



130 E. Central Ave.
Lake Wales FL 33853

April 22, 2014

P.O. Box 3309
Lake Wales FL 33859

Re: Old Lake Wales High School Building

PHONE 863-679-6560
FAX 863-679-6565
lwcharterschools.com

Dear Mayor Eugene Fultz and City Manager Kenneth Fields:

SUPERINTENDENT
Jesse L. Jackson

For nearly ten years the City of Lake Wales has distinguished itself as the only Florida city with enough courage, tenacity and good will to initiate a community-wide effort to improve the quality of its public education system. As you are aware, the Lake Wales Charter Schools system was born out of this effort and continues to make significant strides in the school improvement process.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Chair
Keith Wadsworth

Bok Academy Middle School, one of the six schools in the charter school system, has distinguished itself as an outstanding middle school since opening in 2008. In fact, the school is recognized statewide as a "High Performing" charter school and nationally as an "Apple Distinguished School". Bok's success has helped reverse a previous trend of Lake Wales' families leaving town in pursuit of better schools and the overall attitude that people have about our public education system.

Vice Chair
Danny Gill

Now the challenge: Bok's success has created a need for expanding opportunities for families seeking a high performing middle school like Bok to enroll their child. We have explored lots of possibilities and believe our best opportunity to address this challenge will be to forge a partnership with the City of Lake Wales. This partnership would involve Lake Wales Charter Schools utilizing the historic 1919 building as a site for establishing a Bok Academy North. If we were able to establish a Start-up Charter School on that property the new school would qualify for state Start-up Charter School funding and Capital Outlay funding.

Cassandra Denmark
Dr. Terry Fasel
Jimmy Nelson
Cheryl Garnett
Cindy Landen
Betty Wojcik

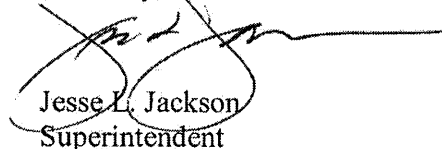
This new state funding source would relieve the city of Lake Wales from its responsibility of maintaining the property and the facilities would be made available for public use. So in a nutshell, I am seeking your consideration as a Commission for the idea that I have outlined in this letter, and request the opportunity to present this idea to the full commission.

We believe this great opportunity will enrich and enhance the quality of life for citizens in our community. Thank you for your considerations and we look forward to a great partnership!

The mission of Lake Wales Charter Schools, Inc. is to bring the best of public education to our community by providing innovation and choice within a continuous pre-school through postsecondary curriculum so that each child recognizes the benefits of life-long learning, constructive citizenship and personal happiness.

The Lake Wales Charter Schools, Inc. is an equal opportunity institution for education and employment.

Sincerely,



Jesse L. Jackson
Superintendent