

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: August 28, 2023 2:51 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 174.202.201.210  
Unique ID: 1136227756  
Location: 35.1431, -90.0492

<b>Name</b>	Lilli Beck
<b>Email</b>	lillijbeck@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 982-5386
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Public funds should not be directed toward charter schools. Our public schools work to provide an equitable learning environment for students of all backgrounds and should be supported financially to continue that goal.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: August 28, 2023 2:52 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 174.212.101.216  
Unique ID: 1136228234  
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	Juli Beck
<b>Email</b>	julibeck75@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 797-2470
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	I am completely against a charter school coming in to Maury County. I want my taxes completely funding our public schools. I want to keep our students in a diverse and multi-cultural learning environment.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: August 28, 2023 3:14 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 98.97.176.113  
Unique ID: 1136238373  
Location: 33.7485, -84.3871

<b>Name</b>	Johnny Bryant
<b>Email</b>	jwjmbryant108@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(270) 994-4148
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>Having options is represented throughout public life and livelihood and should also be available in education, especially for children who otherwise have none. Options in food, clothing, medical care, etc help to foster competition that improves quality. Should not Maury County students reap the benefits that would be available for achievement by adding a new competitive option that offers benefits to all? The answer is yes!</p> <p>Johnny Bryant Maury County Resident</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: August 28, 2023 4:05 pm  
Browser: Android browser 4.0 / Android  
IP Address: 45.29.168.255  
Unique ID: 1136259831  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Tara Crocetta
<b>Email</b>	tarachrmnt@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(585) 455-6412
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	I want to have a American Classical Academy in Maury County. Our children need and deserve this option. Please vote in favor to have this charter school in Maury county!!!!

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: August 28, 2023 5:46 pm  
Browser: Chrome 114.0.0.0 / OS X  
IP Address: 98.97.176.113  
Unique ID: 1136295156  
Location: 33.7485, -84.3871

<b>Name</b>	JOYCE BRYANT
<b>Email</b>	jjbryant1@juno.com
<b>Phone</b>	(270) 559-5847
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	Giving the children of Maury county a quality classical education will not only enhance their lives for the future but also for all of Maury county.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: August 28, 2023 6:06 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 116.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 75.138.168.85  
Unique ID: 1136301550  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Michael Gale
<b>Email</b>	mgale805@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(949) 630-1267
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Charter schools are just a way to divert money from the public school system into for profit business. This only strands poor students into under funded schools and less experienced teachers. If it's "for the children " it must be for ever child, not just some political talking point.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: August 28, 2023 6:52 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.2 / iOS  
IP Address: 66.211.24.164  
Unique ID: 1136314284  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Tom Farmer
<b>Email</b>	t_w_farmer@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 446-2499
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	I think charter schools are a great and valuable addition to our education system. I was disappointed when our local school board voted it down. Please approve this charter school for our community.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: August 28, 2023 8:27 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 107.223.26.216  
Unique ID: 1136339353  
Location: 35.7163, -86.9093

<b>Name</b>	Jay Bennett
<b>Email</b>	jbennett7216@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(916) 342-1506
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Other
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	I don't want a charter school placed here, it will hurt the overall education of our students.



Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: August 28, 2023 9:55 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 162.238.245.88  
Unique ID: 1136357674  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Dee White
<b>Email</b>	deewhite.tsl@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 626-7506
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	As a parent of a student in MCPS, I am against this all together and believe funding should go to all public schools.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: August 29, 2023 9:14 am  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 116.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 172.223.145.118  
Unique ID: 1136477149  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Jacqueline Tilma
<b>Email</b>	jjtilma85@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(908) 587-6101
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	Charter schools and classical schools are an important member of the education community. In addition to many benefits, they also provide competition and hopefully raise the standards of the public school.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: August 29, 2023 10:30 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 71.87.164.104  
Unique ID: 1136510783  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

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**Name** Bruce McShurley

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**Email** bcmcshurley@gmail.com

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**Phone** (931) 840-9850

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**Resident District Status** District Resident

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**Relationship to Application** Community Member

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**I wish to comment in support of** Maury County Public Schools

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**Written Comment** After doing my due diligence and researching American Classical Academy, I am VERY much opposed to having them in Maury County. I am in support of our Board that voted against approving them. I wish our State government would put as much effort and funding into supporting our Public schools and the teachers and staffs that have a heart fir educating our children. I WILL NOT support my Tax dollars going to this organization.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: August 30, 2023 8:39 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 24.151.148.185  
Unique ID: 1137164524  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Becky Clayborne
<b>Email</b>	beckyclayborne@hotmail.com
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<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	I don't want my money to be used for charter schools.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: August 30, 2023 9:19 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 166.196.82.52  
Unique ID: 1137173364  
Location: 33.5226, -86.8033

<b>Name</b>	Thomas Howell
<b>Email</b>	thomaschowell@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 334-0241
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	ACE does not meet the standards set fourth by the state. They have demonstrated that their plan is lacking and have not rectified any of the issues. They don't seem to have any semblance of a business plan either.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: August 31, 2023 8:30 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 174.80.27.149  
Unique ID: 1137278604  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Deline Dendy
<b>Email</b>	deldend@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 797-2514
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	I do not want nor want to support a charter school. We have good public schools and do not wish my tax money goes toward a private school.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: August 31, 2023 3:58 pm  
Browser: Chrome 80.0.3987.149 / Windows  
IP Address: 193.36.224.153  
Unique ID: 1137472999  
Location: 25.7689, -80.1946

<b>Name</b>	Shelley Daly
<b>Email</b>	shellkbell@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(813) 407-2709
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury

## Written Comment

In 1999 A&E listed the one hundred most influential people in the world over the last 1000 years. Interestingly, the top ten were all classically trained. I learned this fact when I was attending a Classical Conversations Practicum a few years ago, and I found it amazing that so many people who changed the world had a similar educational experience. Why is classical education making a comeback? What does it mean to be classical? Why did it ever go away? Should Maury County welcome the American Classical Education (ACE) charter school affiliated with Hillsdale College? Yes, Maury County should openly welcome an ACE charter school because struggling families need a reputable charter school, classical education has a proven track record that has stood the test of time, and the status quo is not working.

First of all, there is a great income disparity in Maury County. There are families that can afford the private school tuition of the several schools in the county, some can homeschool, and others do not have a choice but to send their children to public schools. The cost per pupil has been steadily rising with little to no effect on results. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing while expecting a different result. Not all students learn the same, and many don't fit in the one-size-fits-all box of public education. If a family is without financial means or the ability to homeschool, there is no other option but the public school. ACE charter schools are held to a higher standard and will not cost those families who choose it anything other than the taxes they are already paying. Maury County has been growing with a massive influx of people from out of state and will need new schools. An ACE charter school would be one way to address that growing need with a top-notch and proven education while serving families who cannot afford a private education or have the means to homeschool.

Although there are many ideas about what it means to be classical, there are some principles that most classical schools have in common. For example, most agree that the Trivium is a part of being classical. The Trivium works well with the developmental stages of children. First is the grammar stage, hence when we have all heard the term "grammar school." Children in this stage are excellent at memorizing information and love to repeat what they know in songs and rhymes. Next is the dialectic stage in which children start to understand and struggle with that knowledge, especially how to apply it. We can see this clearly with middle school-aged children who question everything and enjoy arguing. Finally, we see the third stage of rhetoric, which is the later high school years. Knowledge has been learned, understood, practiced, and debated. Now it's time to share, present, and teach based on that knowledge. Similarly, we all go through these stages of the Trivium whenever we learn something new, but developmentally, it makes sense to use the strengths of children at different stages to make the most of their learning.

Besides the Trivium, most classical schools teach logic and Latin. Are these courses outdated and no longer needed in our modern times? Absolutely not. Unfortunately, education has been dumbed down for years. The purpose of our present modern education was simply to produce workers for the industrial age, not people who are capable of thinking on their own and truly capable of evaluating ideas. The return to logic creates



children with strong minds who are not easily swayed by propaganda and manipulation. They are also much more capable of persuading others of their own ideas. Also, why Latin when it seems like a dead language? Unlike current spoken languages, Latin does not change. It makes up sixty percent of the English language, which also is helpful for students to decipher unfamiliar and more difficult English words. It is not "dead" as it is currently used frequently in science, medicine, law, and is a part of Christian church history. A Latin student will have a full understanding of the foundations of all languages, including his or her own.

Another reason classical education is superior is because it connects us to our past. Several classical programs and schools exist, and they all have in common that they use literature from the past-the classics. Modern education gives the false illusion that our current time is at the pinnacle of civilization, and that whatever came before is of no consequence and full of errors. Learning the classics of literature, students learn that the same or similar problems have always existed, despite differences in culture and time. We can see how our present-day time is connected to the past. Students can learn from the wisdom and mistakes of the past, applying it to the present time so we can clearly examine the errors of our own time.

We've all seen the "man on the street" interviews that are so embarrassing when the average citizen doesn't know how to locate our own country on a map, cannot recite any continents, and doesn't know who fought in the American Revolution. The status quo is not working. Students are graduating unable to read, and those that can read cannot distinguish between propaganda and facts. Classical education has been proven to create better informed citizens. Most citizens today vote their feelings rather than voting based on knowledge of the candidates and the issues. Creating a better society starts with the education of the younger generations.

For all these reasons, Maury County should welcome an ACE charter school. It's a blessing that families would have an option that won't tax them financially. A classical education is a rigorous education that returns to teaching logic, Latin, and history, as well as making the most of the developmental stages with the Trivium. This is why classical education is making a comeback. It's proven to work. If we truly care about the children and the future of our community, as well as the future of our country, we as citizens of Maury County will gladly receive an ACE charter school.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 2, 2023 9:54 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 71.87.164.104  
Unique ID: 1138003022  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Cay McShurley
<b>Email</b>	bcmcshurley@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 840-9850
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Please vote down the charter school option. This will hurt the underprivileged in our community. This is not beneficial to the students, teachers or the community. It is just an opportunity for Hillsdale / American Classical Academy, to make a lot of money.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 4, 2023 10:42 am  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / OS X  
IP Address: 76.9.174.224  
Unique ID: 1138388862  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Matthew Reese
<b>Email</b>	Matt36r@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 243-8476
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury

## Written Comment

To the Charter School Commission,

I am father of four young children and an upper school teacher at Agathos Classical School in Columbia TN. I also hold a masters in philosophy and moral psychology from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

I attended the school board meeting wherein our school board declined to accept American Classical Academy as a charter school in our county. I was disappointed in the decision, but I was much more disappointed in the utter lack of reasoning powers used in arriving at that decision. ??Reasons given in opposition to the charter school ranged from tertiary to contradictory:?

1. The main concerns offered by residents merely concerned bus routes and lunches. Other comments concerned the untrustworthiness of classical school outcomes, which were supported by no data and which contradict many reports to the contrary.?

2. Concerns voiced by school board member, Marlina Ervin, offered even less in substance. She argued that somehow she was in favor of school choice, but only choices that involved attending public schools (a clear contradiction). She went on to acknowledge that our public schools are underperforming, but that we should pity our public school teachers because their classrooms have too many students. In this she unknowingly supported the charter school since it would aid in reducing class sizes and so, by her reasoning, improve the performance of public schools.??

The reasons were painfully inadequate, but somehow they were enough to convince the majority of our board members. I could only take such poor reasoning as evidence for one or two conclusions:

For one, their lack of reasoning powers may be evidence of a very deep problem, that our school system is run by educators who do not know how to think. This would explain why our public school students are severely underperforming.

Another possibility is that those in opposition were not serious about their reasons, but, rather, are hiding something. Perhaps they do not 'actually' want fewer students in classrooms because that would lower school funding. Perhaps they are worried that a strong, competitive alternative will further put their competence into question. Or, perhaps, they are worried that teacher unions will lose power over our teachers and students.?

Whatever, the reason, I could find no favorable light to shine our board. Their decision was at best nearsighted and, at worst, self-serving.

?As a classical school teacher in Maury County, I have seen the power of classical education. Our students are hardworking, socially mature and strong critical thinkers. Our students have a strong sense of identity and go on to success in a wide range of disciplines. Whether trade school, bible college, or top tier universities, they do so with confidence and without looking down on one option or another. For those that attend universities, they are typically invited to special weekends exclusive to classical

students because those in higher education know that classical students boast higher retention and performance.??Moreover, many reports show the power of classical schools. For one, the Good Soil Report, which was independently conducted by Notre Dame and is available online for viewing, concluded that those from American Classical Christian Schools, in comparison to homeschooling, public and other private options report:?

1. The strongest sense of thankfulness and confidence dealing with life problems.
2. The strongest sense of preparedness for college
3. The highest grade performance in college
4. The strongest participation in churches as well as other organizations, specifically, those focused on helping the poor and needy.

All of this, including my own experience that affirms these statistics, suggest that welcoming similar classical school opportunities is a win for our city and families like mine who would like strong options when considering education for each of our children. Doubtless, the burden of proof strongly falls on those who would dismiss this opportunity in our city, where a small school like Agathos (where I teach) could not possibly meet the need.??

So, with all due respect, in voting to accept or deny this Charter School proposal the commission has one of two options. It may accept the the charter school, offering greater school choice and 'a greater' school choice than what is currently available in our city. And, in doing so, it may push back against the very tides of poor thinking evident in our community. Or, to the contrary, it may join in a chorus of noises railing against this charter school option, either for utter lack of reasoning, or, more likely, for hidden motives that are too shameful to be spoken out loud.??

I hope this commission will make the best decision for our city. Thank you.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 5, 2023 2:10 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.5.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 166.199.149.32  
Unique ID: 1138775575  
Location: 32.3705, -90.1746

<b>Name</b>	Mary Boyd
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<b>Phone</b>	(931) 698-1522
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	The charter schools will not benefit the minority students. This I base on how I have seen the system work.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 11:19 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 172.58.150.78  
Unique ID: 1139106429  
Location: 33.9524, -117.3806

<b>Name</b>	Matthew Phelan
<b>Email</b>	mp.roseville@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(916) 217-3847
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>As a father of 4 school aged kids, I want to voice my support for American Classical Academy Maury. My kids are zoned for schools that rank 1 out of 10. Like all of my neighbors, we pulled our kids out of our low ranking public schools and placed them in private Christian &amp; out of zone schools instead. Charter schools provide a quality education &amp; fill the gap for so many that either can't afford private education, or manage to get their kids to schools further away from home. I had my kids at a charter school in another state and it was far superior to our public education system. My wife is a teacher and we have experienced the benefits of charter schools. I have family that refuses to move to Maury solely based on our school scores, so they choose Williamson County. We can and should provide better options for educating Maury's youth.</p>

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 11:40 am  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 108.0.5359.128 / Android  
IP Address: 166.196.86.20  
Unique ID: 1139115223  
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	Tosha Gunderson
<b>Email</b>	tngunderson@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 374-1675
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	As a parent whose child is zoned for Maury County School, I am fully in support of Maury County Schools and the education they provide. Our county's resources should be utilized to support our children in public schools. There is a reason why American Classical has been rejected in numerous counties.



Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 11:44 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 96.4.42.148  
Unique ID: 1139117107  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

**Name** Ashlea Robertson

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**Email** arobertson@mauryk12.org

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**Phone** (901) 275-0031

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**Resident District Status** District Resident

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**Relationship to Application** LEA Staff Member

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**I wish to comment in support of** Maury County Public Schools

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**Written Comment**

As a parent of a student who attends MCPS and as an employee of MCPS, I am vehemently against the charter school application. These schools take much needed tax dollars away from the students in our district. Charter schools are able to pick and choose the students they want to serve. They do not choose students with special needs or behavior issues. They do not provide transportation.

The students of Maury County Public Schools deserve every tax-payer penny possible. Other districts who have accepted charter schools are now raising taxes to off-set the costs incurred by the charter schools. I do not feel that Maury County residents can afford higher taxes, especially when many residents are doing their best to put a roof over their heads and put food on the table.

The school board voted no to the charter school application in support of the residents of Maury County. That should have been the final answer. The answer should remain no. A charter school is not in the best interest of the students of Maury County, nor the tax-paying residents.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 12:29 pm  
Browser: Firefox 115.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 174.80.18.162  
Unique ID: 1139137727  
Location: 35.9261, -92.6386

<b>Name</b>	Jennifer Creech
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<b>Phone</b>	(731) 514-9901
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>Maury County Schools has gone through quite a bit of transition over the past 5 years. I honestly believe the schools will get back on the right path with caring leadership. And I don't believe that this will happen if the American Classical Academy is being added to the list of things to accomplish in Maury Co.</p> <p>Public money should NOT be used for private education. I will not support a school being paid for with tax money that does not report to the same system and government that all other public schools answer to. And to continue to say that this gives parents "a choice" is malarkey. This will only give a very small population of parents a choice ( a choice that they "no zoning" already offers parents).</p> <p>Support Maury Co Public Schools</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 12:31 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 66.211.29.207  
Unique ID: 1139138495  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Ronnie Shannon
<b>Email</b>	ronnie.shannon94@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(801) 654-8062
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I do not want money taken away from our public schools and our teachers to fund a charter school. We should be providing more funds to the public schools and teachers we already have instead of taking away from them to fund a charter school. Please do not approve a charter school for this district - please better support and fund our public schools as they are much more essential and beneficial for our community than adding a charter school.</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 1:10 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 35.132.211.181  
Unique ID: 1139169242  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Jodi Sztapka
<b>Email</b>	jodipiippo@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 505-0466
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Other
<b>What is your relationship to the application?</b>	I'm a parent of child in Maury County Public Schools
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	I do not think public funds should be used to fund private school. Our public schools are already lacking in resources for teachers, space and special education services.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 1:21 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 116.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 74.51.9.119  
Unique ID: 1139174365  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Sandra Collins
<b>Email</b>	doyleandsandy1@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 446-1978
<b>Resident District Status</b>	Non-district Resident
<b>What is your resident district?</b>	Marshall
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Other
<b>What is your relationship to the application?</b>	Grandparent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

**Written Comment**

This proposal has been defeated twice by the duly elected school board for valid reasons. It doesn't meet the basic requirements of our public schools. It takes public funds away from public schools where those funds are sorely needed. We need to support our public schools, not weaken them. I am a proud recipient of a Maury County Schools education. My children, and now my grandchildren, continue that excellent tradition. I served on many PTAs and saw how important community support of our schools was then, as it is now.

This effort to subvert public funds to a school that would not meet the needs of all students, including those with disabilities, is shameful. Please deny the request.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 4:02 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 116.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 172.223.145.184  
Unique ID: 1139278311  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

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<b>Name</b>	Greg Hanners
<b>Email</b>	hannersg@bellsouth.net
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 215-2148
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury

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**Written Comment**

Given that our MCPS staff reviewed the American Classical Academy charter application and found it did not satisfy the state of Tennessee criteria for charter school applications, and our School Board voted against this charter school twice, I am puzzled as to why the state charter board would overrule local officials in this case. It is not clear what local schools challenge or which underperforming local student demographic American Classical Academy is attempting to address in Maury County. Additionally this charter operator has no track record of operating successfully in TN and our Maury County School Board would like to adopt a "wait and see" attitude, rather than invest our precious, limited resources in an unproven charter plan that does not address our specific educational challenges.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 4:22 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 166.199.149.31  
Unique ID: 1139286295  
Location: 32.3012, -90.1834

<b>Name</b>	Cindy Sims
<b>Email</b>	anthonymsims@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 626-9097
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Please let this dead horse lie! The majority does NOT wants this in our community.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 4:43 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 116.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 174.212.167.122  
Unique ID: 1139294630  
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	Rebecca Sweet
<b>Email</b>	rebeccasweet0013@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(520) 253-1818
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I am vehemently opposed to ACAM getting approval to open a charter school here in Maury County. American Classical Academy Maury (ACAM) has not demonstrated they understand the requirements to run a school let alone any ability to do so. They're original application showed a complete disregard for the safety of our children or the quality of their education. ACAM is not qualified to run a school. They do not appear to have the slightest idea of how to run a school.</p>



Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 5:05 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 24.159.45.228  
Unique ID: 1139303330  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Melissa Joslin
<b>Email</b>	joslinmelissa@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 698-0656
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>In Maury County, we are already facing a teacher shortage and a lack of funding.</p> <p>If the charter school is approved, it will make an already difficult situation even worse. The money follows the child, but if the charter school dismisses a student making him/her return to the child's home school the money does not return back to the home school. The money instead stays with the charter school.</p> <p>Since we already have a teacher shortage, where does the charter school intend to get their teachers? A certified teacher is not going to be willing to give up benefits and salary to go teach at a charter that has asked for several waivers from the state, including several related to teachers and staff. What will be left to education the children at the charter school? It will be adults without a degree or adults who were not hired by the county.</p> <p>We need to focus on continuing to improve our public schools. Progress is being made and approving this charter school could cause the progress to be delayed or even reversed.</p>

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 5:17 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 96.4.42.149  
Unique ID: 1139307334  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Megan Rummage
<b>Email</b>	mrummage@mauryk12.org
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 698-4265
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Other
<b>What is your relationship to the application?</b>	Maury County Teacher
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>There is no need for a charter school. We already need better funding for IEP, special education programs, teachers deserve, better wages, the transportation department needs a boost and universal preschool along with free lunch. All of these things should come before using our tax dollars to fund a private school. ?</p> <p>We are already in need of support and instead of giving support to the public schools that are IN NEED of the funding, it would be giving it to a private charter school who chooses their students based on a "lottery" system. It is not something that we want or need!</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 5:20 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 24.151.225.68  
Unique ID: 1139308276  
Location: 35.4586, -86.783

<b>Name</b>	Ryan Siebold
<b>Email</b>	ryanbrazier@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 626-5757
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	A charter school is the last thing this county needs!! This is the dumbest idea. Keep the county's money in the actual county's schools!!

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 5:23 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 166.198.42.180  
Unique ID: 1139309127  
Location: 42.4261, -83.2514

<b>Name</b>	Candace Humphrey
<b>Email</b>	canraehumphrey@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 797-0519
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>The parents and county residents of Maury County have spoken on this issue twice and have vetoed this request twice. We do not want public funds being used to fund this charter school. We want our public funds to support our already strained public school system. The state should recognize that this application from Hillsdale is not what it wanted in Maury County nor in any other county. We do not support the use of the system to go around the wishes of the county residents. Please vote in support of Maury County and not the whims of an unwanted and unrequested charter school from another state. Keep public funds public.</p>

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 5:24 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 66.211.19.46  
Unique ID: 1139309467  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Caitlyn Morton
<b>Email</b>	caitlynmorton5@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 680-4374
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Other
<b>What is your relationship to the application?</b>	Public School Teacher for Maury County Public Schools
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I work for this district. I am an elementary school teacher. My kids do not have headphones and none were funded this year by the school. I have already spent so much money out of pocket for my kids. WE need more funding. More assistants in the building should be on top demand with our funding. We need school wide free lunch for our students who don't hit the means of having free or reduced lunch but still their families are unable to afford to feed their child. I have spent so much on my classroom last year and this year. The charter school is an absolute NO!</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 5:45 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 76.9.162.250  
Unique ID: 1139316048  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Katie Albright
<b>Email</b>	katie.e.albright@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 215-1067
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>It would do a wealth of great things to have competition for Maury County Schools. Students in the community deserve the right to go to a school of their choice, if they earn the grades that merit their application approval. Maury County has grown and tax paying customers have the right for their hard earned tax money to go to the school of their choice. I am for the American Classical Academy- Maury, this would be an amazing time to foster talent in Maury County and create well rounded community members excited to give back in their area. Maury County Schools has needed competition to force them to grow for over 20 years. Students of Maury county deserve this opportunity!</p>

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 6:03 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 107.77.233.126  
Unique ID: 1139325093  
Location: 37.751, -97.822

<b>Name</b>	Kim Pardue
<b>Email</b>	kpardue121@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 398-8268
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	I would like to keep public school money with the public schools...

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 6:10 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 174.80.49.176  
Unique ID: 1139327352  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

**Name** Steven Walters

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**Email** swalters4@gmail.com

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**Phone** (931) 797-9438

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**Resident District Status** District Resident

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**Relationship to Application** Community Member

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**I wish to comment in support of** Maury County Public Schools

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**Written Comment** No public school funding should be used for private schools. These private schools are destroying the public school system by upper income parents sending their children to private school while the middle and lower residents are left in the public schools. Why should we pay for charter and private religious schools.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 6:20 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 75.46.247.182  
Unique ID: 1139330308  
Location: 35.7163, -86.9093

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**Name** Stacy Delaney

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**Email** stacy.stace.sh@gmail.com

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**Phone** (931) 215-9557

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**Resident District Status** District Resident

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**Relationship to Application** Community Member

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**I wish to comment in support of** Maury County Public Schools

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**Written Comment** I am writing you today to ask for your support in voting AGAINST this charter school. I do NOT want my taxes supporting this charter. Public money needs to ONLY go to PUBLIC SCHOOLS. This charter school did not meet the requirements of Maury County Schools (and was voted down not once, but twice). I'm not sure how Maury County can get any clearer: we do NOT want this in our community.

Sincerely,  
Stacy Delaney  
Mother and a PROUD PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 6:50 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 98.97.181.22  
Unique ID: 1139342722  
Location: 33.7485, -84.3871

<b>Name</b>	Mary Sue Townsend
<b>Email</b>	suetownsend16@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 478-0025
<b>Resident District Status</b>	Non-district Resident
<b>What is your resident district?</b>	Giles County
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	LEA Staff Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	I feel that American Classical Academy would be detrimental to our community.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS
Submission Time:	September 6, 2023 6:59 pm
Browser:	Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	172.223.149.11
Unique ID:	1139347025
Location:	35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Emily Senefeld
<b>Email</b>	esenefeld@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 619-0119
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

**Written Comment**

This organization has no record of success in Tennessee. They don't have any roots or connections to the communities in which they are trying to set up schools--notably in another county's application, they named the wrong county. They would be hostile to our community--

during the application process they have been

1. unfairly critical of Maury County Public Schools--delusionally accusing MCPS of plagiarism.
2. openly incompetent--they have turned in sloppy applications and expect to be handed millions of dollars in our taxes regardless.
3. They have at times bragged about their connections to Hillsdale College while at other times attempting to obscure those connections--primarily when it became public that the head of Hillsdale College had called teachers and teacher education programs 'stupid.'
- 4 In public statements, the governor referred to these schools as schools for 'patriotic education' and promised some \$30 million in our tax dollars to his cronies at Hillsdale. It's clear that these are to be sites of political indoctrination . Hillsdale has also been openly hostile to the teaching of African American history-it's unconscionable that unsuspecting children would be subjected to this ideology. Finally, the school would undoubtedly discriminate against students--refusing to accept students with IEP's, for example. If a charter school were to be started in Maury County, it would need to be after years of study into the potentiality. I would think they would also select teachers based on cronyism/right wing ideology rather than objective evidence of merit-such as teaching experience and certification. This is a political organization masquerading as an educational one. Do not inflict this organization on Maury County. This would be fundamentally undemocratic and a negative reflection on your commission and on the governor. The tension would set up a hostile situation in the county to have this 'shoved down our throats' by the governor's cronies after our school board's valid and repeated rejections have expressed the will of the people.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 7:41 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 75.235.62.7  
Unique ID: 1139358234  
Location: 35.9375, -84.073

<b>Name</b>	Andrea Krimmel
<b>Email</b>	akrimmel@att.net
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 332-4232
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	LEA Staff Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Charter schools have no place in Maury co. We need all available funds and resources for our traditional public schools. Our public schools are great and should not suffer to fund a de facto private school.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 8:40 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 116.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 69.224.227.190  
Unique ID: 1139372790  
Location: 35.7163, -86.9093

<b>Name</b>	Debra Kim
<b>Email</b>	debbaa342@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(954) 732-2364
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	My son attended a charter school in Florida before relocating here. We miss the mission, family orientation and better education that a charter school brings, along with a steady and non revolving grade changing of schools as in the public school systems. Please allow this charter and many others.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 9:06 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 143.59.242.142  
Unique ID: 1139378730  
Location: 42.0857, -70.999

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<b>Name</b>	Kim Scruggs
<b>Email</b>	kimberlyscruggs18@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 446-3345
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

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**Written Comment**

Our tax dollars need to stay with our public schools. Hillsdale schools have no oversight as far as standard education and will bilk our parents into believing they are better for their students. Their teachers are not required to be licensed, which will only be detrimental to our students.

My children attended the MCPS system and we were incredibly blessed by their teachers and administrators. They deserve to be paid more and have more resources. That money is in jeopardy if this charter goes through. And so is the education of my future grandchildren.

Please!! Keep this charter school OUT of Maury County.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 6, 2023 9:34 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 166.199.149.31  
Unique ID: 1139384218  
Location: 32.3705, -90.1746

<b>Name</b>	April Johnson
<b>Email</b>	aprilandericjohnson@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 374-2181
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Our tax money needs to stay with public schools. Public schools serve all students without any Restrictions and that's where our money should go.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 6:49 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 75.55.156.243  
Unique ID: 1139454733  
Location: 35.7163, -86.9093

<b>Name</b>	Rebecca Robinson
<b>Email</b>	beccadi89@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(307) 640-5119
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I do not support American Classical Academy coming to Maury county. We are a strong community that loves and supports their public school teachers and administrators. We moved from Chattanooga a few years ago because the private and charter schools had gutted public education. We came to Maury for their public schools and their commitment to the children in our community, not businesses looking to profit off of our children.</p>



Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 6:56 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 104.5.107.2  
Unique ID: 1139456031  
Location: 35.7163, -86.9093

<b>Name</b>	Alicia Gibson
<b>Email</b>	ar0827@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 982-0635
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	I do not support funding a charter school in our district. Our school board already voted it down. That should tell you how our district feels about the situation. We need the funds we have to go to public schools, not charter. Again, I do not support helping fund a charter school!!

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 7:36 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 24.159.44.249  
Unique ID: 1139465665  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Jessica Wilson
<b>Email</b>	wilsonjess95@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 797-8210
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	I do NOT support American Classical Academy coming to Maury county! We need to keep the funds in our public schools and do not need other schools coming in and taking resources from our children.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 7:58 am  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 116.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 162.225.88.109  
Unique ID: 1139471376  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

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<b>Name</b>	Lauren Thurman
<b>Email</b>	laurenhenry37@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(415) 238-4381
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

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<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>Please do not take vital funds away from schools who already are hurting for money. That public school money could be used to help teachers provide for the children of Maury County in a tangible way to make the community better. This academy has already failed to pass the expectations of the state, and should not be allowed to continue to push through here. Without oversight, there is no accountability for what is being taught, how it is being taught, and how special needs are accounted for. Inclusion, education plans, years of education research will be thrown aside to give a select few the chance to be a part of a theocratic experiment. It will not make for a better, more educated group of Maury County children.</p>
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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 8:10 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 66.220.169.181  
Unique ID: 1139475421  
Location: 35.5302, -87.4914

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<b>Name</b>	Mandie Bales
<b>Email</b>	mandi3b0nes@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 304-1170
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

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**Written Comment**

Before Maury County extends into furthering private education, we need to FIX the public education system. Choosing to disregard the state of the public school system in favor of new charters is not only an injustice to children of middle- to low-income families, but it is also an insult to the parents of public school students. Just because some of us are struggling, doesn't mean our kids aren't worth the same effort and the same finances.

If anything, public school students are the ones who deserve a jumpstart on their education; not the students whose parents can pay for private tutors.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 8:33 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 76.248.236.233  
Unique ID: 1139482902  
Location: 35.7163, -86.9093

<b>Name</b>	Taylpr Capps
<b>Email</b>	tbcapps7@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(757) 642-5055
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Keep funding in our public schools not charter schools! Let's address bus driver shortages, teacher shortages, and needs for our current public school students instead.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 8:54 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 71.87.163.242  
Unique ID: 1139490856  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Linda Brewer
<b>Email</b>	jlarrybrewer@charter.net
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 626-9227
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Please to not go against what our school board voted. They voted against the American Classical Academy. They know what is best for our children.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 10:21 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.5.2 / iOS  
IP Address: 174.216.231.68  
Unique ID: 1139538028  
Location: 40.738, -73.9858

<b>Name</b>	Robert Krimmel
<b>Email</b>	rekrimmel@att.net
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 982-3921
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	I do not want American Classical Academy Maury in Maury County. We have enough religious private school options for Maury County residents. Do not waste my tax payer dollars on this religious school.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 12:59 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 66.211.28.12  
Unique ID: 1139608007  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Nekeia Simmons
<b>Email</b>	nekeiabooker@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 336-9997
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>My son has an IEP. The teachers are in need of more funding and more teachers. As someone who graduated from Central and initially placed my child in private school for pre-k I found out QUICKLY that schools like that do not cater to children with special needs. With Covid, there has been a huge increase in children needing IEPs and special assistance in school. A charter would only benefit the "typical" student. As a home owner, college graduate, and locally grown parent I do not support the Charter School Academy.</p>



Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 1:43 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 96.4.42.138  
Unique ID: 1139627726  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Chasity Ragsdale
<b>Email</b>	rdy2tkflight@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 686-5334
<b>Resident District Status</b>	Non-district Resident
<b>What is your resident district?</b>	Hickman County
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	LEA Staff Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Government money should stay public education.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 2:02 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 116.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 35.132.206.197  
Unique ID: 1139636180  
Location: 35.7163, -86.9093

<b>Name</b>	Krystal Williams
<b>Email</b>	sweetpeaplustwo@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 374-2150
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Maury County Schools has more than 3nough needs already. Giving away Public School money in favor of a private school is not on that list. We have private schools in our district and they pay their own bills without asking for public funds. I am NOT in support of the ACA coming into Maury County

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 2:51 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 75.55.158.150  
Unique ID: 1139658678  
Location: 35.7163, -86.9093

<b>Name</b>	Jessica Owens
<b>Email</b>	mrsjrowens@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 715-7501
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	The state should not approve a Charter School. Our schools are having trouble meeting TCAP scores for the state. We need better pay for teachers, assistance for additional learning programs, and many other things before checking the box for a Charter School.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 4:21 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 76.114.95.146  
Unique ID: 1139695522  
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

<b>Name</b>	Haley Reid
<b>Email</b>	haleyreid2019@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 693-2229
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	We need to stay focused on our public schools that everyone is allowed into and give them all the resources possible to better them instead of funding a public school paid for by tax dollars that not all children will be able to get into. All children need to benefit and not just some. There is enough work to do with what is already in existence.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 4:41 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 47.13.7.134  
Unique ID: 1139702745  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Gloria Booker
<b>Email</b>	globoo12001@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 626-6070
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Please don't do this to our Maury County children. Use the funds where EVERY student will benefit.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 4:58 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 166.196.82.68  
Unique ID: 1139709098  
Location: 33.5226, -86.8033

<b>Name</b>	Lindsay Troy
<b>Email</b>	LindsayTroy2010@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(727) 483-0468
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Other
<b>What is your relationship to the application?</b>	Parent to Maury County School students
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	We should not be introducing a charter school! It is not the answer! Support the public schools!

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 5:56 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 69.224.227.89  
Unique ID: 1139726874  
Location: 35.7163, -86.9093

<b>Name</b>	Julie Deffenbaugh
<b>Email</b>	julietdeffenbaugh@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 491-1291
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Public funds should stay with public schools, not used to fund essentially, a private school. Most importantly , the proposal was submitted and twice defeated, because it did not meet the standards required in our public schools.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 7, 2023 8:02 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 76.9.174.87  
Unique ID: 1139761143  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Jordan Yager
<b>Email</b>	jordanyager1@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 981-4314
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>We need to keep public school money in public schools. Public schools are already under funded, they need every dollar possible.</p> <p>Public schools are always the only way to ensure that all students receive equal and fair access to education. Charter schools skirt accountability and regulation. They have no meaningful oversight, like that of public schools.</p> <p>We need to keep investing in our community through public schools.</p>



Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 8, 2023 6:09 am  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 116.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 24.151.151.143  
Unique ID: 1139852339  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Wendy Crumley
<b>Email</b>	wjcrumley@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 215-0860
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>Our Public Schools are in desperate need of funding for more teachers in all aspects. Most of our schools are filled to the max and either need additions made or we need new ones built. Public school money is needed for our Public schools. Private school is just that private, tax payers should not pay for that.</p> <p>Thank you</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 8, 2023 8:43 am  
Browser: Chrome 114.0.0.0 / OS X  
IP Address: 67.143.160.149  
Unique ID: 1139895194  
Location: 37.751, -97.822

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**Name** Mandy Giffin

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**Email** aegiffin@gmail.com

---

**Phone** (615) 495-5004

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**Resident District Status** District Resident

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**Relationship to Application** Community Member

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**I wish to comment in support of** Maury County Public Schools

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**Written Comment**

I am a parent of 2 children in the Maury County Public School District. I am writing in opposition to the American Classical Academy in Maury.

First, I cannot imagine why a program that has continued to be rejected by the citizens of this district, continues to force its will on us. We have all expressed our feelings about whether this school is financially and otherwise appropriate for our community and that should be enough.

Second, I am not against Charter schools when they are done when needed. Maury County does not need this at the moment. My children attend a rural unit school in the district. With our school being one of the schools that tends to be last on the financial list it would be very concerning to see a school district supporting a new school and draining our schools to provide an opportunity that should be an opportunity for all our students and I would hate for money that could help support an already established school be shifted to a school for a small percentage of the students. A charter school might look good temporarily on paper and data but what it leaves the other, already existing schools and students with is less than par infrastructure, supplies and educators.

If there is a concern with the direction the public schools are headed in, then fix that. Do not add more to the equation that will bring money to some but destruction to most. Be better.

Thank you,  
Mandy

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 8, 2023 12:08 pm  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 96.4.42.148  
Unique ID: 1139986771  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Jared Karpel
<b>Email</b>	jkarpel@mauryk12.org
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 306-9015
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	LEA Staff Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Stay out of our school system! I am a hard working teacher and we do not want you coming in here and taking money away from our schools and away from teachers like me.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 9, 2023 4:07 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 35.150.218.66  
Unique ID: 1140197978  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Kathryn Kirby
<b>Email</b>	greenteakat@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 626-0257
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	LEA Staff Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>The proposed charter school does not offer to meet any need that our current public school system does not meet. Taking funds away from our public schools at a time when our county is growing exponentially, would be counter-productive. The target demographic for this charter school appears to be based on religion, which has no place in a public school system which must serve ALL of our county's residents.</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 9, 2023 7:14 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 35.132.195.183  
Unique ID: 1140213075  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Renee Adams
<b>Email</b>	radams044@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 446-3196
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Private schools should not be funded with taxpayer money. Please keep Maury County funding public schools only.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 10, 2023 7:01 am  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 116.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 66.171.94.63  
Unique ID: 1140407128  
Location: 36.6184, -82.1831

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**Name** Rebecca Hathaway

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**Email** Beccaleighh18@gmail.com

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**Phone** (423) 306-0150

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**Resident District Status** District Resident

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**Relationship to Application** LEA Staff Member

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**I wish to comment in support of** Maury County Public Schools

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**Written Comment** Public funds should be spent at PUBLIC schools--not schools who can cherry pick students. Charter schools drain funds from publis schools and the kids who need more support. Stay out of Maury County.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 10, 2023 1:12 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 47.13.6.159  
Unique ID: 1140474279  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Jill VanWormer
<b>Email</b>	jvanwormer@mauryk12.org
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 334-1792
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	LEA Staff Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>As a tenured teacher for Maury County Public Schools, I ask the commission to vote NO for bringing a Charter school to Maury County. Our public funds need to stay with our public schools. We have financial needs within our schools already and these will only become more glaring if money, supplies, and staff are taken away from our public schools. Our public funds should not go to funding a school that will not have the same accountability as our public schools. As a teacher, it is disheartening that so many would vote in support of the charter school and vote in support of taking our much needed resources away from us. Please continue to invest in Maury County Public Schools. Continue to invest in bettering our schools for our students and for the teachers that are committed to working for Maury County Public Schools.</p>

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 10, 2023 3:20 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 116.0.5845.177 / iOS  
IP Address: 104.12.36.152  
Unique ID: 1140501854  
Location: 35.7163, -86.9093

<b>Name</b>	Kames Brown
<b>Email</b>	Brownj@hope.edu
<b>Phone</b>	(616) 218-4664
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I support the American Classical Academy for a few reasons. First, it provides school choice for those students who are unhappy with their school's performance. Second, it seeks to encourage virtue for the student. Third, it promotes good citizenship and stresses to the student the privilege of living in the United States. Forth, it provides competition between the schools. Students should be able to pick the very best options for themselves. I don't believe the public school stresses the above principles.</p>



Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 12, 2023 11:45 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 75.138.169.104  
Unique ID: 1141241891  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Mandy Barry
<b>Email</b>	msykes9200@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 797-5151
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>At this time, I believe that American Classical is not the right Charter school for our district. They are claiming to be for all demographics yet, they do not have a plan for transportation or breakfast and lunch service for the children. I am positive that parents who may want their child to attend the charter school but have no way to provide transportation for them, would not apply. This goes for food services as well. If a child or many children attend the charter school, decide they no longer want to attend, and return to MCPS, what happens to that funding that was provided for the student? MCPS has many choices for children and has improved greatly in one year, post Covid. I do feel a charter school is needed at a later time, and would be best suited for ALL demographics, not just families who have transportation and means to prepare and provide food. We have many children from our poorest areas that would benefit most from a charter school setting, American Classical is not the one.</p>

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 12, 2023 12:45 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 107.115.207.39  
Unique ID: 1141271998  
Location: 34.7448, -92.2883

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**Name** Melissa Richard

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**Email** virgo228@live.com

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**Phone** (561) 601-1423

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**Resident District Status** District Resident

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**Relationship to Application** LEA Staff Member

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**I wish to comment in support of** Maury County Public Schools

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**Written Comment**

I'm very disappointed to see this Charter school continue to push when they are unwanted. Taking money from the public schools is not the answer. People need to work for school choice. And when these charter schools can't handle special needs kids or behaviors, they can dismiss them, keep their funding for that year and make the public school pay double for them. This hurts our community. With the teacher shortage, who will teach at the Charter school? Will it take more of our teachers and leave MCPS with even less staff? Maybe if the public school wasn't beaten down with government interference and new curriculum, standards, and testing, we could make more gains. A Charter school that doesn't have to follow all the craziness may get better results, but MCPS should be able to do the same. Fix our schools and say NO to Charter schools!!

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 12, 2023 3:10 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 172.56.169.100  
Unique ID: 1141344669  
Location: 38.581, -121.4939

<b>Name</b>	Rachel Dennis
<b>Email</b>	rdtn968@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(916) 968-0991
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	Every county in TN should and would be very lucky to have a classical charter. Children learning about the constitution and to love America is definitely what the world needs !

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 12, 2023 6:00 pm  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / OS X  
IP Address: 162.238.247.210  
Unique ID: 1141411205  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	April Carroll
<b>Email</b>	april.carroll1776@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 213-1436
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

## Written Comment

To Whom It May Concern:

March 27, 2023 at approximately 11:20 a.m. Do you remember? That day will live forever etched into middle Tennessee's history. It is the day that a 28 year-old shot and killed 2 inside of the Covenant School. I believe, because of the brave officers of the MNPd and the SAFETY PLAN of the school- lives were saved. Imagine if Covenant didn't have a safety plan in place. Imagine the amount of lives that could have been lost. The families of those forever changed. It is because of this, and so many other events- that I stand against ACA Maury, not because they are a charter school. It's because they have failed to meet expectations on safety, staffing, and many more concerning issues.

Hello, my name is April Carroll and I am writing to you as a concerned community member. I'd first like to take the time to explain that I am not against charter schools. In fact, I believe that every family should have the ability to send a child to a SAFE school of their choice. I am against a charter school that doesn't withstand the tests set before them. Below I have addressed my major concerns with the application.

1: When reviewing the governance documents, MCPS found that the documents did NOT meet state standards. If they don't meet state standards, why would we even suggest giving them the go ahead? If given the appeal, does that mean that MCPS can issue governance documents that do not align with the state standards? Why should ACA Maury be given special privileges?

2: MCPS doesn't have enough teachers to fill current positions. ACA Maury gives no insight as to how they will staff another school. Nothing about salaries or benefits. This is concerning, because without teachers- there is no school.

3: You, the State of Tennessee, require LEAs to state test on computers that require certain software and proctoring abilities. There is no details laid out in the application that addresses the use of technology in the schools. This is concerning, considering that we are in 2023. I am responding to you, via a written contact form on the internet. If the neighborhood kid has to take his test online (and I to submit this form), this would be a top priority for ACA Maury.

4: I think that if an outside agency wanted to come in and teach our children, we would want to see what is going good for those who have chosen this charter program. We would want to see the successes of the schools under current operation. Oh, wait. They have none. 0. This is concerning for many reasons.

5: I am really going to hammer this point home. THEY HAVE NO SAFETY PLAN. Why? Does this not raise a flag of concern? Considering all that has

happened in the past 10+ years, you really think granting an application an appeal WITHOUT A SAFETY PLAN is a good idea?

When I entered college, I took what we at Middle Tennessee State University call the True Blue Pledge. In it, there is a line that states "I am engaged in the life of this community." I have taken that line to heart as a 10th generation Tennessean. I read it as "I am engaged in the life of Tennessee, and my local community." This is why I am passionately writing to you to deny this appeal.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I do not mind to be contacted for further input or clarification on anything that I have written.

Respectfully,  
April Carroll, M.Ed.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 12, 2023 6:44 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 116.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 47.42.228.214  
Unique ID: 1141424019  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Edward Lamont
<b>Email</b>	edward.lamont@outlook.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 219-7746
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	As a parent who cannot afford a private school I would if I could so I support my tax dollars going to another option in my county.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 13, 2023 9:15 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 166.199.148.144  
Unique ID: 1141587361  
Location: 32.3012, -90.1834

<b>Name</b>	Lindsay Troy
<b>Email</b>	LindsayTroy2010@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(727) 483-0468
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	No to charter schools!!!!



Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 13, 2023 9:16 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 166.199.148.144  
Unique ID: 1141587658  
Location: 32.3705, -90.1746

<b>Name</b>	Lindsay Troy
<b>Email</b>	LindsayTroy2010@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(727) 483-0468
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Charter schools are not the answer!

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 13, 2023 12:52 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 24.151.147.223  
Unique ID: 1141686749  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Amanda Seiber
<b>Email</b>	aseiber41815@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 571-5207
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Support Maury county

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 14, 2023 10:43 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 24.183.244.44  
Unique ID: 1142032735  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Elizabeth Ingram
<b>Email</b>	wyhavenhavanese@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 212-7459
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	I am opposed to the American Classical Academy being located in Maury County. Any available resources should be invested in our local public schools. Our local school board has reviewed their proposal and rejected it. That should be the end of the discussion.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 14, 2023 9:32 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 35.132.214.234  
Unique ID: 1142272685  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Anna Arnold
<b>Email</b>	aarnold7712@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 215-0536
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Maury County Schools did a thorough review of the application submitted by the American Classical Academy. It had deficiencies that were a cause of concern for educators, parents, and community members. I have 2 children, soon to be 2 more, in Maury County Schools. Our experience has been great! I feel ACA will take away from our successful schools. We are happy with the school system we have.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 16, 2023 7:25 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 75.55.156.233  
Unique ID: 1142685743  
Location: 35.7163, -86.9093

<b>Name</b>	Allison Matney
<b>Email</b>	allladco@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 637-6076
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Other
<b>What is your relationship to the application?</b>	Maury County School Teacher
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>There has not been sufficient information given to Maury County residents regarding location of this school, who the school will be accepting, and how much money they are looking for. I worry if this school is accepted, certain schools that are not close by will be hurt financially. For example, our district REFUSES to give BCMS an additional counselor due to "money". Our counselor has around 730 to handle herself. This will only get worse if the district has less money to distribute due to some funds going to the classical school which probably won't lower certain school numbers.</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 17, 2023 8:49 am  
Browser: Chrome 114.0.0.0 / Chrome OS  
IP Address: 76.9.165.189  
Unique ID: 1142883662  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	mark sells
<b>Email</b>	msells2010@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 446-3833
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>As a product of public school education, then community college, and finally state university. I find it appalling that you would consider charter school and take my tax money and allow these schools to force their agendas on kids. There is not diversity or inclusion included in their plan. Just knowing the president of the corporation called TN teachers comes from the stupidest colleges is unacceptable in today's modern world. I still have lasting memories from many of my teachers. Please I beg you to vote against these charter schools in Maruy county. Mark</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 18, 2023 12:34 pm  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 96.4.42.144  
Unique ID: 1143281441  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Barbara Brewer
<b>Email</b>	bhbrewer1@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 981-0448
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	A charter school will detract from public education in Maury County

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 19, 2023 11:53 am  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 116.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 174.212.164.58  
Unique ID: 1143694502  
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	Erin Arnold
<b>Email</b>	erin.zipperer@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 663-1718
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>After looking into the curriculum of the American classical academy I believe this would be a wonderful addition to the community of Columbia. And I would love to sign my children up for kindergarten. The current public school curriculum is failing our community and we need more options. I do not wish to support private institutions but fully support creating a better public education for all.</p> <p>Please cast my vote as yes to allowing this program into the community.</p>

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 19, 2023 3:02 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 12.74.38.197  
Unique ID: 1143781335  
Location: 39.1443, -84.5482

<b>Name</b>	Jeremy Humphrey
<b>Email</b>	jeremy@jeremyhumphrey.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 922-2960
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

## Written Comment

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the recent proposal to fund the American Classical Academy using public money. While I understand the importance of promoting educational choices and innovation within our community, I firmly believe that supporting a charter school with public funds such as this, could have significant negative consequences.

My concerns revolve around the following key points:

### 1. Transparency and Accountability:

Charter schools should be held to the same high standards of transparency and accountability as traditional public schools. There are questions surrounding the school's intentions and whether public funds will be used to advance a particular agenda rather than providing a well-rounded education.

### 2. Misallocation of Resources:

Allocating public funds to a charter school linked to a propaganda institution could divert resources away from our existing public schools, which are already facing budgetary challenges. This could potentially harm the quality of education in our community.

### 3. Inclusivity and Diversity:

It is essential that our educational institutions promote inclusivity and diversity. American Classical Academy may not adhere to these principles, potentially leading to exclusionary practices that are not in the best interest of our community. After all, there is only so many openings available and American Classical Academy has not been forthcoming in how their selection process will take place.

### 4. Public Trust:

Trust in our educational system is paramount. American Classical Academy has already been accused of attempting to advance a particular ideology over a well rounded education.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and thoroughly evaluate its potential impact on our community's education system. It is crucial that any decision regarding the allocation of public funds for educational purposes is made with the utmost care and consideration for the best interests of all our students and their families.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and hope that you will take into account the concerns raised by concerned community members like myself and deny this application.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Humphrey  
Parent and constituent of Maury County

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 19, 2023 3:13 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 35.132.196.159  
Unique ID: 1143790678  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Kristen Medina
<b>Email</b>	kristenmedina5@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(760) 277-8480
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>As a parent I believe parents and children should be afforded all the choices possible when it comes to education. I have learned from living within other school districts outside of MCPS that options are your best friend. I'm currently mostly satisfied with my children's MCPS but I know that it can go south rather quickly. My eyes are constantly open and I'm always asking questions as far as what goes on and what's being taught in my children's classrooms. Where we as parents want to spend our education tax money should be up to us, not the school board and not teachers. We should have choices.</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 19, 2023 4:38 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 75.138.244.103  
Unique ID: 1143824349  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Katie Bryant
<b>Email</b>	katiebryant931@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 374-7456
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

**Written Comment**

As a parent of two currently enrolled Maury County Public School students, the stepmom of a recent Columbia Central High School graduate (#9 in her class, no less), and as a 1995 graduate of Columbia Central High School myself, in addition to being a tax payer in Maury County, I am writing in FULL SUPPORT of Maury County Public Schools and AGAINST American Classical Academy Maury.

Our duly elected school board has denied ACAM's application twice now. ACAM keeps appealing and/reapplying when Maury County clearly doesn't want them here.

I want my tax dollars to remain in the public schools. I do not want to subsidize a private school. Our public schools need more money, not less.

I especially do not want my tax money to finance ACAM's curriculum. I find their curriculum offensive and do not support it in any way, and certainly do not want to support it financially.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 20, 2023 5:21 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 76.9.165.209  
Unique ID: 1143975380  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

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<b>Name</b>	Trent Ogilvie
<b>Email</b>	trentogilvie@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 446-3868
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

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**Written Comment**

I am a taxpayer in Maury County and believe that the public education system is not perfect, but it does its best to educate and not indoctrinate. I do not like the way this Charter School concept is being forced on our community when it is clearly for partisan political purposes using taxpayer dollars. We need to support our students and teachers instead of creating an environment to make it appear that public schools are failing. If you focus on the faults, then all you see is failure. However, there are good things happening in MCPS and our students can excel when you raise the level of expectation for excellence. I don't like that politicians who have never been in education think they know more than the educators. Public education is not the enemy in Maury County. This tactic to discredit and destroy our schools is unprecedented and must not stand in order for politicians and a political party to get their way. The local elected school board voted their conscience in the best interest of their constituents and their decision should be final. I am not in favor of a charter school in Maury County that is being proposed, pressured and politicized in this manner.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 20, 2023 5:40 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 160.129.251.200  
Unique ID: 1143978255  
Location: 36.1315, -86.8019

<b>Name</b>	Conitha Howell
<b>Email</b>	howellconitha@bellsouth.net
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 626-0263
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	We need to use funds for our schools that already exist. They have not followed the process correctly. Their information, budget, etc are not complete. Where will it be? They do not have a location.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 20, 2023 6:46 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 174.239.50.246  
Unique ID: 1143990902  
Location: 35.9243, -83.9965

<b>Name</b>	June Rivers-Sanders
<b>Email</b>	junecsanders@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 982-1232
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

## Written Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal in support of Maury County Schools.

Academic Progress Measures (Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System, TVAAS): The proposed ACAM will initially serve grades K-5. Maury County TVAAS results for school-subject-grade combinations for grades 4 & 5 in 2022 show 34% at or above the state growth standard & 66% below. However, in 2023, that same progress measure shows 47% at or above the state growth standard and 52% below, a significant improvement despite the lingering effects of a pandemic. In addition, our teachers had to contend with the frustration over an inappropriate 3rd grade promotion policy that Maury County educators did not choose, and a change in District Director leadership midyear. Even in the face of all of these circumstances, Maury County educators made significant progress in a positive direction. As stated, the goal of the American Classical Academy Maury (ACAM) is to initially perform at the state average in progress, but we have no data from other American Classical Education (ACE) schools in this state to allow comparison.

Transportation: Maury County ranks 10th in geographical area in the state and no public transportation system exists. ACAM hopes to make transportation a parental responsibility. Given the size of this county, the number of working parents in jobs that are inflexible in scheduling, and the number of single parents lacking a support system to provide transportation, I believe this proposal lacks sufficient specificity to ensure that transportation will not become a limiting factor in school enrollment. The difficulties of finding a sufficient number of licensed school bus drivers in Maury and surrounding counties underscore my concerns that the ACAM proposal inadequately addresses this challenge.

School Fees: In the Handbook for Parents, the principal's letter discloses that students will be charged fees for certain activities, etc. Although enrolled students are not required to participate in the extracurricular activities to meet school academic requirements, the fees have the potential for creating a division of "haves" and "have nots" which is not in keeping with the school community the ACAM aspires to offer. Further, students who are delinquent in their fees will have their grades or diplomas withheld, thereby making transfer to another school or getting a job after graduation more complicated than necessary. The ACAM proposal lacks a sustainable solution for funding beyond the use of state and federal money available and what I assume to be "one time" grant money. An absence of extracurricular opportunity for all students weakens the application and thus it weakens the assurances that the school will offer a meaningful choice to Maury County students.

Professional Development: Informed by my school reform evaluation experiences, I understand that successful reform requires adequate engaging and ongoing professional development to ensure the fidelity of the reform effort. For such an extreme makeover that I see in the



approaches in math, reading and language, science and history, I am concerned that the application proposes insufficient professional development delivery for that to occur. Particularly in the early years when the school is recruiting teachers, an inconsistent professional development delivery would expose ACAM students to risks in academic progress not necessarily experienced by students enrolled in traditional Maury County Schools. Research shows that students who systematically experience insufficient academic progress year to year will require specific and ongoing academic intervention if they are to achieve their full academic potential by graduation. Students simply do not bridge that gap by happenstance. I did not find interventions for this purpose addressed in the application. Unless ACAM has a specific plan to address how their schooling ineffectiveness might affect students' ultimate achievement, it is very possible that the students would have fared better academically in the traditional Maury County Schools.

History Curriculum: Admittedly, Dr. Larry Arnn's negative labeling of both teachers and colleges of education as "stupid" was offensive to me, and his opinions do not reflect the norm of my professional experiences, both in Tennessee and in districts in other states. However, my disappointment in the history curriculum stems, not from the news coverage of the Hillsdale History Curriculum, but from my personal review of the unit plans provided and from accessing The Great American Story online. Primarily, I chose to look at the elementary curriculum because those grades are the first to be offered.

To put my concerns in context, I am providing a little background: I attended segregated schools through twelfth grade and entered MTSU in 1965, the first year African American students were allowed to enroll. During my high school and college years, I watched with horror on the nightly news the cruelty inflicted on African Americans simply because they wanted the equal protection under the law the U.S. Constitution affords all of us in theory and some of us in truth. Although sympathetic to the horrors, I also developed an unfounded fear of African Americans that was encouraged by my segregated world and our country's failure to provide equal protection under our law. Because, I am a strong proponent of using source documents such as the personal stories of members of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, last summer I invited my sixteen year old grandson to accompany me on a Justice Journey into Alabama. That trip was facilitated by the Columbia Peace and Justice Initiative, and we were privileged to hear elderly voices from the past telling us their stories in Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery, and Tuskegee. I strongly believe their story is a vital part of "the great American story," and we should not allow it to be minimized or denied by the history we teach.

Therefore, I take great issue with the ACAM history curriculum because of the missing candor I had hoped to find. It is not enough to "welcome diversity" at any school in this county without an accompanying tone and the tenor of the curricular content and the enrichment resources available

for both teachers and students that is both truthful and complete. For example, I do not think we can talk about "African American colonists" without discussing that their "colonization" resulted from kidnapping, since they did not choose to settle in this country. I find a simple comparison of the "harsh conditions suffered by indentured servants" to that of enslaved African Americans to be both offensive and incomplete. In the text I reviewed, I saw no candid admission that most but not all "indentured servants" chose to colonize this country while African American slaves did not. Additionally, the indentured servants' children did not become the personal property of their masters. The class discussion about how slavery "dehumanizes both masters and slaves" suggests "wrongs" were suffered by both and that they are somehow to be equated on a mysterious scale of justice is not only wrong but inappropriate for elementary grades. And to attempt, even in part, to justify the system of slavery by concluding that slaves benefited from the system because they learned trades is incomprehensible for me.

I seriously question that early grades ACAM teachers, using the resources I reviewed, can quickly develop the sensitivity to facilitate appropriate class discussion without inflicting psychological damage on our African American students. I further see they are more likely to reinforce for Caucasian students that we shouldn't worry about a system of slavery in colonial America because it was a common practice in other countries at the time. Consequently, I view the K-12 history curriculum to be one of the most serious flaws in the proposal.

In conclusion, I've fought for equity in educational opportunity for students for my entire educational career, beginning in the 1990s when my local district joined the Small Schools lawsuit against the State to access equitable funding, and continuing through my research work to find the accelerators and impediments of student academic progress within a school setting. More than once during my career, my work responsibilities have taken me to effective charter schools, so I know they could exist. But I do not believe the ACAM charter as described in the proposal will meet that level of effectiveness. However, it could, in the short term, even lessen educational opportunity for the students who enroll. Taking into consideration the improvement of Maury County Public Schools in 2023 as evidenced by their TVAAS results, the difficulties of providing transportation in a county this size where there is essentially no public transportation, the conundrum of "haves" and "have nots" the school fees are likely to exacerbate, the complexity of maintaining fidelity to the proposed curricula with sufficient professional development, and my grave concerns of how this history curriculum could do more to alienate than heal our community, I respectfully request the TN Public Charter Schools Commission to uphold the decision of the Maury County Board of Education and deny the ACAM appeal.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 20, 2023 8:34 am  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 96.4.42.132  
Unique ID: 1144022811  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Robert Busch
<b>Email</b>	Buschtnb@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 505-2779
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	LEA Staff Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I think that public education should stay as a foundation to a functioning democracy: many ideas shared and discussed from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences. This is what makes America great because we offer that opportunity TO ALL!</p> <p>The option of private school is available if chosen. I do not believe taking funds from public schools to create another option is connecting but divisive.</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 20, 2023 5:10 pm  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 35.132.208.134  
Unique ID: 1144270400  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Heather Roller
<b>Email</b>	lyles1066@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 334-4078
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	American Classical Academy's application should not be approved. Public school funds should stay in the public schools where all students can benefit. Maury County schools do a great job educating children as evidenced by the high growth scores on TNREADY. If parents don't want to send their children to the public schools, they should pay tuition at a private school instead.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 20, 2023 7:51 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 117.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 75.41.74.170  
Unique ID: 1144315778  
Location: 35.7163, -86.9093

<b>Name</b>	David Grodi
<b>Email</b>	dgrodi57@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 295-1735
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	I am in support of ACE in Maury County as we need options for the children of Maury County and ACE will provide that. My wife (Kathey Grodi) is a County Commissioner in Maury County District 6 and we are grandparents of 3 children who also reside in District 6 of Maury County.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 20, 2023 8:04 pm  
Browser: Chrome 115.0.0.0 / Chrome OS  
IP Address: 24.151.148.185  
Unique ID: 1144318958  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Becky Clayborne
<b>Email</b>	beckyclayborne@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 381-7140
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	I vote NO to MCPS having charter schools. I don't want my county tax money going toward them. I teach in the public school so I support the public education.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 20, 2023 8:59 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 117.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 32.132.37.14  
Unique ID: 1144332102  
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

<b>Name</b>	Debra Taylor
<b>Email</b>	debrat484@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(478) 951-6003
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	I wish to comment in support of "American Classical Academy Maury" Why not bring back, respect, integrity, a relationship with the teachers. Helping each child to respect themselves and others. Teaching them how great America is. United we stand. For our country, schools, teachers and parents.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 20, 2023 9:19 pm  
Browser: Chrome 117.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 108.67.77.165  
Unique ID: 1144336423  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Connie Green
<b>Email</b>	cbgreen88@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 982-6397
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Local Elected Representative
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	This is a wonderful opportunity for Maury County!



Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 20, 2023 9:29 pm  
Browser: Safari 15.6.1 / OS X  
IP Address: 24.183.244.14  
Unique ID: 1144338458  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

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<b>Name</b>	Vesta Mashburn
<b>Email</b>	vesta2k@icloud.com
<b>Phone</b>	(310) 717-9325
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury

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**Written Comment**

I, Vesta Mashburn support American Classical Academy's application and believe the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission board members should approve their application. Along with the Maury County School Board and the Maury County Schools.

I would have LOVED to have received a Classical Education when I was growing up in Hawaii. ACA meets the standards required and there is parent, teacher, student and the home school community that are requesting a Charter School for their children here in Maury County.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my support for SCHOOL CHOICE. Please rule in favor of ACA and... think about it... it's all about the children, who, in this case have no voice. I speak for the children!

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 4:51 am  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 174.80.58.56  
Unique ID: 1144410928  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Terry Anderson
<b>Email</b>	tanderson7773@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 286-8917
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I support the American Classical Academy Maury. The Schools here are failing. Our kids are somewhere between 30% and 19% at grade level in Math and Reading. We now have 26 different choices of failure. Maury County needs competition and better results. The State is now spending more money for a remedial program in the summers for 3rd graders. Anything "re" is throwing more money after bad. Please give ACAM the go ahead to prove that our kids can read and do math at over 70%. While you are doing that it will save the retired taxpayers lives too.</p> <p>Please give the parents that care about their children's future a chance to save that future.</p>

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 6:46 am  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 108.67.76.82  
Unique ID: 1144430285  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Alisa Mote
<b>Email</b>	amote@mauryk12.org
<b>Phone</b>	(334) 531-9115
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	I do not support a Charter School in Maury County. Our children in Maury Count Public Schools need as much support as we can give them. I feel like we have enough to worry about in public education without adding this to the mix.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 8:11 am  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 96.4.42.142  
Unique ID: 1144453729  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Julie Tidwell
<b>Email</b>	jtidwell@mauryk12.org
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 379-5040
<b>Resident District Status</b>	Non-district Resident
<b>What is your resident district?</b>	Lawrence County
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	LEA Staff Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	I am a 35 year educator in Maury County Public Schools. I DO NOT wish to have American Classical Academy in Maury County.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 8:11 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 108.237.116.163  
Unique ID: 1144454081  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Cindy Hestla
<b>Email</b>	cindystatham74@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 618-1456
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Local Elected Representative
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>With the accelerated growth in Maury County parents are expecting options for their students in the way of school choice. Along with public schools we need other options. Private schools are available but many families can't afford them. Charter schools are an affordable &amp; high quality option. My brother has taught &amp; coached in a charter school for years &amp; said it is more safe than the public schools he taught in, the kids get more individual attention because it's smaller, the overall standards are much higher. Please vote YES for charter schools in Maury.</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 8:17 am  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 96.4.42.142  
Unique ID: 1144456504  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Laura Sandrell
<b>Email</b>	lsandrell@mauryk12.org
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 215-9662
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	LEA Staff Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Maury County Public Schools offers alot of academic and nonacademic programs that help kids and are wel rounded. There is no need to think about offering an American Classical Academy Maury when we have schools that offer anything and everything this would offer.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 8:28 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 76.9.160.104  
Unique ID: 1144461354  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Katherine Reynolds
<b>Email</b>	itskatiecarole@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 374-0345
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	We do not need this charter school I am very much against it. Do not even consider taking money from the public schools and putting it towards a charter school! Most of the community is in agreement with me, only a select few are still pushing this quite frankly stupid idea.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 8:32 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 172.225.24.53  
Unique ID: 1144463196  
Location: 41.8874, -87.6318

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**Name** Jessica Reynolds

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**Email** jessicaleigh880@gmail.com

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**Phone** (931) 626-7799

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**Resident District Status** District Resident

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**Relationship to Application** Prospective Parent

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**I wish to comment in support of** Maury County Public Schools

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**Written Comment** I do not approve of this charter school. The majority of the community agrees hence the reason it has been shot down so many times but some people are unwilling to take the word NO for an answer. Our funds from taxpayers in this community need to go to PUBLIC schools, an equal place for all students. We already have a hard time finding teachers and funding this charter school will only make things worse and more divisive.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 8:43 am  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 96.4.42.132  
Unique ID: 1144467640  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Angelia Reynolds
<b>Email</b>	snowflake9193@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 446-1778
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	against a charter school

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 9:20 am  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 116.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 66.211.16.160  
Unique ID: 1144482221  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Sarah King
<b>Email</b>	sarah.anne.king1@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 638-6384
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Please vote NO to the charter school.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 9:26 am  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 76.248.238.31  
Unique ID: 1144484480  
Location: 35.7163, -86.9093

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<b>Name</b>	Jordan Holloway
<b>Email</b>	hollowayjordanr@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 439-7464
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury

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**Written Comment**

We have three children 7, 3, and 3 months, and we hope to have more. We currently homeschool our children out of concern over the quality of the local public schools and a desire to ensure the proper cultural development of our children. We are not opposed to attending public schools, but feel that given Maury's performance and the benefits we've observed with Homeschooling, this is what is best for our children at this phase. However, ACA would be a tremendous benefit for our children, allowing exposure to the classical education model (which I love) and the context of a classroom is ideal for us. If ACA comes to Maury we will immediately apply.

That said, as a citizen of this county I should be able to use the allotted tax dollars in what ever way I see fit for the education of my children. I should not be confined to a model chosen for me by those who think they know better. I understand that arguments can be made about budget constraints, impacts on remaining public students, etc. but I put all those aside. The fundamental question is my right as a parent to direct the education of my children as I see fit and not be penalized (through the paying of taxes but receiving no benefit) for disagreeing with the established order. Allowing ACA would rectify this, and if they are decided against, I will continually vote for representatives that support my ability to choose.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 9:28 am  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.1 / iOS  
IP Address: 174.239.33.240  
Unique ID: 1144485332  
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	Sheila Butt
<b>Email</b>	sbutt@charter.net
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 698-5432
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Local Elected Representative
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>Maury County parents and children deserve a choice. Hopefully, in the next four years, all Tennessee parents and children will have a choice in sending their children to a public school or a public charter school. Maury County Schools are consistently in the lower half of Tennessee Schools and competition can incentivize that. Also, with Maury County growing exponentially, we need more schools and more options. Every child does not thrive in the same environment. Let all families have a choice, not just the ones who can pay well above the taxes they are already paying to send their children to private entities.</p>

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 9:38 am  
Browser: Android browser 4.0 / Android  
IP Address: 172.59.120.135  
Unique ID: 1144489431  
Location: 35.5689, -97.5255

<b>Name</b>	Kathey Grodi
<b>Email</b>	klgrodi@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 970-2216
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Local Elected Representative
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	I have 2 grandchildren who would love to acquire a classic education. This would give approx 400 children in Maury county a great opportunity regarding their education.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 10:25 am  
Browser: Chrome 117.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 96.4.42.142  
Unique ID: 1144508777  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Angie Lindsey
<b>Email</b>	ajlindsey72@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 698-2444
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	LEA Staff Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I dot not feel that our tax dollars should be taken away from our public schools in order to fund this charter school. This charter school does NOT have data to support it is better for the students of Maury County, in fact data shows that charter schools do NOT perform better on state testing than public schools. Our schools do not have adequate funding as it stands now, and this charter school will take millions from our public education system in Maury County.</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 10:38 am  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 96.4.42.142  
Unique ID: 1144514522  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Kasey Ring
<b>Email</b>	kring@mauryk12.org
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 626-4506
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Other
<b>What is your relationship to the application?</b>	teacher/parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I feel the charter school should be allowed in Maury County. I feel we need to dismiss this matter completely and move on to more important issues. This has taken up enough time and energy being voted no 3 times. I do not appreciate my taxpayer money going toward a school my children will not attend instead of going toward the public schools they do attend. This is going to take away jobs, money, and resources from our schools. We are not properly funded as it is. So please let's stop putting more energy into the charter school and put this kind of energy into the schools, teachers, and students that are here.</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 11:57 am  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 117.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 174.212.104.8  
Unique ID: 1144551292  
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	David Reynolds
<b>Email</b>	reno58@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 381-5451
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	No for the charter school approval



Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 12:47 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 24.151.144.38  
Unique ID: 1144573757  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

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<b>Name</b>	Estherlee Davenport
<b>Email</b>	estherlee.davenport@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 797-5250
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Please do not approve tax money going to this out of state-funded entity. Our children, especially those from disadvantaged homes, need all the help we can give. it is wrong to divert public funds to our schools' detriment.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 12:52 pm  
Browser: Chrome 117.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 96.4.42.142  
Unique ID: 1144575623  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	kimberly gilliam
<b>Email</b>	gilliam546@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 215-9948
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	I think this is a terrible idea. I think that the schools we have now do not get enough money and attention. I think investing this money and time into our current schools is a better way to spend tax payers money.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 1:01 pm  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 134.238.203.67  
Unique ID: 1144579685  
Location: 25.9843, -80.2149

<b>Name</b>	Mickie Daugherty
<b>Email</b>	mickiedaugherty@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 639-0818
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

## Written Comment

I cannot speak strongly enough against the American Classical Academy opening a school and receiving funding in Maury County. I am the parent of an honors and multi-sport student in Maury County Public Schools, and he has always been in the Maury County Public School System. I am also an active volunteer in this school system and a former coach for the Maury County School System. The curriculum and opportunities are varied and vast and afford him and others the opportunity to learn and develop to the best of their individual capabilities. Like any school system, a lot of student success does and should fall on the parents to reinforce lessons at home and drive students to put their personal best foot forward. What Maury County and most school systems need to better themselves is funding for teachers and programs that offer student enrichment and enhancement as well as education.

I have researched American Classical Academy and their curriculum and core values. I have several concerns about them coming to Maury County. First is their limited curriculum and focus on teaching students "morals", which is laced and repeated throughout their website. Those are lessons that are particular to the person or family and shouldn't be the driving force of an educational institution receiving State funds. Their wording also tap dances all over the separation between church and state with its focus on Christian ways, which is alienating to many in Maury County, across the state, and Country. In addition, their curriculum is narrow and requires all students to take Latin, which is a dead language to the degree that Universities in this and many states do not even acknowledge it as meeting foreign language requirements, meaning those students would start all over with foreign language in college, putting them behind rather than ahead of their peers.

Of even more importance is the fact the American Classical Academy appears to cherry pick their students, selecting those that have higher performance and testing capabilities rather than affording opportunities to an equal number of students with educational/intellectual deficiencies or delays. High performers equal dollars, and that is the bottom line for American Classical School as they are profit driven. Similarly, Maury County is a very diverse area, with many students who are not native English speakers. American Classical Academy does not cater or afford an equal opportunity to more than a few of those students in any of their locations.

Of great weight and importance is the use of State funds to pay for a Charter school. When the American Classical Academy pulls high performers to their "school" the funding associated with the student numbers and performance based dollars goes with them. If those students misbehave or fail to perform, they could be sent back to the public school system at any time, be that a day, week, month, or many months. The funding associated with that student and their performance stay with American Classical Academy for that school year rather than filtering back to Maury County Public Schools.

Lastly, I am confused as to why we, as a school district, parents, and community continue to have to speak out against the American Classical Academy. The proposal was submitted to the County, the Board had subject matter experts review and score the proposal and it failed, not once, but twice. This appeal and hearing appear to be the political machinations of a select few on the Board, spearheaded by Commissioner Gabe Howard in furtherance of his efforts to sabotage and undermine our Director of Schools. It is my hope and that of the majority of Maury County, that this appeal will not succeed and that the people's voices will be heard- we do not want, welcome, or need American Classical Academy in Maury County. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out directly if you have any follow-up questions.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 1:07 pm  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 134.238.203.67  
Unique ID: 1144582544  
Location: 27.7889, -82.7192

<b>Name</b>	Mickie Daugherty
<b>Email</b>	mickiedaugherty@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 639-0818
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

## Written Comment

I cannot speak strongly enough against the American Classical Academy opening a school and receiving funding in Maury County. I am the parent of an honors and multi-sport student in Maury County Public Schools, and he has always been in the Maury County Public School System. I am also an active volunteer in this school system and a former coach for the Maury County School System. The curriculum and opportunities are varied and vast and afford him and others the opportunity to learn and develop to the best of their individual capabilities. Like any school system, a lot of student success does and should fall on the parents to reinforce lessons at home and drive students to put their personal best foot forward. What Maury County and most school systems need to better themselves is funding for teachers and programs that offer student enrichment and enhancement as well as education.

I have researched American Classical Academy and their curriculum and core values. I have several concerns about them coming to Maury County. First is their limited curriculum and focus on teaching students "morals", which is laced and repeated throughout their website. Those are lessons that are particular to the person or family and shouldn't be the driving force of an educational institution receiving State funds. Their wording also tap dances all over the separation between church and state with its focus on Christian ways, which is alienating to many in Maury County, across the state, and Country. In addition, their curriculum is narrow and requires all students to take Latin, which is a dead language to the degree that Universities in this and many states do not even acknowledge it as meeting foreign language requirements, meaning those students would start all over with foreign language in college, putting them behind rather than ahead of their peers.

Of even more importance is the fact the American Classical Academy appears to cherry pick their students, selecting those that have higher performance and testing capabilities rather than affording opportunities to an equal number of students with educational/intellectual deficiencies or delays. High performers equal dollars, and that is the bottom line for American Classical School as they are profit driven. Similarly, Maury County is a very diverse area, with many students who are not native English speakers. American Classical Academy does not cater or afford an equal opportunity to more than a few of those students in any of their locations.

Of great weight and importance is the use of State funds to pay for a Charter school. When the American Classical Academy pulls high performers to their "school" the funding associated with the student numbers and performance based dollars goes with them. If those students misbehave or fail to perform, they could be sent back to the public school system at any time, be that a day, week, month, or many months. The funding associated with that student and their performance stay with American Classical Academy for that school year rather than filtering back to Maury County Public Schools.

Lastly, I am confused as to why we, as a school district, parents, and community continue to have to speak out against the American Classical Academy. The proposal was submitted to the County, the Board had subject matter experts review and score the proposal and it failed, not once, but twice. This appeal and hearing appear to be the political machinations of a select few on the Board, spearheaded by Commissioner Gabe Howard in furtherance of his efforts to sabotage and undermine our Director of Schools. It is my hope and that of the majority of Maury County, that this appeal will not succeed and that the people's voices will be heard- we do not want, welcome, or need American Classical Academy in Maury County. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out directly if you have any follow-up questions.



Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 1:14 pm  
Browser: Chrome 117.0.0.0 / OS X  
IP Address: 92.119.19.181  
Unique ID: 1144585581  
Location: 33.7485, -84.3871

<b>Name</b>	Roger Mashburn
<b>Email</b>	holyroller1@verizon.net
<b>Phone</b>	(310) 489-5156
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury

**Written Comment**

September 21, 2023

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your expertise and desire to bring Charter Schools to Tennessee K-12 students.

I fully support the efforts of American Classical Education to bring classical liberal arts K-12 education to Maury County and greater Tennessee. I think we can all agree our state needs tremendous improvement in test scores and in my opinion American Classical Academy would make a tremendous contribution towards that end in our county.

ACAM's responses to the Maury School Board's questions seemed to answer every concern the Members had and met the TPCSC criteria. Yet, the board still did not approve ACAM's application.

Tellingly, my own Board Member told me on the day of the final vote there was nothing ACAM had provided that met their approval except the moral component ACAM strived for. This was remarkable to me. Many of these reasons were voiced at the Special Called Meeting and are on the record. One of which was believing in school choice, on the condition the choice is provided by MCSD. Another was ACAM will cherry pick the best students away from MCPS, which I'm told is illegal.

In short, I do not believe ACAM has been given a fair and impartial hearing. I trust that after careful review the TPCSC will rightfully determine whether ACAM has met the State of Tennessee's high standards for ACAM to provide Classical K-12 education to the students of Maury County.

Please approve ACAM's application.

Sincerely yours,

Roger Mashburn  
Maury County, TN

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 2:39 pm  
Browser: Chrome 117.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 71.87.165.70  
Unique ID: 1144623318  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Aaron Miller
<b>Email</b>	aaron.thomas.miller@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(423) 486-5184
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Local Elected Representative
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

## Written Comment

The supporting arguments for the addition of the ACE Charter School to the Maury County School System have been made time and again throughout this process, so for the sake of brevity, I will point to the two main reasons why I believe the ACE Charter School should be authorized in Maury County:

In the first, it is no secret to any resident of Maury County that the County's finances are taking a massive hit due to unprecedented growth in the area. The County's budget is being strained by the necessitated infrastructure costs that come with the growth, and that is after some residents' property taxes were doubled last year. The inclusion of the ACE Charter School in our County saves the County government \$55 million in the building alone, as ACE would pay for all capital projects. From there, I believe that administrators working for ACE will be far more incentivized to be frugal and efficient with their spending than government administrators in similar positions. The savings to the County that the inclusion of ACE offers will go far in building trust and appreciation in the community.

Most importantly, the inclusion of ACE brings an alternative to traditional educational systems that parents in Maury County deserve. Our school system is failing our students, with test scores consistently showing that only 30% of students are reading and understanding math at a grade level. This is despite many increases in spending on the part of the school system. These consistently poor results are occurring despite regular budget increases for the school system in the last decade alone. The system as it currently stands is not working. The inclusion of ACE into the school system at minimum provides an alternative for parents to choose for their children, something that many studies show will likely increase their academic performance. With standardized scores consistently remaining as low as they are, it is a low bar to begin with. At least offering an alternative to parents gives them an opportunity to improve their child's education. After considering the performance history of charter schools in general, and classical education in particular, I believe that ACE will not only provide this opportunity, it will dramatically increase academic performance for students that are able to attend.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 2:44 pm  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 96.4.42.142  
Unique ID: 1144625506  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Stefanie Kelley
<b>Email</b>	sakelley@mauryk12.org
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 981-0325
<b>Resident District Status</b>	Non-district Resident
<b>What is your resident district?</b>	Lawrence County
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I am strongly against having charter schools brought into Maury County! It will take funds and resources away from public schools, which already suffer enough. I do not think that children will receive a better education at charter schools as opposed to public. Our county is sufficient with the public schools we have. If any funds are disbursed or any talks of schools being built, it should be added to the current public schools. As a mother of three Maury County students and a teacher in the county, I hope you take our concerns into consideration and DO NOT bring charter schools to our county.</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 3:31 pm  
Browser: Chrome 117.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 206.23.59.254  
Unique ID: 1144646003  
Location: 37.751, -97.822

<b>Name</b>	Andrea Morrow
<b>Email</b>	ajmorrow@bellsouth.net
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 805-3015
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>The addition of a charter school in Maury County would be a welcome tool in our educational landscape toolbox. This would offer choice, opportunity, and options for students who are actively interested in their education. I cannot understand why anyone would be against this happening other than they are misinformed and have not done any research on their own about these types of schools and how they positively impact the county. In a changing community with new residents moving in at a rapid pace, we really need this school to help meet ever changing student and parent needs.</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 3:55 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 117.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 192.88.94.10  
Unique ID: 1144655944  
Location: 37.751, -97.822

<b>Name</b>	Jeremy King
<b>Email</b>	snuffaluffagus_2001@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 638-6140
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	We don't need a different education model, we need to focus on and refine the one we have. Reject this application.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 4:43 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.6 / iOS  
IP Address: 174.212.100.213  
Unique ID: 1144674485  
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	Nicole Greuel
<b>Email</b>	foil-pintos.0b@icloud.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 636-3294
<b>Resident District Status</b>	Non-district Resident
<b>What is your resident district?</b>	Williamson
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Other
<b>What is your relationship to the application?</b>	Teacher
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	As a steward of the US's public school system, I believe in the separation of church and state and reject the idea that public funds should be used for a religious-affiliated school. Period. That's what Hillsdale is. You take money away from Maury County Schools when you bring in these Charter Schools. That is not what 's best for the majority of Maury County students.



Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 9:15 pm  
Browser: Safari 15.3 / OS X  
IP Address: 76.9.174.224  
Unique ID: 1144749326  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Matthew Reese
<b>Email</b>	Matt36r@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 243-8476
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury

## Written Comment

### Intro:

I would like to offer a lens for discerning arguments against the charter school. My focus is not on those with ill intent, but, rather, I intend to remain as charitable as possible towards those with genuinely decent and loving intentions, even if those intentions are misguided.

### Comments:

I take it that the heart of the issue concerns two opposing views about the obligation schools have toward prospective students. On the one hand, there are those who believe that the obligation of a school is to craft an excellent opportunity and serve anyone who is willing to take it, regardless of race, gender, or class. Those in favor of this view believe, "greatness can arise from anywhere." And, simply put, this how any successful organization must develop: Beginning with an excellent product, then reaching a core clientele who are willing to try it, and, finally, spreading the word to others.

There are, however, others who take a different view. They hold that the obligation of a school is not so much to craft an excellent learning opportunity, but, much more importantly, to provide equal access for an educational opportunity. Hence it is their job to ensure that greatness equally arises from all its possible sources and against all possible reasons it might be made unequal.

As such they extend the purpose of education to that of restructuring the world outside school walls, but, ultimately, when they discover that they cannot, they sacrifice their product on that very altar by lowering standards for underperforming or disinterested students. In contrast to those providing an excellent learning opportunity, their focus is, first, toward reaching the most unlikely students and, only second, toward creating an excellent product or reaching those most interested. In effect, they turn the most common sense model for organizational growth on its head. As such, the view is nearsighted, failing to appreciate the very high challenge of providing a good education for students. So, although, they stand proud for stressing the importance of "social class mobility" they do so by simply eroding the opportunity itself or by preventing new, promising opportunities on the basis that they are not directed at the most unlikely students. In doing so, they believe that a win for a decently performing student equates to a loss for some disadvantaged student. Hence, opportunities cannot be constructed for "anyone willing to take it," but must be aimed at the most disinterested and challenged student. The strategy has proved nothing more than a means to fail the advantaged and disadvantaged alike.

This may sound outlandish, but much less in view of the basic evidence of our case. Maury County public schools are underperforming as evidenced by numerous statistics and headlines. The Classical Charter School we are debating provides a strong, tested methodology and Classical schools are sorely outperforming public schools. Yet, somehow the charter school has been struck down. On what basis? It is not on the basis of its product, but - apparently - on the basis that such a school would not be a good fit for some difficult-to-reach student.

Hence, those in opposition spend time on lengthy arguments about transportation or lunches not being adequate for some student or another. That is, they seem committed to rejecting any educational opportunity that cannot guarantee equal representation and equal access for every disadvantaged student. Even if well-intended, it is an impossible criteria to satisfy.

As i've explained, any organization that does not wish to sacrifice its product on the alter of equal access, would be wise to focus on the clientele who care most about its product first, and then increasingly extend its reach to others who are less interested or most difficult to reach.

That this charter school is unable to serve some students in some unique situation is no reason to denounce a school that, much more importantly, will provide a unique, high-level classical opportunity to many disadvantaged students who would otherwise never have the chance.

Worse, continuing down our current path by failing to provide excellent educational opportunities will stunt the growth of our city. If our schools are unattractive to outsiders and we fail to develop our next generation of leaders, workers and entrepreneurs, then our economy suffer, resulting in more disadvantaged students.

In conclusion, there is something to appreciate in those with a heart for equal access. It is for the marginalized and the least likely to succeed. It is a view that supports those most in need of help, care and love. It is a hard reality. Why should I support the charter school, when I know a student who won't attend?

My response is two fold. first, as I have explained, to build a great city, our schools must focus, first and foremost, on providing an excellent service to anyone that will take it. The Charter School in question provides an excellent one and it should not be condemned for refusing to lose focus and chase remaking the world outside its walls or sacrificing their product to that end.

And, second, because the opportunity is open to anyone, we as individual citizens have a higher calling to personally fight for those who need it most: To convince them of the very good opportunities in front of them, to arrange support where needed.

The "Equal Access" view, however, is a deconstructionist strategy for excellence. It lowers schools to the students, rather than raising students to toward excellence. And for that reason it is not a viable option nor are arguments based from it, reasonable for denouncing the charter school.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 9:28 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 117.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 162.224.150.251  
Unique ID: 1144751994  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Beth Ring
<b>Email</b>	babyring1@mail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 982-2818
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	Public education is constantly under attack. The only way we can get better is by increasing the budget for supplies and teachers. A Charter school will only take money away from public schools.

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 21, 2023 9:34 pm  
Browser: Chrome 117.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 99.44.85.62  
Unique ID: 1144752891  
Location: 35.5291, -87.2018

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**Resident District Status** District Resident

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**Relationship to Application** Community Member

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**I wish to comment in support of** Maury County Public Schools

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**Written Comment**

I do not support American Classical Academy Maury in our district. Our school system is operating and growing. We have options for all children to receive the best education in our area. We have many schools at level 5 in growth and many right on the cusp. We have arts, sports, and technical schools. We have extra activities of various types for all interests. I do NOT think that one cent of money should be given to these schools from local, state, or federal money allocated for public schools. My own children who range in age from 22-6 have been or are currently enrolled in MCPS., and they are successful students. I want to see our schools improve and be supported, not bring schools that operate as they choose, but use funding meant for public education into our district and take from our schools. American Classical Academy Maury can fund itself somewhere else.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 22, 2023 4:10 pm  
Browser: Chrome Mobile 111.0.0.0 / Android  
IP Address: 172.58.150.58  
Unique ID: 1145049824  
Location: 33.9524, -117.3806

<b>Name</b>	Karen Perez
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<b>Phone</b>	(931) 505-1107
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>The well documented failure of our local schools to prepare our children to pass 3rd grade reading test has made our state, including Maury County a laughing stock. The children of Maury County are entitled to an opportunity to achieve more than they have had to settle for in the public school system.</p> <p>Please allow our children a fighting chance.</p> <p>Thank you, KMP</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 24, 2023 9:29 pm  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 66.211.29.19  
Unique ID: 1145497520  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

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<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

## Written Comment

Dear Commissioners:

I write in opposition to the American Classical Academy Maury (ACAM) application and write today in support of the denial of that application by the Maury County Board of Education (a/k/a Maury County Public Schools or MCPS).

I reside at 1608 Mary Ct in Columbia. I own approximately 1/3rd of an acre of property where I live full-time. I am a voter and taxpayer at this location. I do not have children of my own, but I have a strong desire to protect and improve the quality of our public schools. First, I have in the past had roommates with children who attended Maury County schools (particularly J. E. Woodard Elementary School). Furthermore, I am a children's program volunteer at Grace Episcopal Church in Spring Hill, and occasionally for Craft Memorial Methodist Church in Columbia, and in this role am one of several adults responsible for the supervision and Christian education of these children. I am a member of the Kiwanis Club of Columbia, whose mission is to assist with public education, and I have volunteered to help park cars at many football games at Columbia Central High School. I have many friends with children in the public schools in this county. As chairman of the Maury County Democratic Party is my responsibility to talk to Democrats and to understand how policy affects their families. Finally, I am a candidate for Tennessee State Senate in SD 28.

My comments are my own, and I am not speaking in a paid representative capacity.

I wish to supplement my oral comments (an approximate transcript of which is also attached below) with these written comments.

### I. Areas of deficiency in the application of American Classical Academy Maury

The initial charter school application submitted by ACAM was reviewed in the spring of 2023 by the Charter Application Review Team (CART) assembled by the administration of the Maury County Public Schools. During this review, the CART found the ACAM application to "partially meet standards" in all three broad categories -- academics, operations, and finances. Furthermore, the MCPS CART found the application deficient (partially or fully failing to meet standards) in 22 of the 27 applicable subcategories.

Based on this, the Maury County Board of Education twice denied ACAM's application. Although the objections raised by the School Board members do not explicitly incorporate all of the deficiencies raised by the MCPS CART review, in my opinion, the Commission should carefully review the record with regard to all 22 subcategories where the CART found deficiencies.



Moreover, the Commission should carefully review the responses provided by ACAM to the objections of the MCPS Board members.

Because the Public Charter School Commission is conducting a de novo review on the record, the PCSC is entitled to come to its own conclusions as to whether ACAM's application meets or exceeds the state quality rubric.

Moreover, the presence or absence of a "proper" process on the part of MCPS is really of no relevance to this Commission's own review.

The areas of deficiency that most concern me are as follows:

A. Enrollment (standard 1.2). While there are certainly at least a few parents in Maury County who are interested in sending their children to an ACAM school, the actual level of interest will depend heavily on location, which is not yet known.

Maury County has a serious traffic problem during morning and evening commutes; it is not unusual for it to take longer to get from the south side of Columbia to Spring Hill in the morning than it does to get from Spring Hill to downtown Nashville. This is because we have had rapid development, but our infrastructure has not kept up. Without a clear transportation plan (also lacking) many families with two working parents will not be able to reliably provide transportation.

While Mr. Schwenk has stated that he has spoken to many parents, there does not appear to have been a systematic survey of Maury County parents about the market demand for ACAM. This was a particular concern raised by the MCPS Board members.

B. Alignment (standard 1.3, 1.4, 2.11) -- While the application insists that the curriculum will align with state standards, ACAM is also asking for waivers related to this, for example about unauthorized textbooks (TCA 49-6-2206). On a rather interesting note, in its responses, it states that the waiver won't be needed if Tennessee changes its state standards to align with a classical model. This seems a bit like the tail wagging the dog! In any case, this standard needs particular attention because it seems that ACAM is trying to take a "have your cake and eat it too" approach.

C. Special Populations (standards 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, and 1.12). I am particularly concerned about this area, where the MCPS CART concluded that the ACAM application did not meet the state standard. IEPs are extremely important to our families and services will be needed to execute those plans. As someone who received speech therapy as a child, I feel that the provision of such services is very important.

While the ACAM application mentions that what about other services?

Accommodating students experiencing homelessness will also matter tremendously; as a former substitute teacher in Texas, I saw how housing instability affected students after Hurricane Ike hit the Houston, Texas area

in 2008. The MCPS Cart was particularly concerned about such students.

Will the state charter school district be able to help provide these resources if ACAM fails to do so? The concern that ACAM might drain MCPS district resources is stated in the MCPS CART review as one reason why ACAM's application fails to meet standard 1.9.

The comments by MCPS CART for standards 1.10 - 1.12 also paint a picture of an application for a school that will be focused on broad messaging rather than the narrow needs of parents and students.

D. Diversity (various standards). In addition to the items mentioned above, there is the broader issue of diversity, in all dimensions (ethnic, religious, social, cultural, etc.). This is an area where there seems to be a significant disconnect between ACAM's marketing material (which, notably, featured many stock photos of people of color) and advocates (Cf. Rep. Cepicky's comment that black students are trapped in "failing" schools) and the actual substance of their application and responses.

In one particularly odd paragraph, the ACAM response with a concern about the intersection of diversity and transportation capacity (Response #E), ACAM defensively criticizes "stereotypes" but fails to back up that pooh-poohing with facts demonstrating that working families have the ability to provide their transportation. Remarkably, ACAM seems to be asking us to prefer ignorance over (what are, frankly, reasonable) assumptions. I humbly submit that such an answer would have -- correctly! -- been blasted as "woke" nonsense if it had been written by someone coming from the political left. For actual facts on this issue, see Bureau of Transportation Statistics, "A Longer Router to School", January 12, 2021, online at <https://www.bts.gov/topics/passenger-travel/back-school-2019> (providing government statistics demonstrating that poor families have less access to transportation and that school buses are necessary for educational equity).

The Commission needs to pay attention to this. Classical charter schools have occasionally been in the news for controversies that undermine their ability to effectively educate children from diverse backgrounds. For example, see:

1. Blankenship, Grant. "How racial disparities in discipline can undercut 'school choice'", Georgia Public Broadcasting, June 5, 2023, online at <https://www.gpb.org/news/2023/06/05/how-racial-disparities-in-discipline-can-undercut-school-choice> (noting disproportionate discipline for black students and a culture of exclusivity at a Georgia charter school).
2. O'Kane, Caitlin. "Christian college ends partnership with Florida school over 'David' controversy", CBS News, April 3, 2023, online at <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/florida-david-michelangelo-controversy-hillsdale-christian-college-ends-partnership-tallahassee-classical-school/>

(noting Hillsdale-affiliated Tallahassee Classical School was dropped by Hillsdale after a group of parents got the principal fired over the display of a picture over the renowned Statue of David by Michelangelo, on the frivolous claim that it was "pornographic").

E. Start-Up Plan (standard 2.2) -- It is agreed by everyone that the 2024 start date proposed in the ACAM application is unrealistic. There appears to be a de facto amendment that the start-up date is likely to be 2025-26, at best. When interviewing the applicant, the Commission should inquire as to what plans ACAM will make to ensure that this schedule is realistic.

F. Facilities (standard 2.3) -- The location is unknown. The MCPS Cart commented that the proposed facility size may not even be correct. There are numerous unknowns here that will not only affect the quality of the school but its budget. It has been claimed by ACAM advocates that the school will be "free" but all budgets are purely speculative until a site determination is made.

G. Transportation (standard 2.7) -- See all my previous comments under points A and F. As sort of a fig leaf, ACAM proposes \$120,000 be used to help parents, but until the other issues are figured out it is unclear whether this budget is sufficient.

H. Nutrition (standard 2.8) -- This was an area of concern for MCPS Board members. The Commission should not simply assume that ACAM will meet all regulatory standards just because it makes a vague promise to do so.

I. Waivers (standard 2.11) -- ACAM has asked for 16 waivers. At the initial MCPS Board meeting in April, Mr. Schwenk told MCPS Board members that the waivers were boilerplate. The MCPS Board did not find this to be persuasive, and asked for further clarification, particularly as to why they were needed. Many of the responses by ACAM were either detached from student performance (for example related to career ladders) or made vague claims about being necessary to implement a classical model. While other schools have asked for more waivers, the Commission should look at every one of these waivers to determine if they have been properly justified according to state standard 2.11.

## II. Responses to other speakers

As the first speaker at the hearing on Thursday, September 21st, I had only a limited ability to respond to the claims raised by other speakers. I will briefly summarize my responses here.

Mr. Chad Howell, a former police officer and school board member, spoke in opposition to the application and in support of MCPS. He noted that a new state law (Pub. Ch. No. 0367, formerly HB0322, effective July 1, 2023) requires public charter schools to have school resource officers (SROs)

and security plans and systems. Failure to implement this will result in state funding to the charter school being withheld. ACAM's ability to comply with the statute directly implicates several quality standards (such as those relating to facilities, transportation, the start-up plan, personnel, and financial management). ACAM probably can comply with this law, and one of their Board members (Jeff Hicks) has domain knowledge. With that said, however, it is my opinion that the changes made by Pub Ch. No. 0367 are significant enough and impacts so many different aspects of the school's operation that the application should be resubmitted.

Mr. Greg Hanners, speaking in opposition to the ACAM application and in support of MCPS, noted that since all parties seem to agree that the school will not be ready before 2025, it would be better to deny the application and see whether American Classical Schools can produce quality results in Rutherford County, where their application was approved. I completely concur with my friend Mr. Hanners, and once again state that the application should be denied and ACAM should submit a better application later.

Denial and re-application would also allay concerns that MCPS Board Chair Michael Fulbright erred by agreeing to allow ACAM to submit responses to objections rather than to submit a fully amended application, as the public charter school statute seems to require (see Tenn. Code sec. 49-13-108(b)(3)).

I am also in agreement with the comments made by Mr. Seth Campbell, Dr. Christa S. Martin, Ms. Jacque Lightfoot Marshall, and Mr. Jim York.

Two speakers supporting the ACAM application raised process arguments. As noted above, these are not particularly relevant to this application, because this is a de novo review, and the Public Charter School Commission has the independent ability to approve or deny regardless of what errors were made at the MCPS Board level.

MCPS Board member Laura Nutt particularly raised a grievance regarding the alleged "plagiarism" of the school district and consultation with other districts. I entirely disagree with Ms. Nutt's characterization. Given the novel nature of this application, it would have been irresponsible if MCPS failed to consult closely with the school boards in other counties. Because the Rutherford County school board came to a different conclusion on ACAM's application, I do not see how anyone can claim with a straight face that MCPS's discussions with other counties prejudiced the CART against ACAM. Despite this, spurious claims of "plagiarism" have been made against the dedicated public servants of Maury County by supporters of ACAM, including Ms. Nutt, who as a Board member should have more respect for the school system. It is unfortunate that the supporters of the application find it necessary to engage in ad hominem attacks rather than refute the points raised by the CART.

Ms. Sue Stephenson, a former county commissioner who I respect tremendously, further raised the objection (if I recall correctly) that the MCPS Board resolution states that the ACAM charter school would have significant negative impacts on the district's finances and that this was improper because the issue was not discussed in a meeting. If Ms. Stephenson wants to allege a violation of the Open Meetings Act, she is entitled to do so, although to my recollection she did not claim this. I would defend MCPS by saying that I think a statement about financial impact is so obvious as to not really require much discussion; approval of the school would (under the new TISA finance law,) mean transferring funds away from struggling unit schools like we have in Culleoka and Santa Fe and Hampshire and send it to the new public charter school. Whether this shift is a trickle or a tide, depends on your view of ACAM's enrollment projections. But the fundamental issue I want to make -- aside from the fact that Ms. Stephenson's objection is irrelevant, again because this Commission is conducting a de novo review -- is that it is spurious because a reasonable drafter could insert this as a matter of course.

Multiple speakers supporting the ACAM application made claims that, frankly, do not belong before this Commission. Many of the speakers (including Rep. Scott Cepicky, Mayor Sheila Butt, and others) made general comments about classical education and charter schools that are essentially moral arguments to be pitched to a legislative body in favor of more charter school spending or adopting classical education models in the public schools. They are not, however, relevant to the quality of ACAM's application, which is the primary issue this Commission is responsible for.

The appeals scheme described in the Tennessee Public Charter Schools Act makes it clear that the Public Charter School Commission is primarily an adjudicative, not a legislative, entity. This Commission has no more business making its decision on "charter schools are good/bad" type arguments than a circuit court would have to find a criminal defendant guilty of murder solely on the basis that "killing is wrong," without more specific evidence of that defendant's actual guilt.

As I noted in oral comments, state law (Tenn. Code 49-13-108(b)(5)(D)) requires an application be approved or rejected based on a combination of two factors --

1) "[whether] the commission finds that the application meets or exceeds the metrics outlined in the department of education's application-scoring rubric"

-- and --

2) "[whether] approval of the application is in the best interests of the students, LEA, or community."

In the case that both criteria are met, this Commission \*may\* grant

approval to the application. Note that in statutory construction the word "may" is generally meant to imply discretion, i.e. that approval is not mandatory even if both criteria are met (see, e.g. Tenn. Code sec. 6-1-102).

The applicant, ACAM, has asked this Commission to give disproportionate weight to the second factor, and the comments of the speakers supporting ACAM play heavily to this. However, both are required. Moreover, I would emphasize again (as I did in the oral comment) that a failure to provide a quality application jeopardizes the purported benefits that the applicant is claiming. As Mr. Howell noted, if this application were a business plan, the applicant would have trouble getting bank funding; the reason for this is that banks generally expect lenders to pay back their debts. If the Commission were to be in the habit of lending credence to applicants -- no matter how fabulous their "magic beans" sound -- without an expectation for repayment, then it is not acting in the best interests of the State of Tennessee.

Regarding the concern raised by Dr. Garrett, and suggested by Rep. Cepicky, that this school is necessary to ensure that people of color and working families can access classical education, I would again emphasize that the benefits are contingent upon quality. I would furthermore note that the outcome for minority and economically disadvantaged families is particularly contingent upon the school having solid plans in place for enrolling children from diverse backgrounds, ensuring that services and disciplinary policies are written and enforced equitably, as well as a plan for recruiting teachers from diverse backgrounds. Policies related to diversity were a particular area of concern that was raised by the MCPS Board in denying the application.

Moreover, the speculated site for the ACAM school -- "north of Columbia" -- is an affluent part of our county, and how far north of Columbia one goes is going to be a significant factor as to how much benefit this school might have for disadvantaged households.

It was also noted by Rep. Cepicky that our TCAP scores in Maury County were subpar. I do not believe I need to remind this Commission that the TCAP test has been criticized repeatedly as having a faulty methodology. Nevertheless, the bigger issue about the ACAM application is that the school may serve, at a maximum, about 340 students. This would constitute about 2.5 percent of the MCPS student population. Even if ACAM has TCAP scores 20 points higher than the rest of the school district, it would only mean an increase of 1/2 of one percent in the districtwide TCAP passage rate. In real terms, perhaps five third-grade students would not be required to attend summer school before being promoted to the fourth grade. While that may be incredibly consequential to those five children, approving charter schools seems to be a "boil the oceans" approach to increasing test scores; similar results could likely be had at significantly less cost.

It was claimed by a speaker (I believe Commissioner Aaron Miller) that the school would be "free" and would help to offset the cost of school construction elsewhere. While construction may (or may not) be fully paid for, ongoing facilities maintenance and the cost of operating the school are not, and those have been estimated around \$7 million per year if the school were at full capacity. The ACAM application makes it clear that the proposed school will be dependent on federal and state funds. While TISA spending should bring millions more to Maury County, these funds are desperately needed to keep schools from closing; MCPS recently closed McDowell Elementary School in Columbia due to a lack of funding and has deferred building a much-needed school in Spring Hill. Again, such arguments are legislative in nature and outside the purview of the Public Charter School Commission.

### III. My Oral Comments

These are my prepared remarks for the September 21st hearing, with some edits to conform them to what I said:

My name is James Dallas. I am a resident and homeowner in Maury County District 4. I serve as Chairman of the Maury County Democratic Party.

While I am open-minded on school choice, I oppose the American Classical Academy Maury application because it does not meet state quality guidelines, nor is it in the public interest.

[I noted in an off-the-cuff remark that the quality of ACAM's application would directly affect its ability to provide the promised benefits, so weight must be given to the quality of the application.]

As others will point out, there are numerous deficiencies with ACAM's application and responses. I will cover these in written comments, but today have these three observations:

- First, ACAM compares their application to that of KIPP Nashville, which this Commission upheld last year. There are several problems with this comparison. First, KIPP has a proven track record in operating schools, whereas ACAM has none. Second, KIPP had actual facilities they could fall back on, ACAM has none. Third, the KIPP school can rely on Metro services, such as WeGo public transit, that do not exist in Maury County.
- Second, the application gives ambiguous responses on transportation and food services. In one response they deny the need for a transportation plan but elsewhere imply providing transportation will allow them to meet other goals, such as enrollment and diversity. Let's be clear: the "who" and "how" are important to working families in Maury County!

· Third, in the section relating to waivers, some of their justifications have nothing to do with student success - for example, they don't want career ladders because they don't want to budget for them - and other times make vague statements about the classical school model requiring the state law be ignored.

Frankly, my biggest concern about this application is that it is for a school to be built to fit a model, rather than the model being built for the school and its students. I have serious concerns that these deep ideological commitments will hinder improvements in the school's policies and curricula. For these reasons, I ask you to deny the appeal.

Thank you.

#### IV. Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, I ask that the Commission deny the appeal of American Classical Academy Maury.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Dallas



Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 25, 2023 12:20 pm  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 174.238.161.75  
Unique ID: 1145698338  
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

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<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

## Written Comment

To Tennessee Public Charter School Commission board members:

I am writing in support of the American Classical Academy's application to Maury County School System.

It would be a tremendous benefit to our community to have a public charter school promoting classical curriculum in Maury County. We would have students graduating with an excellent education and abilities to be production citizens here and elsewhere.

Examples of that current need:

1) Where I bank, I have been told that they can tell when an applicant has graduated from school here because of the individual's lack of knowledge in math and the completion of the application.

2) Much earlier this year, our new local newspaper, Main Street Maury, contained an article on the percentage of students at grade level, grade school thru high school. Wish I had kept the article. But I do recall that the grade level percentage for graduating high schoolers was just over 20%. Thus inversely, just under 80% of our graduating seniors did not have grade level knowledge of subject matter. Note, this percentage coincides with percentages stated by Tenn. Representative Scott Cepicky at the september 21st public hearing.

Public education is limited to the county school system here. Despite the reported "on grade level percentages", the educators insist that educational needs are being meant. Additionally, the integrity of that system is now in question. During the public hearing on September 21, 2023, information was presented addressing the lack of integrity and honesty in presenting information/withholding information and/or adding information without verification, to our school board members, involving the superintendent of schools and the school board attorney.

Having attended school board meetings and the commission's public hearing, I am even more adamant in my support for the approval of this public charter school option.

The young man, a high school freshman, who spoke at the public hearing provided us with an excellent insight into the impressive results of a classical education.

My hope is that you approve American Classical Academy's application for the benefit of the parents, the students, and the community. Also, that your decision is based on the merits of the application and not what our local educators have claimed.

Thank you for the opportunity given to me to voice support for school choice.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Parkhurst

1622 London Dr.  
Columbia, TN 38401  
September 25, 2023

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 25, 2023 12:42 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS  
IP Address: 166.199.148.21  
Unique ID: 1145707718  
Location: 32.3705, -90.1746

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<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>It is my opinion that maury county has spoke its mind through the local school board. They have denied the charter school application. It is my hope this committee will honor the wishes of our local leaders. We should not place local tax money in the hands of private entities in which we the taxpayers have no control over. This would be the age old problem of taxation without representation. There are several reasons why the board denied the charter school of which I won't comment but i support our board fully with their decision.</p>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 27, 2023 1:15 pm  
Browser: Chrome 116.0.0.0 / Windows  
IP Address: 96.4.42.144  
Unique ID: 1146551827  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Seth Campbell
<b>Email</b>	sethjcampbell74@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 215-3217
<b>Resident District Status</b>	Non-district Resident
<b>What is your resident district?</b>	Marshall County, TN
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	LEA Staff Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools

**Written Comment**

I wasn't quite sure whether to write a comment or not since I spoke at the meeting on 9/21, but I figured I would further elaborate.

At the meeting on 9/21, many people on both sides of the issue focused on personal accounts and their feelings regarding this particular charter school opening in Maury County. My thought-process continues to be focused on this specific application and the whether it meets the criteria set forth in order to be granted or not. The genuine personal accounts and feelings about charter schools and classical education are appreciated, but they aren't particularly helpful in this discussion because they are not associated with the application.

There are a number of deficiencies in the application by ACA and I could highlight those once again, yet I understand you're already aware of these. It is clear to me that the Maury County School Board gave American Classical every opportunity to rectify deficiencies in the application and elaborate on follow-up questions. Ultimately, they narrowly voted against opening the charter school after the process was complete.

I have every right to believe the process was fair and diligent. For this reason, I support their decision and my hope is that you will uphold our democratically-elected school board's decision.

Thank you!

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 27, 2023 1:55 pm  
Browser: Safari 16.6 / OS X  
IP Address: 24.159.44.236  
Unique ID: 1146572561  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Gail Pipes
<b>Email</b>	gail.pipes@me.com
<b>Phone</b>	(256) 483-7233
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I support American Classical Academy's application for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. My husband (John) and I strongly believe that parents <b>MUST</b> have AN <b>OPTION</b> of what school to send their children.</li><li>2. It is clear that the reading and math proficiencies of Maury County students in K-3rd grades are less than 30 percentage. This is unacceptable.</li><li>3. The Maury County School Board has <b>NOT</b> offered any solution to correct the low proficiency problem.</li><li>4. It is a fact that the students attending charter schools have demonstrated an acceptable level of proficiency. Clearly, charter schools will correct the low proficiency problem.</li><li>5. We urge the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission to approve the American Classical Academy's application. Thank you for considering our comments. John and Gail Pipes</li></ol>

Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 27, 2023 2:49 pm  
Browser: Chrome 103.0.5060.134 / OS X  
IP Address: 47.226.75.12  
Unique ID: 1146598818  
Location: 36.1228, -88.5069

<b>Name</b>	Debra Davis
<b>Email</b>	djwdavis4@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 585-4803
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury

## Written Comment

Hello distinguished members;

My name is Debra Davis. My husband and I are concerned citizens and live in district ten of Maury County. I am asking you to approve the ACE charter school for the following reasons.

A charter school would give children from low income families a chance to receive a comparable education as children from middle to high income families. Maury County is home to several excellent private schools, but these schools are expensive with an average, annual tuition of at least \$8000. Most parents I know would not be able to manage that for one child, let alone multiple children. And even though home schooling is theoretically "free", it necessitates that a parent either be unemployed or have an extremely flexible, part time schedule. This simple isn't possible for many families, particularly families of single parents.

The ACE charter school will save Maury County literally millions of dollars. If you approve, ACE will purchase land, construct a building, and hire staff. The money saved can be used to continue the expansion of Maury County Public School's projects and priorities. The unprecedented, rapid growth of our county requires implementation of strategic planning and effective adherence to the budget set out by the county commission. According to projections, Maury County will need ten new schools over the next ten years. A charter school will ease crowding, at least a little.

Finally, there need not be fear that a charter school would somehow deprive our system from resources for special education. The Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement plan, otherwise know as TISA, appropriates dollars according to students' need. The money follows the students whether they attend one of our traditional public schools or a public charter school.

What about our more typical, average students? ACE charter schools have a proven record of improving students' test scores and reading levels which is sorely needed in our county! The classical education model is far from new. Many of this country's founding fathers were educated, sometimes self educated, in this way not to mention Socrates and Aristotle!

Thank you for your time and service.

Debra Davis

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 27, 2023 3:50 pm  
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.5 / iOS  
IP Address: 162.225.88.186  
Unique ID: 1146631891  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Laura Nutt
<b>Email</b>	lcnutt74@hotmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 516-5245
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Application Staff or Board Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury

## Written Comment

To the Commission,  
I am the Board member from District 5 that talked during public comments.

The day after the first vote to deny ACAM, we received an email from them voicing concern regarding the review committee's evaluation. First, between the time the review was posted on Friday (5 days prior to the vote) to the Tuesday vote there had been significant changes made. I can verify this, as I had printed off the review on Saturday. Someone between Sunday and Tuesday went in and made changes. The original was identical to Clarksville-Montgomery and Rutherford's review evaluations. It even referenced Rutherford.

I also noticed discrepancies between MCPS rubric and the evaluation; one section of the rubric said it did meet standards, but the review posted said that section did not. There was also an entire section removed. In response to the email, Mrs. Ventura admitted to collaborating with the other counties. This was never stated to the Board as part of the process. Because of this, Chairman Fulbright requested that Board members who voted to deny submit their reasons and consents as part of the denial letter, setting aside the Review Evaluation. The Charter School was told to submit answers for these concerns in lieu of the amended application.

The response from ACAM was what we were to vote on at the second meeting on July 27. Although we had a quorum, 2 members, Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Sims were not present. The Chairman decided to go ahead with the vote. The vote to approve failed, however we were informed by our attorney that we needed to vote to deny or the application would automatically be approved. Some members didn't think it would be "fair" to vote without the 2 other members, so the Chairman scheduled a 3rd vote. It was at this meeting that the application was denied.

The lawyer had a resolution already typed up for the denial letter, that claimed the reason to be fiscal, which was never even discussed. We did not vote on it because we were told we didn't have to.

I believe this whole process was unprofessional and possibly in violation of regulations. My review of the application found that ACAM did meet all State Standards required by Tennessee. I request this commission approve the application for American Classical Academy Maury.  
Thank you for all you do,  
Laura Nutt

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 28, 2023 3:29 pm  
Browser: Safari 16.1 / OS X  
IP Address: 76.9.160.162  
Unique ID: 1147012787  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

<b>Name</b>	Matthew Neal
<b>Email</b>	matthaeus.nigellus@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(714) 625-5020
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	American Classical Academy Maury

## Written Comment

I write in support of American Classical Academy's proposal for a charter school in Maury County. The arguments I've seen leveled against the proposal fall flat and betray an assumption that traditional public schools deserve public funds irrespective of parents' choices about the best educational opportunities for their children. Public funds largely consist of individual parent's tax dollars, and requiring those parents who have opted out of traditional public schooling (because they believe it's in their children's best interest) to continue subsidizing other people's children's education does not seem like a judicious or responsible way to govern.

As it stands today this is exactly the situation in Maury County; parents who do not believe that traditional public schooling is best for their children either have to pay for private school or take on the burden of homeschooling, all while still paying into the public school system that in good conscience they cannot utilize. This of course has a socio-economic element to it; the status quo ensures that alternate educational options are more available to those who can afford to pay private school tuition or have one parent stay home to teach their child. American Classical Academy's proposal would be one remedy to this unfortunate dilemma for many parents in Maury County. Public funds should follow students. Traditional public schools are not entitled to taxpayers' money; they should earn it by offering a competitive education, but as it stands right now they are not competitive because they don't have competition. In a market context we would call this a monopoly.

The classical model has seen a resurgence for a reason; public schools across the country are failing to deliver on the promise of a good education for all students. And parents have responded to this failure in various ways, be it private schools, homeschooling, or charter schools utilizing non-traditional models. I urge you as governing officials who are called to look after for the interests of Maury County residents, please give the parents of Maury County another educational option for their children.

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Form Name: New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - ACAM/MCPS  
Submission Time: September 28, 2023 3:56 pm  
Browser: Safari 16.6 / OS X  
IP Address: 35.150.223.109  
Unique ID: 1147023648  
Location: 35.6173, -87.0317

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<b>Name</b>	Jamila Brown
<b>Email</b>	jsbkbb@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(931) 223-7048
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application</b>	Local Elected Representative
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Maury County Public Schools
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I, Jamila Brown voted against the approval of American Classical Academy Charter School. As a representative of the third district of Maury County, I do not feel as the charter school would create opportunities for the constituents that I was elected to represent. In listening to the review of the application, there were a few definitive points identified that would severely limit my district from being potential candidates for this choice school. There were also some non-negotiable due to the effect that they would have on the application process and management.</p>

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**From:** [Esther L Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Charter Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] charter school in Maury County vote no  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 8:55:58 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

Maury County cannot afford to bleed off support for public schools to a new charter school in the county. Our class sizes are too large. Our underperforming or disadvantaged students typically will not attend this school and yet their school resources will be smaller for having the school permitted. We need to improve schools for all students, not just the limited and non diverse children who would attend this new school that is sponsored by out of state entities. Please don't interfere in your our school board's decision to reject this.

Thank you for your service.

Esther Lee Davenport  
Culleoka, TN 38401

At their July 27, 2023 meeting, the Maury County School Board voted 6-5 against the American Classical Academy application, and then the school attorney passed out a resolution of denial that he prepared in advance for the School Board. The main premise cited in the resolution to approve denial of the ACA application stated that “The Maury County Board of Education hereby finds that the establishment of the proposed charter school would have substantial negative fiscal impact on Maury County Public Schools.” Yet, not a single member of the School Board verbalized any commentary or concerns about “substantial negative fiscal impact,” nor did they present or discuss any findings of “substantial negative fiscal impact” on Maury County Schools as stated in the resolution. The school attorney admitted that he wrote the resolution paragraph and then just “cut, pasted and attached the Exhibit A questions, that have been asked and answered repeatedly. Also, Exhibit A mentioned absolutely nothing about “substantial negative fiscal impact” on Maury County Schools.

To make such a powerful declarative statement with “substantial” as a dramatic qualifier was used to imply findings of negative fiscal impacts that were never substantiated. No measurable methodologies such as quantitative analysis of data and metrics, no fiscal impact study, no cost, expenditures and revenue data analysis were ever done to establish any “findings” by a qualified analyst much less the School Board or their staff. And nothing was ever presented to the public. No one bothered to share any findings or actively defend the illusion of a relationship between the accusation of negative fiscal impact on the traditional school system and the alleged but misplaced causation blamed on the charter school application. Since a multivariate analysis was never conducted to adjust for other influential factors and conditions, and no descriptive evidence was ever collected and evaluated, this perceived correlation was never validated.

Instead, this denial was likely based on speculation, fear, flawed personal opinions and bias. Substantial negative fiscal impact is a baseless claim.

- A thorough and detailed application was presented by ACA that complied with the required criteria and standards.
- For those who say we need more information and more answers: There are 31 mandatory statutes adopted by the State of Tennessee that provide all the specificity and detail you could possibly want or need in regard to the regulation of Public Charter Schools.
- Public charter schools have a built-in mechanism of processes and procedures designed and outlined to support a quality educational environment with a strong foundation of accountability, oversight and transparency in exacting detail and subject to the state legislature, this Commission, the charter authority, the Dept. of Education, the State Comptroller of the Treasury, the charter agreement and so much more.
- Fewer than 10% of all students are attending charter schools and on average, charter schools enroll just 3% of students in the school district.

Closing:

In this area of explosive population, family and community growth, and increasing student enrollment, all can be well served by a variety of educational options. Parents, students, families and the community deserve the option and choice of alternative educational programs and facilities. It is possible for various educational alternatives (private, charter, magnet, home and traditional) to co-exist and thrive.

Susan Stephenson  
Maury County  
ACA Charter School Advocate  
September 21, 2023



Presentation to TN commission on Charter Schools

Sept. 21, 2023

James York (931-626-9959)

District 4, Columbia, TN

Community Member, Past Vice-Chair/Chairman of the Maury County School Board; Served as a Level IV Board of Director for Tennessee School Board Association

I am in opposition to THIS Charter School (ACS)

There are six (6) areas of concern:

I will address :

1. Provide less money for classrooms
2. Less accountability and control

A song by Paul Ingalls sort of says it,

“For other nations to remember, Uncle Sam is not a fool; where the people  
Vote and children go to school”

There is a need for public schools to serve the public good; not special interest!

Charter schools are run by a CEO

They look for Profit or Loss; Don't put a price on my children!

Charter schools do not show better performance than traditional public schools;

They try to cut cost to educate each student; however they spend much more on curriculum and material developers----That's where the money goes;

Not on teachers or students!!

The taxpayers dollars will go to Hillsdale College !!

The 1776 curriculum has been negatively reviewed by 47 AHA (American Historical Association) organizations.

Ohio found 4 times more inappropriate spending in charter schools than traditional public schools;

Some may never open or accept a single student;

Charter schools enjoy a tax credit (39%-50%) on all contributions for a seven (7) year period; they may be able to double or triple over (7) years.

Charter schools only emerged as an option for some parents that can't afford private schools; This is at taxpayer expense.

This is too expensive for Maury County!!

Governor Austin Peay established school boards between 1923-1927 for local control. People in their community make school decisions!!!

Directors and school boards operate by traditional regulations-----

Charter schools DO NOT; no oversight!

They operate by their own preview and board of directors!

This charter school is not for this community!!

Thank You

**From:** [Katrina Davis](#)  
**To:** [Charter Commission](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Written Public Comment Comment Maury County  
**Date:** Thursday, September 28, 2023 2:34:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [Fwd\\_Concerns\(5\).pdf](#)  
[Fwd\\_ACAM\\_Kristen Shull \(1\).pdf](#)

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**\*\*\* This is an EXTERNAL email. Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - STS-Security. \*\*\***

September 26, 2023

Katrina Davis  
Johnson Branch Road  
Williamsport, TN 38487

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the decision of the Maury County School Board to deny the application of the ACM Charter School. In several areas according to the rubric set forth by the TDOE scoring criteria, it was found to be deficient.

It is concerning to me, the committee was dismissed after the first denial by the board. There were accusations made, public comments made, and phone calls to Superintendent Ventura by some board members in favor of ACM and against the committee's work. I find it very unfair that the committee was accused of collusion, but never asked about their process or their work.

See below my concerns submitted.

Section 1.3 Academic Focus and Plan. (pg. 34) " will collaborate" in the design of the program.

- "Will develop" a program to provide for struggling students/(pg. 51) No evidenced-based plan to help remediate. "may be to spend 20 min a day"

- Not yet aligned to TN standards "being worked on" pg. 41

- Does not include required minutes for math

- no clear plan

Section 1.4 -Academic Performance and Standard: RTI recommended time not met/ no details of a strong plan for RTI that aligns with TN guidelines

- when and how to measure success

- standards not aligned to TN

- No distinct process for measuring, monitoring, ect. Universal Screener to be used?

- no plan if the school falls below state, district or its own academic goals.

Section 1.7

Strengths noted in application: Intention to follow the RTI2 framework

However: "The data" - such as? What will be used?

-What will be used for RTI intervention?

KEI not used in TN

Section 1.8 concerns

The daily schedule doesn't align with recommended time from RTI manual

Section 1.9

-"the chosen intervention"?

-Only ELs that need additional support will have ILP. (pg. 92)

-No clear plan for scheduling services for EL students

-English Learners- Supplement not supplant?

1.10 School Culture and Discipline

-age appropriate/ who defines?

- Does not clearly define for a Behavior Plan

-pg. 102 "students worthy of a chance to show their worth"

1.11 Enrollment

-Waitlists/ concerns of how parents will be contacted. Communication questions

I am not opposed to Charter schools and parent choice, but according to the rubric as designed by the state of TN, I am not in support of THIS charter school. It does not meet the requirements set forth by the Tennessee Department of Education.

I also find it very interesting that just as the vote was to occur, several emails and text messages were made public through a public records request showing "a plan" by some board members. Please see attached page 2.

I ask that the committee look at the quality of Charter Schools allowed to enter in Tennessee. Please hold them to the high standard set forth in the rubric and guidelines set forth by the state department of education. Please remember your mission of the Charter Commission is "to provide positive academic and life outcomes for Tennessee's students through access to high-quality public charter schools." This is not evident in this application.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Katrina Davis*

September 28, 2023

Ms. Tess Stovall, Executive Director  
Tennessee Public Charter School Commission  
500 James Robertson Parkway  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Davy Crockett Tower  
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Ms. Stovall:

Please share the following information with the Commission. I spoke at the July 27<sup>th</sup> meeting in Maury County in favor of the proposed charter school. I began my speech with the following paragraph:

“At their July 27, 2023 meeting, the Maury County School Board voted 6-5 against the American Classical Academy application, and then the school attorney passed out a resolution of denial that he prepared in advance for the School Board. The main premise cited in the resolution to approve denial of the ACA application stated that “The Maury County Board of Education hereby finds that the establishment of the proposed charter school would have substantial negative fiscal impact on Maury County Public Schools.” Yet, not a single member of the School Board verbalized any commentary or concerns about “substantial negative fiscal impact,” nor did they present or discuss any findings of “substantial negative fiscal impact” on Maury County Schools as stated in the resolution.” This statement in the resolution sent up to the Commission was never discussed by anyone, school board, the superintendent, the central office staff, or the public. This was quite simply a fabricated premise devised and written by the school attorney and the school board failed to discuss or question it.

There are a couple of other things that are important for the Commission to be aware of. I served on the Maury County Commission for 2 terms beginning in 2014 and retiring in September, 2022. I also served on the County Budget Committee for 7 of the last 9 years so I am very familiar with the school’s budgets specifically their food service, operational and capital project’s budgets. They never mentioned anything about all the substantial additional revenue they have been given over the past few years from local, state, and federal funding sources. They also have frequently presented to the Commission what their plans are only to change them once we gave them the funding they requested. For several years now, it appears that the school system’s biggest challenge has been their substandard financial management and reckless expenditures with the taxpayer, state, and federal dollars. It appears that some very poor decisions have unfortunately prevailed and that the only possible “negative fiscal impact” is generated internally within a school system poorly managed.

Back in 2018, I chaired the Maury County Administration Committee and the Audit Committee. I worked closely with Jim Arnette in the Comptroller's Office and prioritized the establishment of a new financial management system under which the county schools would be managed with oversight by the County Commission and county budget director's office. The school system was having very serious financial discrepancies and difficulties. Teachers were not getting their paychecks and many of those checks had flagrant errors. It was a terrible mess. The county schools were continually cited with findings and had 11 critical findings by state auditors just a few years ago. The superintendent and the school board at the time (half of whom are still on the school board) sent the Commission a letter opposing any financial management act that would have the county oversee the school's budgets and finances. I introduced a template that the Comptroller's office provided me and I also served on the Committee that created a new private act for the county entitled the Maury County Financial Management System of 2018. It was approved by the General Assembly and the County Commission.

Some of us have observed what we would describe as the appearance of wasteful spending, questionable financial decisions, and misleading or incorrect statements by the county school's board, superintendent, and central office staff. Recently, the school board approved the purchase of land for a new elementary school for which they have no funding. They asked for \$50 million dollars for this school which was denied entirely by the County Commission. So, even though they have no funding for the new school, they went ahead and approved purchasing the land without even reading the contract or notifying the public of the location. They kept this information off their work session and voting meeting agendas. They approved the purchase of land valued at \$750,000 dollars and paid \$4.25 million dollars! I share this background information with you because it is important for you to know that recommendations are often presented to the decision-making School Board and the County Commission with partial or inaccurate information presented by the superintendent and central office staff. Our schools are not performing well or being managed well. As a result, students are floundering and failing per test scores that are and have been well documented. The parents, students and community need and overwhelmingly support alternative educational facilities like the proposed charter school.

Lastly, it was the original review committee that did the criteria evaluations using the rubric. What you may not know is that this committee was completely hand-selected by the school superintendent and was stacked by design with herself, central office staff, department heads, current and former school administrators (both principals and vice-principals), and a former school board member who left the school board in 2022. And the review committee in Maury County read through and used questions and concerns presented for criteria evaluations in other counties where charter school applications had been submitted. Then the school board took over and wrote out their comments and questions (what the school attorney referred to as "Exhibit A"). The first vote was 6-5 against but it is interesting to note that only 5 school

board respondents voted and bothered to write any questions, comments, or concerns. **What this means is that the one deciding no vote never provided any negative feedback or concern!** Then the chair of the school board delayed another vote. Why? Even though he had a quorum to conduct business and take another final vote, he intentionally made the decision on his own (unilaterally) to postpone any further votes until 2 missing school board members (who he knew were opposed to the charter school) could attend and be present to vote!! This was a terrible manipulation of the charter school vote and resulting outcome.

Please vote to support the Public Charter School proposed for Maury County. Thank you for your time and attention to this important subject.

Sincerely,

Susan Stephenson  
Maury County Commissioner – District 6 (Retired)  
City of Columbia City Council – Ward 5 (Retired)