



## IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

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May 28, 2019

Bingham County Prosecutor's Office  
Attn: Paul Rogers, Prosecuting Attorney  
501 N Maple Street  
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Dear Mr. Rogers:

I am writing in accordance with § 33-5209C(4), Idaho Code, which provides that "If an authorized chartering entity has reason to believe that a charter holder or public charter school has violated any provision of law, it shall notify the charter holder and the entity responsible for administering said law of the possible violation." The Public Charter School Commission has reason to believe that there may have been a violation of the Bribery & Corrupt Influences statutes (Idaho Code § 18-1351 *et seq.*), Ethics in Government (Chapter 4, title 74 of the Idaho Code) and Prohibitions Against Contract with Officials (Chapter 5, title 74 of the Idaho Code).

A forensic audit was recently performed at Blackfoot Community Charter Learning Center (BCCLC) and Bingham Academy (BA), two public charter schools located in Bingham County and authorized by the Idaho Public Charter School Commission. The audit report notes two issues that may represent prohibited conduct involving an individual employed by both schools.

Dr. John Fred Ball served as director for both BCCLC and BA during the times of the alleged conduct. During BA's pre-operational year in FY14, he was more specifically referred to as the school's program director.

In December 2013, Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) sold at least one modular classroom to BA, on a contract signed by Dr. Ball on BA's behalf, for \$2,000.

In January 2014, BA wrote a \$12,000 check to an entity called Somewhere in the Middle for transporting modular units. Somewhere in the Middle was a musical band of which Dr. Ball's son had been a member. The school has not been able to produce documentation supporting this transaction.

In August 2017, BCCLC wrote a check to Dr. Ball in the amount of \$22,099.37 for “modular and other expenses.” The incomplete supporting documentation includes an invoice from Dr. Ball for \$16,000 for two modular classrooms.

Dr. Ball has stated that he personally purchased two modulars from Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) in 2014 and incurred additional expenses, including transportation of the modulars, before selling them to BCCLC in 2017.

The school has not been able to produce complete documentation supporting these transactions, such as bills of sale or receipts for the majority of the expenses being reimbursed. It is my understanding that neither Dr. Ball nor SLCC has any record of a sale of modular classrooms to Dr. Ball.

You are welcome to contact the Idaho Public Charter School Commission office at (208) 332-1561 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Alan Reed  
Chairman, Idaho Public Charter School Commission

Cc: Craig Rowland, Bingham County Sheriff  
Candra Risa, Board Chair, Blackfoot Charter Community Learning Center  
Holly Lilya, Board Chair, Bingham Academy