two charter schools, Reimagine Prep (“Reimagine Charter”) and Midtown Public Charter School (“Midtown Charter”), are operating in Mississippi pursuant to the CSA. Both of these schools are located within the boundaries of the Jackson Public School District (“JPS”). During the 2015-2016 school year, both charter schools received (1) per-pupil funding from MDE and (2) ad valorem tax revenue from JPS. Reimagine Charter and Midtown Charter are not under the control of the State Board of Education, MDE, or JPS.

5. As a result of the funding provisions of the CSA, JPS schoolchildren lost more than \$1.85 million in state per-pupil funding and ad valorem tax revenue in the 2015-2016 school year alone. JPS could have spent \$1.85 million on 42 teacher salaries,¹ 18 new school buses,² guidance counselors for 6,870 students, or vocational education programming for 6,672 students.³

¹ According to the most recent data available from MDE, the average salary of a classroom teacher in JPS is \$43,744. See *Superintendent’s Annual Report*, MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/MBE/R2016> (follow “Classroom Teacher Count and Average Salary” hyperlink) (last visited July 11, 2016).

² See Sarah Fowler, *JPS in financial crisis, superintendent says*, THE CLARION-LEDGER (May 3, 2016, 5:23 PM), <http://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/2016/05/02/state-budget-cuts-causing-financial-crisis-jps/83825748/>.

³ See Cedrick Gray & Sharolyn Miller, *Jackson Public Schools 2016-2017 Proposed Budget*, JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, http://www.jackson.k12.ms.us/cms/lib011/MS01910533/Centricity/Domain/4/2016-17_proposed_budget.pdf (last visited July 10, 2016).

6. During the 2016-2017 school year, a third charter school will open within JPS's geographic boundaries. All three charter schools will receive state funds from MDE and local ad valorem tax revenue from JPS. Between these three charter schools, JPS stands to lose more than \$4 million during the 2016-2017 school year.

7. The CSA heralds a financial cataclysm for public school districts across the state. In the spring of 2016, charter school companies submitted Letters of Intent to open a total of fourteen new charter schools throughout Mississippi. Eleven of these proposed charter schools would be within JPS's boundaries, and the other three proposed charter schools would be within Sunflower County, Tunica County, and Newton County.

8. Although not all proposed charter schools subsequently submitted applications for approval, the future is clear: as a direct result of the unconstitutional CSA funding provisions, traditional public schools will have fewer teachers, books, and educational resources. These schools will no longer be able to provide Mississippi schoolchildren the education that they are constitutionally entitled to receive.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

9. The injunctions sought in this case are requests in equity. Therefore, subject-matter jurisdiction over this suit lies with the Chancery Court. Miss. Const. art. VI, § 159(a).

10. Venue is proper because a suit against the State must be brought in the county where the seat of government is located. Miss. Code § 11-45-1.

PARTIES

11. Charles Araujo and Evelyn S Garner Araujo are Plaintiffs in this lawsuit. They own a home at 4519 Brook Drive in Jackson, Mississippi. They have two children who are students in the Jackson Public School District. Mr. Araujo and Mrs. Garner Araujo bring this suit

as taxpayers and next friends of their minor children. C. Araujo Affidavit (*see* Ex. 1); E. Garner Araujo Affidavit (*see* Ex. 2).

12. Cassandra Overton-Welchlin is a Plaintiff in this lawsuit. Mrs. Overton-Welchlin and her husband own a home at 157 Glenmary Street in Jackson, Mississippi. They have two children who are students in the Jackson Public School District. Mrs. Overton-Welchlin brings this suit as a taxpayer and next friend of her minor children. C. Overton-Welchlin Affidavit (*see* Ex. 3).

13. John and Kimberly Sewell are Plaintiffs in this lawsuit. They own a home at 3825 Hawthorn Drive in Jackson, Mississippi. They have three children who are students in the Jackson Public School District. The Sewells bring this suit as taxpayers and next friends of their minor children. J. Sewell Affidavit (*see* Ex. 4); K. Sewell Affidavit (*see* Ex. 5).

14. Lutaya Stewart is a Plaintiff in this lawsuit. She owns a home at 359 Park Lane in Jackson, Mississippi. Ms. Stewart has a foster daughter who is a student in the Jackson Public School District. Ms. Stewart brings this suit as a taxpayer and next friend of her minor foster child. L. Stewart Affidavit (*see* Ex. 6).

15. Arthur Brown is a Plaintiff in this lawsuit. Mr. Brown and his wife own a home at 1455 Springdale Drive in Jackson, Mississippi. They have three children who are students in the Jackson Public School District. Mr. Brown brings this suit as a taxpayer and next friend of his minor children. A. Brown Affidavit (*see* Ex. 7).

16. Governor Phil Bryant is a Defendant in this lawsuit. Governor Bryant is the Chief Executive of the State of Mississippi and is responsible for upholding the laws of the State of Mississippi. Governor Bryant may be served with process upon the Honorable Jim Hood,

Attorney General of the State of Mississippi, at 550 High Street, Suite 1200, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Miss. Code § 11-45-3; Miss. R. Civ. P. 4(d)(5).

17. The Mississippi Department of Education (“MDE”) is a Defendant in this lawsuit. MDE is responsible for the administration, management, and control of public schools in Mississippi. Miss. Code § 37-3-5. The CSA requires MDE to divert public taxpayer funds from public school districts to charter schools. Miss. Code § 37-28-55(1)(a). MDE may be served with process upon the Honorable Jim Hood, Attorney General of the State of Mississippi, at 550 High Street, Suite 1200, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Miss. Code § 11-45-3; Miss. R. Civ. P. 4(d)(5).

18. The Jackson Public School District (“JPS”) is a Defendant in this lawsuit. The only two charter schools currently operating in Mississippi are located within JPS’s geographic boundaries. The CSA requires JPS to divert a portion of its ad valorem tax revenue to the charter schools operating within its boundaries. Miss. Code § 37-28-55(2). JPS may be served with process upon Dr. Cedrick Gray, JPS Superintendent, at 662 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Miss. R. Civ. P. 4(d)(8).

FACTS

I. The CSA diverts public taxpayer funds to charter schools.

19. The foregoing allegations are incorporated by reference herein.

20. The CSA was passed by the Mississippi Legislature and signed into law by Governor Bryant in 2013. Codified at Miss. Code § 37-28-1, *et seq.*, the CSA provides for the establishment of charter schools statewide.

21. The CSA provides taxpayer funding to charter schools through two funding streams: per-pupil state funds from MDE and ad valorem tax funds from the local school district where the student attending the charter school resides.

22. With respect to the state funding stream, the CSA provides, “[t]he State Department of Education shall make payments to charter schools for each student in average daily attendance at the charter school equal to the state share of the adequate education program payments for each student in average daily attendance at the school district in which the charter school is located.” Miss. Code § 37-28-55(1)(a).

23. As for the local funding stream, the CSA provides two methods for allocating ad valorem tax revenue depending on where the student resides.

24. For a student enrolled in a charter school located within the geographic boundaries of the school district where he resides, “[t]he school district in which a charter school is located shall pay directly to the charter school an amount for each student enrolled in the charter school equal to the ad valorem tax receipts and in-lieu payments received per pupil for the support of the local school district in which the student resides.” Miss. Code § 37-28-55(2).

25. For a student who attends a charter school located outside the geographic boundaries of the school district where he resides, the CSA provides that “the State Department of Education shall pay to the charter school in which the student is enrolled . . . the pro rata ad valorem receipts and in-lieu payments per pupil for the support of the local school district in which the student resides.” Miss. Code § 37-28-55(3).

26. Regardless of whether the local school district or the State Department of Education allocates the ad valorem tax revenue to the charter school, the result is the same: the public school district loses a portion of its ad valorem tax revenue to charter schools.

II. The Mississippi Constitution places limits on the allocation of public taxpayer funds to schools.

A. Section 206 of the Mississippi Constitution prohibits the Legislature from redistributing a school district's ad valorem tax revenue.

27. Section 206 of the Mississippi Constitution provides, “[a]ny county or separate school district may levy an additional tax, as prescribed by general law, to maintain its schools.” Miss. Const. art. VIII, § 206 (emphasis added). Section 206 allows a public school district to raise ad valorem taxes, or property taxes, for the maintenance and operation of its own schools.

28. In 2012, the Mississippi Supreme Court held: “[T]he plain language of the current version of Section 206 . . . clearly states that a school district may tax to fund ‘its schools,’ leaving no room for an interpretation allowing the Legislature to mandate that the funds be distributed elsewhere.” *Pascagoula Sch. Dist. v. Tucker*, 91 So. 3d. 598, 607 (Miss. 2012).

29. Under Section 206, a school district's ad valorem taxes may only be used to fund schools that are part of that school system.

30. A charter school is not part of the school district where it is geographically located. *See* Miss. Code § 37-28-45(3); Miss. Code § 37-28-39(6).

31. Therefore, under Section 206 a school district's ad valorem tax revenue may not be distributed to charter schools.

B. Section 208 of the Mississippi Constitution prohibits the Legislature from allocating public funds for schools that are not supervised by both the State superintendent and the local school district superintendent.

32. Section 208 of the Mississippi Constitution forbids the Mississippi Legislature from appropriating public funds to “any school that at the time of receiving such appropriation is not conducted as a free school.” Miss. Const. art. VIII, § 208.

33. The Mississippi Supreme Court defined “free school” to mean a school that is “under the general supervision of the State superintendent and the local supervision of the county superintendent.” *Otken v. Lamkin*, 56 Miss. 758, 764 (1879) (emphasis added).

34. The Mississippi Supreme Court reaffirmed this definition years later, explaining that “[i]n order for a school to be within the system of free public schools required by section 201 of the Constitution, the establishment and control thereof must be vested in the public officials charged with the duty of establishing and supervising that system of schools.” *State Teachers’ College v. Morris*, 144 So. 374, 376 (1932) (citing *Lamkin*, 56 Miss. 758 (1879) (internal quotation marks omitted)).

35. A charter school is not under the general supervision of the State Superintendent of Education and the local superintendent of education. *See* Miss. Code Ann. § 37-28-45(5); Miss. Code § 37-28-45(3).

36. Therefore, under Section 208, public funds may not be allocated to charter schools.

III. Charter schools are not subject to the same oversight and rules that govern traditional public schools.

37. Charter schools are funded by public taxpayer dollars, but they are not subject to the same oversight and rules that govern traditional public schools.

38. Local school boards have no oversight over charter schools located within the geographic boundaries of their school districts. Miss. Code § 37-28-45(3). In contrast, traditional public schools are controlled by the local school board where the traditional public school is located. Miss. Code § 37-7-301.

39. Charter schools are not subject to regulation by the State Board of Education or the State Department of Education. Miss. Code § 37-28-45(5). In contrast, traditional public

schools are subject to regulation by the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education. Miss. Code § 37-3-5.

40. Charter school administrators are exempt from state administrator licensure requirements. Miss. Code § 37-28-47(1)(a). In contrast, administrators of traditional public schools must follow the state administrator licensure requirements. Miss. Code § 37-9-7.

41. As many as 25 percent of teachers in a charter school may be exempt from state teacher licensure requirements at the time the initial charter application is approved. Miss. Code § 37-28-47(1)(a). In contrast, 95 percent of traditional public school teachers must meet state teacher licensure requirements. Miss. Code § 37-3-2(6)(e).

42. Charter school teachers are exempt from state minimum salary requirements. Miss. Code § 37-28-47(2). In contrast, traditional public schools must pay their teachers in accordance with a state salary scale that establishes salary minimums based on years of experience and licensure type. Miss. Code § 37-19-7(1).

IV. As a result of the unconstitutional funding provisions in the CSA, JPS lost more than \$1.85 million to charter schools during Fiscal Year 2016.

43. Reimagine Charter, located at 309 West McDowell Road in Jackson, Mississippi, enrolled 121 students during the 2015-2016 school year.

44. In compliance with the CSA, JPS surrendered \$317,487.06 in ad valorem tax revenue to Reimagine Charter during the 2015-2016 school year. JPS Payment Records (*see* Ex. 8).

45. In compliance with the CSA, MDE surrendered \$643,027.00 in state funds to Reimagine Charter for Fiscal Year 2016. Reimagine Charter Financial Records (*see* Ex. 9).

46. Accordingly, MDE and JPS remitted a total of \$960,514.06 to Reimagine Charter in the 2015-2016 school year. But for the CSA, those funds would have been spent on JPS schoolchildren.

47. Midtown Charter, located at 301 Adelle Street in Jackson, Mississippi, enrolled 106 students during the 2015-2016 school year.

48. In compliance with the CSA, JPS surrendered \$278,129.16 in ad valorem tax revenue to Midtown Charter during the 2015-2016 school year. JPS Payment Records (*see* Ex. 8, *supra*).

49. In compliance with the CSA, MDE surrendered \$618,189.00 in state funds to Midtown Charter for Fiscal Year 2016. Midtown Charter Financial Records (*see* Ex. 10).

50. Accordingly, MDE and JPS remitted a total of \$896,318.16 to Midtown Charter in the 2015-2016 school year. But for the CSA, those funds would have been spent on JPS schoolchildren.

51. As a result of the funding provisions of the CSA, JPS lost more than \$1.85 million to Reimagine Charter and Midtown Charter during the 2015-2016 school year.

	State per-pupil funds surrendered by MDE	Ad valorem tax funds surrendered by JPS	Total
Reimagine Charter	\$643,027.00	\$317,487.06	\$960,514.06
Midtown Charter	\$618,189.00	\$278,129.16	\$896,318.16
		Total	\$1,856,832.22

Table 1: Public funding received by charter schools during the 2015-2016 school year.

52. JPS stands to lose even more funding to charter schools during the 2016-2017 school year. A new charter school, Smilow Prep (“Smilow Prep Charter”), will open within JPS’s boundaries, with an anticipated enrollment of 119 students. Additionally, both Reimagine Charter and Midtown Charter anticipate substantial growth in enrollment.

53. Based on the expected enrollment of these three charter schools, JPS will lose more than \$4 million to charter schools in the 2016-2017 school year.

V. Charter schools will drain funding from traditional public school districts statewide.

54. The expansion of charter schools heralds a financial cataclysm for public school districts across the state.

55. Currently, four charter school applications are pending before the Authorizer Board. Each charter school would open within the geographic boundaries of JPS.

56. During the 2016 legislative session, the Mississippi Legislature passed Senate Bill 2161, which allows students in school districts rated “C,” “D,” or “F” by MDE to cross district lines – and take state per-pupil and local ad valorem funding with them – to attend charter schools. *See* Miss. Code § 37-28-23(1)(b).

57. This expansion of charter schools will deplete public funds from traditional public school districts across the state, and will do so without any oversight from the State Board of Education, MDE, or the local school district.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

CLAIM NO. 1: DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF FOR THE VIOLATION OF SECTION 206 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION

58. All previous paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference as if fully restated.

59. Section 206 of the Mississippi Constitution provides that “[a]ny county or separate school district may levy an additional tax, as prescribed by general law, to maintain its schools.”

60. Section 206 only allows ad valorem tax revenue to be used for the maintenance of the levying school district’s schools.

61. Remitting ad valorem tax revenue to charter schools pursuant to Section 37-28-55(2) of the Mississippi Code violates Section 206 of the Mississippi Constitution.

62. Therefore, the Defendants must be enjoined from enforcing or complying with Section 37-28-55(2) of the Mississippi Code.

CLAIM NO. 2: DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF FOR THE VIOLATION OF SECTION 208 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION

63. All previous paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference as if fully restated.

64. Section 208 of the Mississippi Constitution provides as follows:

No religious or other sect or sects shall ever control any part of the school or other educational funds of this state; nor shall any funds be appropriated toward the support of any sectarian school, or to any school that at the time of receiving such appropriation is not conducted as a free school.

65. Charter schools, as provided for by the CSA, are not “free schools” within the meaning of Section 208.

66. Payments of public funds to charter schools pursuant to Section 37-28-55(1) of the Mississippi Code violate Section 208 of the Mississippi Constitution.

67. Therefore, the Defendants must be enjoined from enforcing or complying with Section 37-28-55(1) of the Mississippi Code.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

68. Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court:

69. Declare the funding provisions of the CSA unconstitutional under the Mississippi Constitution;

70. Enter an order permanently enjoining the Defendants from enforcing or complying with the funding provisions of the CSA; and

71. Award all other relief, including general relief, to which the Court deems the Plaintiffs to be entitled.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 11th day of July 2016.



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EXHIBIT 1

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

AFFIDAVIT OF CHARLES A. ARAUJO

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

On this day came before me the undersigned CHARLES A. ARAUJO and, being duly sworn, stated as follows:

1. I am an adult resident of Jackson, Mississippi. I have never been convicted of a felony, and I am not under any mental disability.
2. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Millsaps College in 1976 and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1980.
3. I worked as a school social worker and functional behavioral specialist in Jackson Public Schools in Jackson, Mississippi for a combined total of twenty-one years. In these positions, I helped students learn appropriate behaviors and social skills, bridged communication and trust between students, families and school staff, provided abuse, neglect and behavioral management training for school and district staff, and conducted social assessments on students in need of services and supports. I retired from my positions at Jackson Public Schools in 2013.
4. I received several awards and recognitions in my social work career including: the 1980 Graduate Social Work Student of the Year, the 2003 Social Worker of the Year for the State of Mississippi, and the 2011 Jackson State University Social Work Field Instructor of the Year.
5. I currently teach Social Welfare Policy in the School of Social Work at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. I have worked in this position for two years.

6. I live with my wife, Evelyn S Garner Araujo, in the home we own at 4519 Brook Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39206. We pay ad valorem taxes on our home, and those tax obligations are current. See Exhibit A (tax records).

7. Evelyn and I have three children. All three of our children, J.A., M.A., and A.A., have been lifelong students in Jackson Public Schools.

8. J.A., our oldest child, attended Boyd and McWillie Elementary Schools, Chastain Middle School and Murrah High School in Jackson Public Schools. J.A. was a Duke Tip Scholar. (Duke Tip is a nonprofit organization devoted to meeting the academic and social needs of gifted students by motivating them to realize their full potential. Students qualify by scoring in the ninety-fifth percentile or above on a state standardized grade-level test.) In 2015, J.A. was the first Murrah High School student to receive the Academic All-American Award from the National Speech and Debate Association. During his senior year in high school, J.A. participated in Murrah High School's Base pair program, through which he collaborated on medical research at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. J.A. was the most improved runner on Murrah High School's cross country team during his sophomore year. He was a founding member of Murrah High School's swim team. A member of the National Junior and National Honor Societies, J.A. graduated third in his class from Murrah High School in 2015. J.A. is now enrolled at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where he is studying civil engineering.

9. M.A., our middle child, is 16 years old and during the 2016-2017 school year will be in the tenth grade at Murrah High School in Jackson Public Schools. Prior to attending Murrah High School, M.A. attended grades Pre-Kindergarten through sixth at McWillie Elementary School, and seventh and eighth grades at Bailey APAC Middle School. A participant

in Jackson Public Schools' gifted program through sixth grade, M.A. is an honors student and earns straight As. M.A. is enrolled in advanced courses, and participates in academic and extracurricular clubs. As a member of the Speech and Debate Team at Murrah High School, M.A. won first place in policy debate at the John C. Stennis Novice Speech and Debate Tournament at Mississippi State University. During the 2014-2015 school year, M.A. was a founding member of the Murrah High School swim team. He is also a member of the Murrah High School soccer team. Having already taken and excelled in Spanish I and II, M.A. would have taken Spanish III during the 2016-2017 school year, but Murrah High School does not offer a Spanish III course for students. M.A. is a long-time member of the Mississippi Boychoir, which he enjoys very much, and has been elected Head Choirboy by his peers for three consecutive years.

10. A.A., our youngest child, is 11 years old and during the 2016-2017 school year will be enrolled in the sixth grade at Bailey APAC Middle School in Jackson Public Schools. Prior to attending Bailey APAC Middle School, A.A. attended grades Pre-Kindergarten through fifth at McWillie Elementary School. A.A. is a Duke Tip scholar, and a 2015-2016 school year honor roll recipient. A.A. plans to participate in Power APAC's theater arts classes and advanced academics at Bailey APAC Middle School. He is a member of the Mississippi Boychoir and loves to cook in his free time.

11. As a taxpayer in Jackson, Mississippi, I expect that my property tax dollars will be used to support Jackson Public Schools. To date, all three of my children have had successful academic careers in Jackson Public Schools, and as a former employee of Jackson Public Schools, I understand that in order to properly educate its students, Jackson Public Schools must have sufficient funding. I fear that if Jackson Public Schools continues to send money to charter

schools in the district, programs for gifted and high performing students may be cut, and special education and related services reduced. District budgets for an already inefficient transportation system may be reduced, causing further disruption to students' school days. As personnel numbers decrease, school social worker and counselor caseloads may increase, meaning less time spent on individual academic, social, and behavioral counseling for students.

12. I expect schools funded with my taxpayer dollars to be accountable to the local board of education and the state board of education and follow the same accountability standards as other traditional public schools in the district and state. Based on my experience as a school district employee and a parent of three students in Jackson Public Schools, local and state board of education oversight is critical to ensuring that schools and districts create and implement, with fidelity, policies that support student growth and achievement. Local and state board of education oversight ensures that school district teachers meet minimum certification requirements, school districts provide reliable transportation for students to and from school, and behavioral, academic and social supports, as well as special education and related services which meet individual student needs, are provided by qualified personnel.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


CHARLES A. ARAUJO

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 24 day of June, 2016.


Notary



[SEAL]

EXHIBIT A



Hinds County
 MISSISSIPPI
 FOUNDED 1821 * POPULATION 248,643

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Real Property Billing Roll

Parcel Number		Tax Year		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Landroll Detail <input checked="" type="radio"/> Gis Map
435-52		2015		
Tax District		Mortgage Info		
R01		600 84074709		
Name			Values	
ARAUJO CHARLES A & EVELYN S 4519 BROOK DR JACKSON MS 39206			True 140,240 Assessed 14,024 Homestead Exemption	
Location			Accounts	
4519 BROOK DR			Regular 7,500	
Legal Description			Special 0	
LOT 12 MEADOW BROOK SUBN PT 2			Taxes Due	
Acreage Info.			State/County 537.54	
Cultivated Acres 0.00			Municipal 1 813.81	
Uncultivated Acres 0.00			Separate School Dist. 101 1,159.36	
Payments			MS1 0 0.00	
Date	Amount	Int./Fees	MS2 0 0.00	
01/28/16	2,210.71	0.00	Landscape Imp. Dist. 0.00	
No Property Taxes Are Due			Less Homestead Exemption 300.00	
			** Total Taxes ** 2,210.71	
			Total Paid 2,210.71	
			Fees	
			Tax Amount Now Due	
			Total Penalty Due	
			Net Amount Due 7/8/2016	

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EXHIBIT 2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

AFFIDAVIT OF EVELYN S GARNER ARAUJO

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

On this day came before me the undersigned EVELYN S GARNER ARAUJO and, being duly sworn, stated as follows:

1. I am an adult resident of Jackson, Mississippi. I have never been convicted of a felony, and I am not under any mental disability.

2. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies from Earlham University in 1986, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education of the Deaf from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1999, and a Master of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Belhaven College in 2006.

3. I am a teacher at the Mississippi School for the Deaf in Jackson, Mississippi. In this role, I teach deaf elementary students, some of whom have multiple exceptionalities. I have worked in this position for approximately five years.

4. I live with my husband, Charles A. Araujo, in the home we own at 4519 Brook Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39206. We pay ad valorem taxes on our home, and those tax obligations are current. See Exhibit A (tax records).

5. Charles and I have three children. All three of our children, J.A., M.A., and A.A., have been lifelong students in the Jackson Public School District.

6. J.A., our oldest child, attended Boyd and McWillie Elementary Schools, Chastain Middle School and Murrah High School in Jackson Public Schools. J.A. was a Duke Tip Scholar. (Duke Tip is a nonprofit organization devoted to meeting the academic and social needs

of gifted students by motivating them to realize their full potential. Students qualify by scoring in the ninety-fifth percentile or above on a state standardized grade-level test.) In 2015, J.A. was the first Murrah High School student to receive the Academic All-American Award from the National Speech and Debate Association. During his senior year in high school, J.A. participated in Murrah High School's Base pair program, through which he collaborated on medical research at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. J.A. was the most improved runner on Murrah High School's cross country team during his sophomore year. He was a founding member of Murrah High School's swim team. A member of the National Junior and National Honor Societies, J.A. graduated third in his class from Murrah High School in 2015. J.A. is now enrolled at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where he is studying civil engineering.

7. M.A., our middle child, is 16 years old and during the 2016-2017 school year will be in the tenth grade at Murrah High School in Jackson Public Schools. Prior to attending Murrah High School, M.A. attended grades Pre-Kindergarten through sixth at McWillie Elementary School, and seventh and eighth grades at Bailey APAC Middle School. A participant in Jackson Public Schools' gifted program through sixth grade, M.A. is an honors student and earns straight As. M.A. is enrolled in advanced courses, and participates in academic and extracurricular clubs. As a member of the Speech and Debate Team at Murrah High School, M.A. won first place in policy debate at the John C. Stennis Novice Speech and Debate Tournament at Mississippi State University. During the 2014-2015 school year, M.A. was a founding member of the Murrah High School swim team. He is also a member of the Murrah High School soccer team. Having already taken and excelled in Spanish I and II, M.A. would have taken Spanish III during the 2016-2017 school year, but Murrah High School does not offer

a Spanish III course for students. M.A. is a long-time member of the Mississippi Boychoir, which he enjoys very much, and has been elected Head Choirboy by his peers for three consecutive years.


8. A.A., our youngest child, is 11 years old and during the 2016-2017 school year will be enrolled in the sixth grade at Bailey APAC Middle School in Jackson Public Schools. Prior to attending Bailey APAC Middle School, A.A. attended grades Pre-Kindergarten through fifth at McWillie Elementary School. A.A. is a Duke Tip scholar, and a 2015-2016 school year honor roll recipient. A.A. plans to participate in Power APAC's theater arts classes and advanced academics at Bailey APAC Middle School. He is a member of the Mississippi Boychoir and loves to cook in his free time.

9. As a taxpayer in Jackson, Mississippi, I expect that my property tax dollars will be used to support Jackson Public Schools. As an educator, I value the importance of providing challenging academic opportunities for students. Jackson Public Schools is already an under-resourced school district that struggles to provide academically rigorous opportunities for its students. For example, Jackson Public School students are unable to enroll in many upper level and advanced placement courses such as Spanish III and Calculus simply because the district cannot afford to offer those courses at all of its high schools.

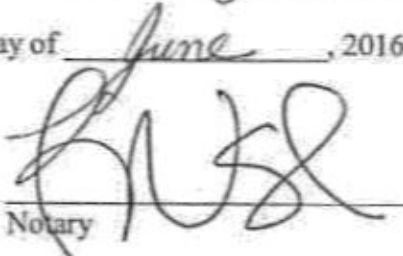
10. I fear that if Jackson Public Schools continues to send money to charter schools in the district, the school district will continue to make cuts to the upper level, advanced placement, and international baccalaureate courses offered to students. Extracurricular and athletic opportunities may suffer, impacting students' qualifications for certain college scholarships. Professional development opportunities for teachers and school staff may become even scarcer than they currently are.

11. When taxpayer funds are diverted from traditional public schools into charter schools, it limits the educational opportunities available to Jackson Public Schools' students. As a teacher and parent, I understand that the educational opportunities children experience during grades kindergarten through twelve are directly related to their success in college and the workforce. I expect my property tax dollars to be used to fund Jackson Public Schools so that the school district has the financial resources necessary to increase the educational opportunities available its students. In my experience as a parent and teacher, this means increasing the number of upper level, advanced placement, and international baccalaureate courses offered, ensuring that the district's magnet-themed schools have the funds necessary to meet certification requirements, expanding athletic and extracurricular programs, and sufficiently funding the district's transportation system so that it is fully staffed with qualified drivers and supervisors..

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


EVELYN S GARKYER ARAUJO

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 24th day of June, 2016.


Notary

[SEAL]



EXHIBIT A



Hinds County

MISSISSIPPI
FOUNDED 1821 * POPULATION 248,643

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Real Property Billing Roll

Parcel Number		Tax Year		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Landroll Detail <input checked="" type="radio"/> Gis Map	
435-52		2015			
Tax District		Mortgage Info			
R01		600 84074709			
Name		Values			
ARAUJO CHARLES A & EVELYN S		True	140,240		
4519 BROOK DR		Assessed	14,024		
JACKSON MS 39206		Homestead Exemption			
Location		Accounts	128582		
4519 BROOK DR		Regular	7,500		
Legal Description		Special	0		
LOT 12 MEADOW BROOK SUBN PT 2		Taxes Due			
Acreage Info.		State/County	537.54		
Cultivated Acres	0.00	Municipal 1	813.81		
Uncultivated Acres	0.00	Separate School Dist. 101	1,159.36		
Payments		MS1 0	0.00		
Date	Amount	Int./Fees	MS2 0	0.00	
01/28/16	2,210.71	0.00	Landscape Imp. Dist.	0.00	
No Property Taxes Are Due		Less Homestead Exemption			
		** Total Taxes **			2,210.71
		Total Paid			2,210.71
		Fees			
		Tax Amount Now Due			
Total Penalty Due					
Net Amount Due			7/8/2016		

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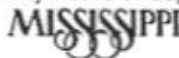


EXHIBIT 3

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

AFFIDAVIT OF CASSANDRA OVERTON-WELCHLIN

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

On this day came before me the undersigned **CASSANDRA OVERTON-WELCHLIN** and, being duly sworn, stated as follows:

1. I am an adult resident of Jackson, Mississippi. I have never been convicted of a felony, and I am not under any mental disability.
2. I graduated from Jackson State University with a Bachelor of Social Work degree in 1997. In 2005, I obtained a Master's degree in Sustainable International Development from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandies University.
3. I am a licensed social worker. I am currently a W.K. Kellogg Fellow and a Ms Foundation Public Voices Fellow. I have served as a case manager for Catholic Charities, a Community Organizer and Resource Developer for Southern Echo, a Legislative Liaison for Congregations for Children, a Program Coordinator for Oxfam. I served as the Director of Southern Programs for the Center for Social Inclusion, and the Policy Advocacy Director of the Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative. I am also the co-founder and director of the Mississippi Women's Economic Security Initiative.
4. I am very active in my community. I am currently the President of the Capitol Neighbors Association, an elected member of the Hinds County Democratic Executive Committee, and an active member of the NAACP. I was appointed to the City of Jackson's Planning and Development Board. I attend New Horizon Church International in Jackson.
5. I am also very active in Jackson Public Schools. I was runner up for JPS Parent of the

Year in 2016. I am currently the Parent Teacher Association President, and the Vice President of High Schools for the Jackson Council Parent Teacher Association. I have organized classroom activities including arts and crafts, reading activities and holiday parties. Additionally, I have organized and volunteered with school-wide fundraisers and initiatives, including Read Across America.

6. I live with my husband, K. Welchlin, in a home that we own at 157 Glenmary Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39203. We pay ad valorem taxes our property, and those tax obligations are current. See Exhibit A (tax records).

7. We have three children. Two are currently enrolled in Jackson Public Schools.

8. A.K.W., our oldest child, is 11 years old. She was enrolled at McWillie Elementary School from prekindergarten through second grade. A.K.W. has dyslexia. Due to the lack of resources and expertise for dyslexia services at McWillie Elementary, we moved her to New Summit School three years ago. New Summit offers special services for children with dyslexia. We are still deciding where to enroll A.K.W. this upcoming school year. A.K.W. is active in the children's church ministry and the children's choir.

9. Z.B.W., our middle child, is 8 years old. She attends Johnson Elementary. Z.B.W. is tenacious, determined and enjoys learning. She has Global Childhood Apraxia of Speech and a seizure disorder. These disorders impair her fine and gross motor skills, so she uses assistive technology to communicate and learn. Z.B.W. has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that supports her ability to be successful in school. She learns best when activities involve arts and crafts. As a parent, I believe that these activities are not provided to Z.B.W. on an ongoing basis due to a lack of resources in the district.

10. C.V.W., our youngest child, is 5 years old. He will enroll at Casey Elementary this fall. He learns through dramatic play and creates grand stories that enthrall the entire family. C.V.W. is kind and has a strong sense of justice. At age of two, he developed an interest in the trombone and thinks of himself as Louis Armstrong. He loves learning, but achieves his maximum potential when the environment is engaging and allows him to participate with all of his senses.

11. As a taxpayer in Jackson, I expect that my tax dollars will be used to fully fund traditional public schools, so that all children – including the most vulnerable – receive the services necessary to meet their general education goals and IEP goals.

12. I have two children with disabilities that require extensive services and supports to ensure their academic success and achievement. As the parent of children with disabilities, I believe that a lack of resources in JPS has caused special education teachers and support staff to perform multiple duties to meet general education goals. As a parent, I believe that this lack of resources has made it difficult to meet our children's IEP goals consistently. Z.B.W.'s disability is complicated and has required the school to implement new technology for the first time. In my experience, the district has lacked the resources to train staff to use and implement this technology. As a result, my husband and I have had to attend trainings and obtain assessments outside the district. This has had a tremendous strain on our finances. As a parent of children with disabilities, I believe that children with disabilities are not receiving the resources that they need and deserve.

13. As the parent of children with special needs, I fear that charter schools will exacerbate this situation as they continue to drain funding from JPS. I am concerned that children

with special needs will not receive the supplemental services and aides to support their education goals.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


CASSANDRA OVERTON-WELCHLIN

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 8 day of July, 2016.


Notary

[SEAL]



EXHIBIT A



Hinds County

MISSISSIPPI
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Real Property Billing Roll

Parcel Number		Tax Year		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Landroll Detail <input checked="" type="radio"/> Gis Map
130-20		2015		
Tax District		Mortgage Info		
R01		600 46212357		
Name			Values	
WELCHLIN KASS T & CASSANDRA O			True	48,100
157 GLENMARY ST JACKSON MS 39203			Assessed	7,215
Location			Homestead Exemption	
157 GLENMARY ST			Accounts	162240
Legal Description			Regular	3,608
LOT 13 LESS 67 FT W/END BLK 2 SIVLEY SUBN			Special	0
Acreage Info.			Taxes Due	
Cultivated Acres	0.00		State/County	276.55
Uncultivated Acres	0.00		Municipal 1	418.69
Payments			Separate School Dist. 101	596.46
Date	Amount	Int./Fees	MS1 0	0.00
12/29/15	1,141.70	0.00	MS2 0	0.00
No Property Taxes Are Due			Landscape Imp. Dist.	0.00
			Less Homestead Exemption	150.00
			** Total Taxes **	1,141.70
			Total Paid	1,141.70
			Fees	
			Tax Amount Now Due	
			Total Penalty Due	
			Net Amount Due 7/8/2016	

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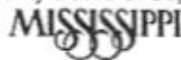


EXHIBIT 4

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN SEWELL

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

On this day came before me the undersigned JOHN SEWELL and, being duly sworn, stated as follows:

1. I am an adult resident of Jackson, Mississippi. I have never been convicted of a felony, and I am not under any mental disability.
2. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi in 1988.
3. I am the Director of Communications and Marketing at Millsaps College. In this position, I manage the marketing and communications program, oversee all of the College's public and media relations, social media, print and electronic publications, and advertising, and support the College's student recruitment and development efforts. I have worked in this position since 2013.
4. I serve on Boards for the Mississippi Public Health Institute, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra Foundation, the Rotary Club of North Jackson, Goodwill Industries of Mississippi, and the Vestry of St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral.
5. I live with my wife, Kimberly Sewell, in the home we own at 3825 Hawthorn Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39206. We have been married for 20 years. We pay ad valorem taxes on our home, and those tax obligations are current. See Exhibit A (tax records).

6. Kimberly and I have three children. All three of our children, C.S., J.S., and M.S., are currently enrolled in Jackson Public Schools.

7. C.S., our oldest child, is 15 years old. During the 2016-2017 school year, C.S. will be a tenth grader at Murrah High School in Jackson Public Schools. C.S. attended first through sixth grade at McWillie Elementary School, and seventh and eighth grades at Bailey APAC Middle School. C.S. has received awards for academics throughout his educational career, and he finished fourth in his class from Bailey APAC Middle School in 2015. C.S. participates in the Murrah High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program, through which he was recognized as the Cadet of the Year for the 2015-2016 school year. C.S. is a member of several sports teams at Murrah High School, including football, baseball, cross-country, track, and swimming. C.S. is an acolyte at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral and a lifeguard for the YMCA.

8. J.S., our middle child, is 13 years old. During the 2016-2017 school year, he will be enrolled in the eighth grade at Power APAC and Bailey APAC Middle School in Jackson Public Schools. J.S. attended grades Kindergarten through fifth grade at McWillie Elementary School. J.S. has received awards for academics throughout his educational career, and has run for positions on the student council two times at Bailey APAC Middle School. J.S. participates in the Power APAC Visual Arts program, is a member of the Bailey APAC Middle School track team, and swam for the Murrah High School swim team during the 2015-2016 school year. J.S. is an acolyte at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral and a member of the Boy Scouts of America Troop 1 in Jackson, Mississippi.

9. M.S., our youngest child, is 11 years old. During the 2016-2017 school year, she will be enrolled in the sixth grade at McWillie Elementary School in Jackson Public Schools.

M.S. has attended McWillie Elementary School for her entire academic career. M.S. is a member of the Jackson Public Schools' Open Doors program for intellectually and academically gifted students. She enjoys gymnastics and swims on the Briarwood Dolphins (YMCA) swim team. She will begin serving as an acolyte at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in the fall of 2016.


10. As a taxpayer in Jackson, Mississippi, I expect that my property tax dollars will be used to support Jackson Public Schools. As a parent, I do not believe that we can solve the problems with public education without providing sufficient resources for our public schools. The expansion of charter schools throughout the district and state will funnel money from JPS and into charter schools. Removing funds from Jackson Public Schools means fewer dollars available for facility upgrades, teacher salaries and recruitment, and administrative organization and management.

11. As a taxpayer, I expect schools funded with my taxpayer dollars to be accountable to the local board of education and the state board of education, just as traditional public schools in the district and state are. As a parent of three Jackson Public Schools students, I believe that qualified teachers and administrators are critical to a student's success. Traditional public school teachers and administrators have to meet minimum certification requirements. I believe that charter school teachers and administrators should be required to meet those same standards. Local and state boards of education should have the authority to ensure that charter school teachers, administrators, and staff meet licensure requirements.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


JOHN SEWELL

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 8 day of July, 2016.


Notary

[SEAL]



EXHIBIT A



Hinds County

MISSISSIPPI
FOUNDED 1821 * POPULATION 248,643

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Real Property Billing Roll

Parcel Number		Tax Year		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Landroll Detail <input checked="" type="radio"/> Gis Map	
441-30		2015			
Tax District		Mortgage Info			
R01		172 3760004132308			
Name			Values		
SEWELL JOHN L & KIMBERLY A			True	142,960	
3825 HAWTHORNE DR			Assessed	14,296	
JACKSON MS 39206			Homestead Exemption		
Location			Accounts	186948	
3825 HAWTHORNE DR			Regular	7,500	
Legal Description			Special	0	
LOT 3 BLK C OAK DALE SUB			Taxes Due		
Acreage Info.			State/County	547.97	
Cultivated Acres	0.00		Municipal 1	829.60	
Uncultivated Acres	0.00		Separate School Dist. 101	1,181.85	
Payments			MS1 0	0.00	
Date	Amount	Int./Fees	MS2 0	0.00	
12/30/15	2,259.42	0.00	Landscape Imp. Dist.	0.00	
No Property Taxes Are Due			Less Homestead Exemption	300.00	
			** Total Taxes **		2,259.42
			Total Paid	2,259.42	
			Fees		
			Tax Amount Now Due		
			Total Penalty Due		
			Net Amount Due 7/8/2016		

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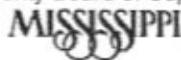


EXHIBIT 5

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

AFFIDAVIT OF KIMBERLY SEWELL

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

On this day came before me the undersigned KIMBERLY SEWELL and, being duly sworn, stated as follows:

1. I am an adult resident of Jackson, Mississippi. I have never been convicted of a felony, and I am not under any mental disability.
2. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in child development from the University of Alabama in 1992.
3. From August 2007 to June 2016, I worked as the Director of Children's Religious Formation at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Jackson, Mississippi. In this position, I was responsible for recruiting, training and supporting classroom teachers and volunteers, preparing educational materials and planning community events for youth and families. I worked in this capacity for approximately nine years. Prior to this position, I worked as a substitute teacher for two years in Jackson Public Schools, and taught two-year-olds at St. James Mother's Morning Out for three years.
4. I was a member of the Junior League of Jackson from 2006 to 2009. I served on the Parent Teacher Association at McWillie Elementary School during the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years and was a Parent Room Volunteer at McWillie Elementary School from 2007 through 2015.

5. I live with my husband, John Sewell, in the home we own at 3825 Hawthorn Drive, Jackson, Mississippi 39206. We have been married for 20 years. We pay ad valorem taxes on our home, and those tax obligations are current. See Exhibit A (tax records).

6. John and I have three children. All three of our children, C.S., J.S., and M.S., are currently enrolled in Jackson Public Schools.

7. C.S., our oldest child, is 15 years old. During the 2016-2017 school year, C.S. will be a tenth grader at Murrah High School in Jackson Public Schools. C.S. attended first grade sixth grade at McWillie Elementary School, and seventh and eighth grades at Bailey APAC Middle School. C.S. has received awards for academics throughout his educational career, and he finished fourth in his class from Bailey APAC Middle School in 2015. C.S. participates in the Murrah High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program, through which he was recognized as the Cadet of the Year for the 2015-2016 school year. C.S. is a member of several sports teams at Murrah High School, including football, baseball, cross-country, track, and swimming. C.S. is an acolyte at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral and a lifeguard for the YMCA.

8. J.S., our middle child, is 13 years old. During the 2016-2017 school year, he will be enrolled in the eighth grade at Power APAC and Bailey APAC Middle School in Jackson Public Schools. J.S. attended Kindergarten through fifth grade at McWillie Elementary School. J.S. has received awards for academics throughout his educational career, and was elected to serve on the student council two times at Bailey APAC Middle School. J.S. participates in the Power APAC Visual Arts program, is a member of the Bailey APAC Middle School track team, and swam for the Murrah High School swim team during the 2015-2016 school year. J.S. is an

acolyte at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral and a member of the Boy Scouts of America Troop 1 in Jackson, Mississippi.

9. M.S., our youngest child, is 11 years old. During the 2016-2017 school year, she will be enrolled in the sixth grade at McWillie Elementary School in Jackson Public Schools. M.S. has attended McWillie Elementary School for her entire academic career. M.S. is a member of the Jackson Public Schools' Open Doors program for intellectually and academically gifted students. She enjoys gymnastics and swims on the Briarwood Dolphins (YMCA) swim team. She will begin serving as an acolyte at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in the fall of 2016.

10. As a taxpayer in Jackson, Mississippi, I expect that my property tax dollars will be used to support Jackson Public Schools. As a parent of three Jackson Public Schools students, I worry that with the expansion of charter schools throughout the district and state, Jackson Public Schools students will be deprived of the best learning opportunities possible. Increasing the amount of money removed from Jackson Public Schools and given to charter schools to support non-Jackson Public Schools students means limiting resources available to students in Jackson Public Schools. If not given to charter schools, these funds could be used to create more opportunities for students through teacher recruitment, improved classroom and building equipment, and updated facilities.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


KIMBERLY SEWELL

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 8 day of July, 2016.




Notary

[SEAL]

EXHIBIT A



Hinds County

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Real Property Billing Roll

Parcel Number		Tax Year		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Landroll Detail <input checked="" type="radio"/> Gis Map
441-30		2015		
Tax District		Mortgage Info		
R01		172 3760004132308		
Name		Values		
SEWELL JOHN L & KIMBERLY A		True	142,960	
3825 HAWTHORNE DR		Assessed	14,296	
JACKSON MS 39206		Homestead Exemption		
Location		Accounts	186948	
3825 HAWTHORNE DR		Regular	7,500	
Legal Description		Special	0	
LOT 3 BLK C OAK DALE SUB		Taxes Due		
Acreage Info.		State/County	547.97	
Cultivated Acres	0.00	Municipal 1	829.60	
Uncultivated Acres	0.00	Separate School Dist. 101	1,181.85	
Payments		MS1 0	0.00	
Date	Amount	MS2 0	0.00	
12/30/15	2,259.42	Landscape Imp. Dist.	0.00	
		Int./Fees	0.00	
No Property Taxes Are Due		Less Homestead Exemption	300.00	
		** Total Taxes **	2,259.42	
		Total Paid	2,259.42	
		Fees		
		Tax Amount Now Due		
		Total Penalty Due		
		Net Amount Due 7/8/2016		

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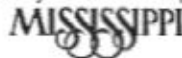


EXHIBIT 6

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

AFFIDAVIT OF LUTAYA STEWART

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

On this day came before me the undersigned LUTAYA STEWART and, being duly sworn, stated as follows:

1. I am an adult resident of Jackson, Mississippi. I have never been convicted of a felony, and I am not under any mental disability.

2. I attended Van Winkle Elementary School, Hardy Middle School, and Provine High School. I graduated from Jackson State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1997. I earned a Master's degree in Special Education from Jackson State University in 2008.

3. I am a special education teacher at John Hopkins Elementary School in Jackson Public Schools. I also own and operate Childrens' Educare Preschool in Jackson. I have previously worked as a GED teacher at the Oakley Training School.

4. I am very active in my community. I volunteer at the Word of Life Church, Toys for Tots, and the Mississippi Department of Nutrition Summer Feeding program. I am a member of the Parent Teacher Association at Lester Elementary and John Hopkins Elementary. I have also cared for four foster children; each of whom attended JPS schools.

5. I live with my foster daughter in the home I own at 359 Park Lane, Jackson, Mississippi 39212. I pay ad valorem taxes on my home, and those tax obligations are current. See Exhibit A (tax records).

6. I have a five-year-old foster daughter, D.N. I have cared for D.N. for two years. She is enrolled at Lester Elementary School. D.N. takes dance lessons and enjoys drawing, the

outdoors, and learning to ride her bicycle. D.N. receives special education services. She has been diagnosed as developmentally delayed and receives occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical therapy. At Lester Elementary, D.N. attends self-contained classes taught by a special education teacher.

7. As a taxpayer and JPS teacher, I am concerned that charter schools will deplete funding from traditional public schools. JPS has a large number of children from low-income backgrounds. These children, perhaps more than any others, are costly to educate and deserve an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. Public school students need appropriate educational resources to graduate from high school and be equipped to perform on a collegiate level.

8. As a taxpayer in Jackson, Mississippi, I expect that my tax dollars will be used to support Jackson Public School, including includes salaries for teachers, assistants, and academic tutors. As a veteran special education teacher, I believe that students need updated technology and textbooks to be successful. As the parent of a child with special needs, I believe that JPS needs more special education teachers and regular education teachers to reduce class sizes. I pay for a tutor to supplement my child's education. My tax dollars should be used to develop better curricula and academic supports designed to meet the needs of students in special education and to better equip them to become lifelong learners.

9. As a taxpayer, I believe that if charter schools divert funding from traditional public schools, charter schools should be held to the same standards as traditional public schools. Charter schools deplete the resources of the entire Jackson area. As a veteran teacher, I believe that charter school teachers and administrators should be subject to the same certification and licensure requirements as public school teachers.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


LUTAYA STEWART

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 7 day of July, 2016.


Notary

[SEAL]



EXHIBIT A



Hinds County

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Real Property Billing Roll

Parcel Number		Tax Year		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Landroll Detail <input checked="" type="radio"/> Gis Map
851-326		2015		
Tax District		Mortgage Info		
R01		600 04861253		
Name		Values		
STEWART LUTAYA M		True	71,370	
359 PARK LN		Assessed	7,137	
JACKSON MS 39212		Homestead Exemption		
Location		Accounts	164027	
359 PARK LN		Regular	7,137	
Legal Description		Special	0	
LOT 27 FOREST PARK EST PT 1		Taxes Due		
Acreage Info.		State/County	273.56	
Cultivated Acres	0.00	Municipal 1	414.16	
Uncultivated Acres	0.00	Separate School Dist. 101	590.02	
Payments		MS1 0	0.00	
Date	Amount	MS2 0	0.00	
12/29/15	989.74	Landscape Imp. Dist.	0.00	
Int./Fees		Less Homestead Exemption	288.00	
		** Total Taxes **	989.74	
No Property Taxes Are Due		Total Paid	989.74	
		Fees		
		Tax Amount Now Due		
		Total Penalty Due		
		Net Amount Due 7/8/2016		

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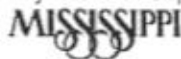


EXHIBIT 7

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HINDS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

AFFIDAVIT OF ARTHUR BROWN

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF HINDS

On this day came before me the undersigned **ARTHUR BROWN** and, being duly sworn, stated as follows:

1. I am an adult resident of Jackson, Mississippi. I have never been convicted of a felony, and I am not under any mental disability.

2. I graduated from Provine High School in 1986. I attended Jackson State University from 1986-1987.

3. I have been an automobile sales professional since 1990. I currently sell automobiles at Herrin Gear Toyota in North Jackson, but I work with clients from all over Mississippi.

4. I have volunteered with the Watchdog program, a mentoring program for youth, for several years. I am a Trustee at Cathedral AME Zion Church, where I also teach Sunday school and sing in the choir.

5. I live with my wife in the home we own at 1455 Springdale Dr., Jackson, Mississippi 39211. We have been married for 22 years. We pay ad valorem taxes on our home, and those tax obligations are current. See Exhibit A (tax records).

6. We have three children, who are currently enrolled in Jackson Public Schools.

7. D.B., our oldest child, is 14 years old. He has been a JPS student since first grade, and has attended Casey Elementary School and Bailey APAC Middle School. He is starting ninth grade this year at Calloway High School. D.B. plays basketball with Calloway High School

team, as well as a travelling team. He has already received letters of interest from college basketball teams. D.B. takes advanced history and math classes. He aspires to attend the University of North Carolina and become an orthodontist.

8. C.B., our middle child, is 11 years old. He is entering the sixth grade at Bailey APAC Middle School. C.B. attended Casey Elementary School. C.B. participates in Duke University's Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP), and enjoys playing football. C.B. is a straight-A student. He aspires to attend the University of Oregon and, like his older brother, wants to become an orthodontist.

9. B.B., our youngest child, is seven years old. She is starting second grade at Casey Elementary School. B.B. is very social and enjoys learning to ride her bicycle.

10. As a taxpayer in Jackson, Mississippi, I expect that my property tax dollars will be used for the betterment of our public schools. My tax dollars should be used to hire and train excellent teachers, teachers' aides, and school counselors. Public funding should also support mentoring programs for youth. In my experience as a parent, if we had proper funding, we would have more teachers to reduce overcrowding of our classrooms.

11. As a parent of three children in Jackson Public Schools, I fear that charter schools will continue to drain funding from traditional public schools. This will be catastrophic for all kids, because they will lose opportunities like Montessori programs, athletics, and gifted and talented programs. I also fear that teachers will continue to leave Mississippi to receive better salaries in better funded public school districts. As a parent, I believe that our children have inadequate opportunities to advance because of inadequate funding. Without adequate funding, our public school system cannot provide an excellent education for our children.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


ARTHUR BROWN

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 7 day of July, 2016.



[SEAL]


Notary

EXHIBIT A



Hinds County

MISSISSIPPI
FOUNDED 1821 * POPULATION 248,643

[HindsCountyMs.com](#) [Database](#) [Back](#) [Print Page](#)

Real Property Billing Roll

Parcel Number		Tax Year		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Landroll Detail <input checked="" type="radio"/> Gis Map
737-71		2015		
Tax District		Mortgage Info		
R01		600 08663746		
Name			Values	
BROWN ARTHUR H & CALANDRA L			True	87,280
1455 SPRINGDALE DR			Assessed	8,728
JACKSON MS 39211			Homestead Exemption	
Location			Accounts	125073
1455 SPRINGDALE DR			Regular	7,500
Legal Description			Special	0
LOT 71 RIDGEWOOD PARK PT 1			Taxes Due	
Acreage Info.			State/County	334.54
Cultivated Acres	0.00		Municipal 1	506.49
Uncultivated Acres	0.00		Separate School Dist. 101	721.54
Payments			MS1 0	0.00
Date	Amount	Int./Fees	MS2 0	0.00
12/29/15	1,262.57	0.00	Landscape Imp. Dist.	0.00
No Property Taxes Are Due			Less Homestead Exemption	300.00
			** Total Taxes **	1,262.57
			Total Paid	1,262.57
			Fees	
			Tax Amount Now Due	
			Total Penalty Due	
			Net Amount Due 7/8/2016	

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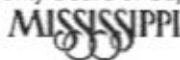


EXHIBIT 8

JoAnne N. Shepherd, Esquire
District Counsel

KaShonda L. Day, Esquire
Assistant District Counsel



Phone 601-960-8916
Facsimile 601-973-8545
Email jnelson@jackson.k12.ms.us
Email katday@jackson.k12.ms.us
www.jackson.k12.ms.us

March 4, 2016

Will Bardwell
Southern Poverty Law Center
111 East Capitol Street, Suite 280
Jackson, MS 39201

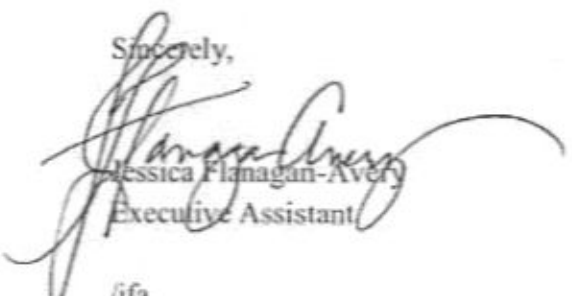
Re: Response to Public Records Request

Dear Mr. Bardwell:

Our office is in receipt of your public records request dated February 24, 2016. Per your request, the district is providing you with (a.) the total amounts paid year by year by JPS to charter schools, (b.) the amounts paid by JPS to individual charter schools each year, (c.) the dates on which such payments were remitted, (d.) the number of charter-school students represented by these payment, and (e.) amounts of estimated future payments, if such estimates have been calculated.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact this office. Thank you kindly.

Sincerely,


Jessica Flanagan-Avery
Executive Assistant

/jfa

Encl(s)



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Ensuring a bright future for every child

Office of School Financial Services
Donna C. Nester
Bureau Manager

December 7, 2015

Sharolyn Miller
Chief Financial Officer
Jackson Public School District
662 South President St.
Jackson, MS 39225

*Payments were hand
delivered to each charter
school on January 15, 2016
by Sharolyn Miller, CFO.*

Dear Ms. Miller,

Pursuant to MS Code 37-28-55, Jackson Public Schools shall pay an amount of local support to any charter school located within the district boundaries. The amount is determined on a per pupil basis, using the FY15 receipts from ad valorem and in-lieu collections (excluding amounts for debt) and the district's FY15 Average Daily Membership for months one through nine. The pro rata amount is dispersed to the charter school for the number of students enrolled at the end of month one of the current school year. The calculation is shown below:

JPS Ad Valorem and In-Lieu Receipts for FY15	\$74,047,134.15 (as reported in FETS)
JPS ADM for months 1-9 for FY15	28,221 (as reported in MSIS)
Per pupil amount of local support	\$ 2,623.86

Reimagine Prep ADM for month 1 for FY16	121 (as reported in MSIS)
Amount of payment to Reimagine Prep	\$ 288,624.78

Midtown Public ADM for month 1 for FY16	106 (as reported in MSIS)
Amount of payment to Midtown Public	\$ 272,881.61

Payment of the funds must be made by January 16, 2016. Failure to make the payment by that date will result in the withholding of the amounts from the MAEP payment to the district for January.

If you have any question concerning the calculation of the payments, or any other detail of the process, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Donna C. Nester
Bureau Manager, School Financial Services

cc: Marian Schutte, Executive Director
MS Charter School Authorizer Board

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF SCHOOL FINANCIAL SERVICES
CHARTER SCHOOL SERVICES

Central High School Building
359 North West Street
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205-0771

Phone (601) 359-3294
Fax (601) 359-3414
dnester@mdek12.org
www.mdek12.org



Office of School Financial Services
Donna C. Nester
Bureau Manager

January 26, 2016

Sharolyn Miller
Chief Financial Officer
Jackson Public School District
662 South President St.
Jackson, MS 39225

Dear Ms. Miller,

In my previous letter to you on December 7, 2015, concerning the payment of local support to any charter school located within the district boundaries, the calculation of the amounts contained an error. The formula for the calculation was not updated to contain the accurate average daily membership (ADM) for month 1 of 2016; but rather contained the estimated enrollment data provided by the districts. Shown below are the corrected amounts using the proper ADM:

JPS Ad Valorem and In-Lieu Receipts for FY15	\$74,047,134.15 (as reported in FETS for FY end 2015)
JPS ADM for months 1-9 – FY15	<u>28,221</u> (as reported in MSIS)
Per Pupil amount of local support	\$ 2,623.86
Reimagine Prep ADM for month 1 – FY16	121 (as reported in MSIS)
Amount of payment to Reimagine Prep	\$ 317,487.06 (corrected amount)
Previous amount paid	<u>\$ 288,624.78</u> (original calculation)
Balance owed to Reimagine Prep	\$ 28,862.28
Midtown Public ADM for month 1 – FY16	106 (as reported in MSIS)
Amount of payment to Midtown Public	\$ 278,129.16 (corrected amount)
Previous amount paid	<u>\$ 272,881.61</u> (original calculation)
Balance owed to Midtown Public	\$ 5,247.55

Please remit the balance owed to these schools as soon as possible. Also, please accept my sincere apologies for this error. If you have any questions concerning this adjustment, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Donna C. Nester
Bureau Manager, School Financial Services

CC: Marian Schutte, Executive Director
MS Charter School Authorizer Board

Central High School Building
359 North West Street
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205-0771

Phone (601) 359-3294
Fax (601) 359-3414
dnester@mdek12.org
www.mdek12.org



Jackson Public Schools

Chief Financial Officer

662 South President Street
P.O. Box 2338
Jackson, MS 39225-2338

Phone 601-973-8543
Facsimile 601-973-8568
www.jackson.k12.ms.us

February 3, 2016

Ms. Kate Cooper
Reimagine Prep Charter School
309 W. McDowell Rd.
Jackson, MS 39204

Dear Ms. Cooper,

Jackson Public Schools was recently notified by the MS Department of Education that there was an error in the calculation of the amount due to your school. Enclosed is a check for \$28,862.28 which is the amount that is due for fiscal year 2016.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carolyn Miller".

Carolyn Miller

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Donna Nester, Bureau Manager
MDE School Financial Services



Jackson Public Schools

Chief Financial Officer

662 South President Street
P.O. Box 2338
Jackson, MS 39225-2338

Phone 601-973-8543
Facsimile 601-973-8568
www.jackson.k12.ms.us

February 3, 2016

Ms. Rachel Usry
Director of Operations
Midtown Public Charter School
301 Adelle Street
Jackson, MS 39202

Dear Ms. Usry,

Jackson Public Schools was recently notified by the MS Department of Education that there was an error in the calculation of the amount due to your school. Enclosed is a check for \$5,247.55 which is the amount that is due for fiscal year 2016.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sharolyn Miller

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Donna Nester, Bureau Manager
MDE School Financial Services

EXHIBIT 9



Office of School Financial Services
Kimberly C. McCurley, CPA
 Director

TO: School Business Managers
 FROM: Kimberly McCurley, Director
 Office of School Financial Services

Listed below is a breakdown of your FY 16 electronic fund transfer payments for the month of June which are administered through the Office of School Financial Services. These funds were transferred to your district on the date indicated in Column C, Date of Transfer. If you have any questions, please call me at 601-359-3294.

June 28, 2016		Reimagine Prep - Charter			Dist No.: 2515	
A Type of Funds	B Amount of Transfer	C Date of Transfer	D Year-to-Date Amt. Received	E Record as:		
				Fund No.	Revenue Function	
MAEP - Mississippi Adequate Education Prog.	47,769.00	6/27/2016	585,681.00	1120	3150	
MAEP - Hancock Bank (Paying Agent)			0.00	40XX	3150	
MAEP - EEF	5,121.00	6/27/2016	55,868.00	1120	3150	
Master Teacher Supplement	0.00	12:00:00 AM	0.00	1120	3290	
Master Teacher - Fee Reimbursement	0.00		0.00	1120	3290	
EEF - Building & Buses	0.00		0.00	2410	3210	
Extended School Year (ESY)	0.00		0.00	1120	3150	
Per Capita (sent in July only)	0.00		1,478.00	1120	3150	
Chickasaw Cession	0.00		0.00	1120	3130	

Central High School Building
 359 North West Street
 P.O. Box 771
 Jackson, MS 39205-0771

Phone (601) 359-3294
 Fax (601) 359-3414
www.mde.k12.ms.us

EXHIBIT 10



Office of School Financial Services
Kimberly C. McCurley, CPA
 Director

TO: School Business Managers
 FROM: Kimberly McCurley, Director
 Office of School Financial Services

Listed below is a breakdown of your FY 16 electronic fund transfer payments for the month of June which are administered through the Office of School Financial Services. These funds were transferred to your district on the date indicated in Column C, Date of Transfer. If you have any questions, please call me at 601-359-3294.

June 28, 2016		Midtown Public - Charter			Dist No.: 2525	
A Type of Funds	B Amount of Transfer	C Date of Transfer	D Year-to-Date Amt. Received	E Record as:		
				Fund No.	Revenue Function	
MAEP - Mississippi Adequate Education Prog.	45,925.00	6/27/2016	563,059.00	1120	3150	
MAEP - Hancock Bank (Paying Agent)			0.00	40XX	3150	
MAEP - EEF	4,924.00	6/27/2016	53,709.00	1120	3150	
Master Teacher Supplement	0.00	12:00:00 AM	0.00	1120	3290	
Master Teacher - Fee Reimbursement	0.00		0.00	1120	3290	
EEF - Building & Buses	0.00		0.00	2410	3210	
Extended School Year (ESY)	0.00		0.00	1120	3150	
Per Capita (sent in July only)	0.00		1,421.00	1120	3150	
Chickasaw Cession	0.00		0.00	1120	3130	

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