

From: [Margaret Zollo](#)
To: [Bill Clarke](#); [Valerie Martin Kowalski](#)
Subject: RE: Contact request
Date: Tuesday, December 09, 2014 9:17:03 AM

... so Ms Thurber has made quite an impression here through a phone contact yesterday. Sounds like her tone with our staff could be classified as abusive. I have told our staff to work via email only with HER and if any phone contact is necessary, I will handle that or ask Val for help. Just letting you know, although I expect this may not surprise you. As an aside, an attorney hand delivered their contract and he was professional and courteous.

From: Bill Clarke
Sent: Friday, December 05, 2014 10:40 AM
To: Margaret Zollo
Cc: Valerie Martin Kowalski
Subject: FW: Contact request
Importance: High

Margaret – Please see below and attached per my Voice mail. Thanks. Bill

Finn Academy
International

From: Valerie Martin Kowalski
Sent: Friday, December 05, 2014 10:25 AM
To: Bill Clarke
Subject: FW: Contact request

From: Finn Academy [<mailto:finnacademycharterschool@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, December 05, 2014 9:00 AM
To: Valerie Martin Kowalski
Cc: Martina Baker
Subject: Contact request

Good morning, Valerie. I'm looking for a contact at the comptroller's office so that I might inquire as to the status and timing of our CSP grant. We are in an untenable situation here that we need resolved immediately and satisfactorily. We have been declined by a second bank for a line of credit and advised by a third that we need not apply for credit unless we have a signed grant in our hands. I am unable to explain or understand why we do not. It is unconscionable that we would in good faith act upon the mandate of our charter and be unable to pay for the pre-planning costs necessary to start up. Having been encouraged to present a fiscally conservative budget that demonstrated our intent to deliver on our mission with the funding allotted to us, it comes as a surprise to me to learn that personal funding is the only way to underwrite our start up. We have not sought private funding at this point - and in our community, with its below 63% graduation rate, below 30% college and career readiness, and below 20% proficiency on grades 3-8 mathematics and ELA, the bastions of

which still see me as crazy to leave my tenured administrative position, and abandon my NYSTRS service, and see Finn as a paper school, we cannot. And it should not be necessary to do so. While it is unfathomable to me why we - and others, I am told, are in this predicament, I do appreciate your efforts on our behalf thus far. However, my board, my community, and my 73 families who have already enrolled at Finn Academy are expecting us to be anything but insolvent - and through no fault of our own. At this point, I am concerned that the uncertain timing may imperil our success and reputation. Please advise.

Thank you.

Maggie Thurber

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Sent from Gmail Mobile