

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
ALEXANDRIA DIVISION**

IRMA J. SMITH, ET AL	*	CIVIL SUIT NUMBER 65CV11577
Plaintiffs	*	
	*	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	JUDGE DEE DRELL
Plaintiff-Intervenor	*	
	*	
VERSUS	*	MAGISTRATE JAMES D. KIRK
	*	
CONCORDIA PARISH SCHOOL	*	
BOARD, ET AL	*	
Defendants	*	

DELTA CHARTER GROUP'S SECOND STATUS REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Court's January 4, 2013 Consent Order, THE DELTA CHARTER GROUP ("DCG"), submits the following in response to the Court's Order for a Status Report by July 15 of each year for which the black student enrollment of Delta Charter School is 10% or more below the black student enrollment in the Concordia Parish School District ("Analysis Report"), and in response to the Court's Order for a data report to be submitted to the Court and all parties thirty days (30) days prior to the beginning of each school year ("Annual Report"):

II. ANALYSIS REPORT

The Delta Charter Group ("DCG") has promoted an open admissions policy in the community in an effort to attract faculty and children of all races, with an emphasis on recruiting minority children to attend Delta Charter School of Math, Science and Technology ("DCS"). DCS'

current black student enrollment for the 2013-2014 school year is 49 students out of 323 total students or 15.17%. It is believed that this number is more than 10% below the black student enrollment in the Concordia Parish School District.¹ Accordingly, DCG submits the following analysis of the cause of this enrollment rate, and proposal for how to modify the enrollment rate.

a. Cause of enrollment rate

After the Court entered the Consent Order, DCG began extensive efforts to attract black students to attend DCS for the upcoming 2013-2014 school year. DCG has elected two African Americans to its Board of Directors: Kevin Brown and Tangela Johnson. Thus, the Board of Directors currently consists of nine persons, seven of whom are white and two of whom are black. It is hoped that this 22% representation of African Americans on the Board of Directors will result in continued participation and enrollment of black students at DCS.

In addition to increasing minority representation on the Board of Directors, DCG has expended substantial efforts and resources aimed at specifically recruiting black students. Parent meetings and orientations were held at the school and a local community college to inform parents of the school. DCG held three public meetings at the Shelby Jackson Community College in Ferriday, Louisiana on Saturdays. The dates and times for the meetings, as well as DCS' open admissions policy and non-discriminatory policy, were publicized in a one-fourth (1/4) page newspaper advertisement in the Concordia Sentinel on the Thursday prior to each meeting. At each meeting, parents were able to meet with DCG's board members, as well as the Director of DCS and were able to pick up application forms.

¹ DCS does not know exactly what the black student enrollment for the 2013-2014 school year is for Concordia Parish School District; however, the number was approximately 49.5% at the time of the Consent Order, January 4, 2013.

In addition to these efforts, DCG engaged in targeted recruitment efforts to enroll black children by visiting the local Head Start programs and by meeting with local African American leaders. Clovis Christman, Director of DCS, delivered one hundred fifty-five (155) applications for admission to the Head Start in Clayton, Louisiana. Each child enrolled in the Head Start program in Clayton was sent home with an Application for DCS, along with a flyer advertising the school. DCG also posted flyers regarding the school and advertising the enrollment period in the libraries in Ferriday and Vidalia. DCG also posted flyers advertising the school at the Sheriff's Substation located on Doty Road in Ferriday, a predominantly African American neighborhood.

DCG leaders met with local minority youth leaders in an effort to attract black students to DCS, and encouraged word-of-mouth recruitment efforts to attract black students. DCG also extended its enrollment period and has continued to enroll students, including black students. DCS has given preference to black students who have applied to the school and has not denied admission to any black student.

Despite its extensive efforts to recruit black students, DCS' current enrollment rate is 323 students, with 49 or 15.17% of that total being black students. DCS has promoted a non-discriminatory and open admissions policy in the community and the local newspapers, the Concordia Sentinel and the Natchez Democrat, have published articles about the school on numerous occasions. Yet because this will be the first year of operation for DCS, it is believed that many in the minority community may not be aware of the offerings of DCS and/or may be concerned about the rigidity of the curriculum at DCS. In addition, it is believed that some parents may have experienced difficulty in obtaining their students records from schools previously attended and this may have added to their reluctance in transferring their students to DCS.

b. Proposal for modifying the enrollment rate

DCG and DCS will continue in their efforts to make headway in the black community and increase enrollment of black students at DCS. DCS plans to offer several sports programs, including basketball, track & field, baseball, and softball. DCS also intends to increase its offering for sports programs such as football. DCS has met with an African-American former Saints NFL football player (whose wife currently serves on the Board of Directors for DCG and whose child is enrolled in DCS) and discussed plans for him possibly coaching a football program and/or a football camp at DCS. It is hoped that publicizing an event such as a football program or camp with a former NFL player will encourage black students to enroll and participate in DCS.

As previously mentioned, DCG has increased minority participation on its Board of Directors and DCS has hired minorities to fill both teaching and staff positions in hopes of recruiting and attracting black students. In fact, fifty percent (50%) of DCS' staff are African American, and fifteen (15%) percent of the teachers (faculty) are African American.

DCS plans to continue holding public meetings and publicizing its programs in African American communities in the hopes of attracting black students. DCS also plans to continue in its efforts to attract minorities to serve on its faculty and staff to increase participation by black students. Further, as the school operates from year to year, it is hoped that word-of-mouth will spread in the minority community about the programs that DCS has to offer. It is believed that these efforts in conjunction with the addition of more sports programs will result in increased participation by black students in the future years of DCS.

III. DATA REPORT

In accordance with the Court's January 4, 2013 Consent Order, THE DELTA CHARTER GROUP ("DCG"), submits the following in response to Section III, Paragraph 2 of the Court's Order

which directs that a data report is to be submitted thirty days (30) days prior to the beginning of each school year. Classes at Delta Charter School are scheduled to begin on August 12, 2013, with the following demographic information:

a. Number of students enrolled in each grade by race

<u>Grade</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>
K	34	2
1st	35	1
2nd	17	8
3rd	33	4
4th	25	8
5th	21	5
6th	32	3
7th	24	10
8th	30	3
<u>9th</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>5</u>
Totals:	274	49

b. the name, grade of enrollment, race, and transferring school of each newly-enrolled student;

SEE Exhibit "A" -- Master List of all students enrolled by name, grade, race and transferring school

c. the number of full-time teachers by race;

20 Total Full Time teachers:
17– White
3– Black

d. the number of part-time teachers by race;

DCS has not hired any "part-time" teachers at this time.

e. the number and title of administrators by race;

3 Total Administrators:

Director – White
Assistant Director - White
Maintenance Director – Black

f. the number of staff by race;

4 Total Staff Members:

2 -- Black

2 -- White

g. the number of members of the Board of Directors by race; and

9 Total Board Members

2 -- Black

7 --White

h. the name, title, and race of the DCS teachers and administrators who are hired from the District.

Beach, Jeannie	Teacher/Coach	W
Barber, Teneeshia	Sp. Ed. Teacher	B
Tucker, Margarette	ESL/Spanish	W
Miller, Monica	Elem. Teacher	W

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of July, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
THE FAIRCLOTH LAW GROUP, LLC

By: /s/ Christie C. Wood

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**ATTORNEYS FOR THE DELTA CHARTER
GROUP**

CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that I have on this 12th day of July, 2013, served a copy of the foregoing **Delta Charter Group's Second Status Report** on counsel for all parties to this proceeding, by the "Notice of Electronic Filing" pursuant to LR 5.7.09W.

s/ Christie C. Wood

Of Counsel