

***POCONO MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS***

***Statement regarding the revocation of the charter
for the Pocono Mountain Charter School***

The Pocono Mountain School District Board of School Directors ("School Board") has carefully considered the 2,000 pages of transcripts and 130+ exhibits from the 16 public hearing sessions held in the revocation proceedings involving the Pocono Mountain Charter School, as well as the proposed findings of fact and conclusions ^{→ OF LAW} and legal memoranda submitted by the attorneys for Pocono Mountain Charter School and the School District administration.

Upon completion of its review of the evidence and the legal arguments, the School Board has reached the inescapable conclusion that Pocono Mountain Charter School is significantly and improperly entangled with Shawnee Tabernacle Church.

This conclusion is supported by numerous facts, including the following:

- PMCS spent \$39,200 of taxpayer money to install a large electronic message board, featuring the name "Shawnee Tabernacle Church" at the top of the sign, along the street on Church property. PMCS also allows the Church to run religious messages on the board at no charge. That kind of entanglement is inappropriate under the Charter School Law;
- PMCS spent another \$124,501 in public funds to construct a new gymnasium floor at the Church, with the name "SHAWNEE TABERNACLE" painted onto the gymnasium floor. PMCS also allows an athletic group affiliated with the Church to use the gymnasium purchased by the PMCS during the evenings, weekends and other times the charter school is not in session.

The School Board is mindful of the Charter School's right to appeal this decision, and that if an appeal is pursued, Pocono Mountain Charter School would have the legal right to continue to operate until such time as the Charter School Appeal Board renders a decision.

The School Board will make a copy of its 18 page adjudication that sets forth the factual and legal basis for its revocation decision ~~to publish~~ through the School District's official website tomorrow morning. The School Board does not intend to provide any further public comment regarding its decision outside of this statement, and encourages the media and community to review the adjudication in order to assess for themselves the justification for that decision.

The School Board does not take any satisfaction in rendering its decision in this case; the revocation proceeding was a long, expensive and contentious endeavor for both sides – and it might not be ~~not~~ finished. However, the School Board takes its oversight responsibility under the Charter School Law very seriously, and its decision complies fully with both the letter and the spirit of the Charter School Law.