

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank-you for providing me the opportunity to address the board. I'm a former Science and Special Education teacher of Argent Preparatory Academy, formerly known as Silver State Charter School. I'm speaking with you today as a first step to addressing the severances that were promised to us by the Charter School Authority, but have never been paid.

Let me take a moment and provide a brief backstory. I've wanted to be involved in Science Education for much of my adult life. After receiving a dual Masters in the Sciences, I completed my teacher licensing program and worked with a variety of schools across Washoe County. When Silver State offered me a teaching position, I was excited by the opportunity to work at a Charter School with a hybrid model that largely served at-risk youth.

For the next 5 years, our teachers and administrators worked passionately and tirelessly to help our students discover their personal paths to success. The school became a safe haven for so many families and provided an educational model that we tried to tailor to the needs of each child. The overall model evolved at a lightening pace for years with the staff continuously involved with developing new strategies and assessing our efforts.

In five years, we had three different principals before the Charter School Authority forcibly removed the last one and brought in Josh Kern to help improve the school's performance. As a staff, we knew that if the school didn't provide solid data of continued improvement that it'd be closed. We were also heavily encouraged to not accept any other job offers, but instead dive deep into restructuring our educational model and desperately work with our families to save the school. Mr. Kern knew that our staff would be risking and sacrificing a lot in this effort and, therefore, ensured that, if the school did ultimately close, that a severance would be provided to the veteran teachers that were committed until the end.

As you know, after a long battle and many tears from families and staff, the school ultimately closed. Though I cherish the moments I had working with all of the good people at Silver State, nothing will entirely heal the loss that we experienced especially after all our commitment and efforts to helping the students in every way we could.

Since the school's closure, many of us have found other work, started families, and, of course, are finding our way through the financial hardships of a pandemic. We've inquired about the promised severance several times and have been told in public record that it'll come when the school's building is sold. We recently learned the buildings were sold, but that the severances will no longer be honored.

We are now taking our first steps in making sure that the incredible commitment and efforts we made as teachers in not only restructuring the school, but in making sure our students had their teachers until the end are honored by the Charter School Authority. I, therefore, plead to you to honor the severances that were promised to us. Please help make this right. Thank-you.

Kind regards,

Will Truce