



April 12, 2021

Volunteers of America-Minnesota
Stephanie Olsen
Charter School Authorizing Program Manager
924 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Dear Ms. Olsen:

Thank you for submitting a revised change in authorizer (CIA) request for Bluffview Montessori School (BMS) on March 16, 2021 in response to the initial determination letter dated March 9, 2021. Congratulations – the revised CIA request is approved!

The CIA request from Volunteers of America-Minnesota (VOA-MN) for BMS is aligned with statutory requirements and the terms and conditions set forth in VOA-MN’s commissioner-approved authorizing plan. A review rubric is attached.

With this approval, VOA-MN now has the authority to charter BMS on July 1, 2021. VOA-MN must submit a fully executed charter contract to MDE’s Charter Center in accordance with Charter Contract Guidance found on the Authorizer Resources page of MDE’s website: <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/chart/atures/>. Please submit the final executed charter contract, including all attachments, to mde.charterschools@state.mn.us.

Please note that the fully executed contract must comply with all aspects of Minnesota Statutes, section 124E.10, subdivisions 1(a-b), 3(b) and 5, including the following:

- The charter contract must be finalized and executed no later than July 1, 2021; and,
- VOA-MN must submit to MDE a complete copy of the signed charter contract within ten business days of its execution.

Additionally, the school’s admissions policy must be clarified to ensure consistency with statutory requirements as indicated in the attached review rubric. This will be confirmed by MDE when VOA-MN submits its final charter contract with BMS under Minnesota Statutes, section 124E.10, subdivision 1(a).

We wish you success and hope this change in authorizers will provide opportunity for increased student achievement and improved student success. Please contact Mike Schultz at mike.schultz@state.mn.us or 651-582-8529 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Daron Korte, J.D.
Assistant Commissioner

cc: Karla Winter, Charter School Liaison, Winona Area Public Schools
Henry Schantzen, Head of School, BMS
Paula Higgins, Charter Center Supervisor, MDE
Karen Calcaterra, Charter Center Specialist, MDE
Mike Schultz, Charter Center Specialist, MDE

Encl: 21.04-12 VOA-BMS CIA Request Review Rubric – Final