

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: August 17, 2022 3:30 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.3 / iOS
IP Address: 24.11.227.50
Unique ID: 998639803
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name Michael Dewey

Email 1michael.dewey@gmail.com

Phone (704) 644-9440

Organization None

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below Support for ACA and all other charter schools.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: August 17, 2022 5:52 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6 / iOS
IP Address: 172.58.144.41
Unique ID: 998734647
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name Jennifer Young

Email youn2038@bellsouth.net

Phone (615) 481-4687

Organization Classical Conversations

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below I would love to see American Christian Academy as an option in Rutherford County. As a 24 year Rutherford County parent and now grandparent, I believe a classical school option would greatly benefit the children and parents.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: August 18, 2022 7:40 am
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 69.247.2.186
Unique ID: 998918528
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name	Beth Gandy
Email	beths5258@aol.com
Phone	(901) 489-9208
Organization	Parents
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	We don't need schools in Rutherford county that are run by people who don't respect teachers or public education.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: August 18, 2022 10:19 am
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 12.204.217.7
Unique ID: 998976811
Location: 35.9787, -86.9134

Name Lacey Ballard

Email trumpetjaz@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 585-5357

Organization parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

To be short and simple, "ACA Rutherford" is a part of the Hillsdale College Group. Their leader called all of our teachers dumb. ALL of them. Our Governor refused to speak up and defend our teachers. ALL of them have been HURT by Hillsdale/ACA. To allow this organization in our county is to say to our teachers that we really don't care about you, and that we support private business over public education. To allow Hillsdale/ACA in our county is to allow a group that thinks our teachers are dumb to try and hire dumb teachers for our kids. This is ironic in the saddest of ways. It is absolutely unacceptable for ANY COUNTY in TN to allow Hillsdale/ACA in our state after the statements of their leader. If the Charter School Commission allows them into our state, you will only prove that you as an organization do not care about our schools or communities, but profit. If your organization desires to show what TN actually needs and stands for, you will agree with Rutherford County and the rest of TN educators that Hillsdale/ACA is NOT WELCOME.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: August 18, 2022 2:32 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 95.0.4638.74 / Android
IP Address: 174.235.51.4
Unique ID: 999110925
Location: 35.2296, -80.843

Name Emily Williams

Email mrs.emily.a.williams@gmail.com

Phone (615) 995-9833

Organization None

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

I urge the board to steer away from charter schools and instead focus on making Rutherford County public schools successful. Charter schools funnel money from traditional public schools without demonstrating significant gains. Charter schools do not effectively serve students who learn best in a self-contained environment. Charter schools are not subject to the same laws and rules as traditional public schools. With so many students underperforming in TN currently, the last thing Rutherford County needs is a charter school which has its own agenda, rather than focusing on the Tennessee state standards which students must master to be successful.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: August 18, 2022 8:54 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 76.22.178.231
Unique ID: 999306918
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name Andrea Dahmen

Email andreadahmen@yahoo.com

Phone (605) 376-6159

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

RCS is one of the best school districts in the state, especially considering it's size. People have moved here from all over the country to send their kids to RCS. The teachers of this district are dedicated professionals who go above and beyond for our students. While I disagree with our district's need for ANY charter schools (TN statistics along side Harvard studies have proven charter schools DO NOT perform better than public schools) we especially do not need a school that is so disrespectful of our teachers and our communities while taking all of our TN tax dollars back to Michigan. We don't need to do business with a school that has such factually inaccurate and racist curriculum driving further division in our communities. We do not need schools who will refuse to accept ALL of our students including those with disabilities. And we especially do not need out of state special interest groups profiting off our community's tax dollars while showing so little respect to those of us who actually live and work here by not even showing up to the RCS board meeting when they knew there would be a vote on their application. These people do not care about Tennesseans!!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: August 19, 2022 6:31 am
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 68.57.43.94
Unique ID: 999398925
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name	Daniel Smith
Email	smith.dan.j@gmail.com
Phone	(202) 536-7680
Organization	Political Economy Research Institute at MTSU (Identification Purposes Only)
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

I am writing to provide a letter of support for developing an American Classical Schools Charter in Rutherford County, Tennessee. As a resident of the Blackmon area of Murfreesboro and the father of a 2- and 4-year-old, I would be thrilled to have a charter option like this available in our area. I believe the mission of the American Classical Education curriculum, to provide an education that is both classical and American, rooted in the liberal arts and sciences, with a firm grounding in civic virtue and the cultivation of moral character, would provide a much-needed alternative educational model in our area. A recent study, "Kickstarting K-12 Education in Tennessee: Avenues for Systemic Transformation," by Dr. Corey A. DeAngelis, shows that additional charter educational options such as this will advance educational reform and economic growth in our area.

Hillsdale College president Larry Arnn crossed the line when he demeaned Tennessee public K-12 educators and education colleges. There are certainly problems in public education, but systematic problems mean the problem is with the system, not necessarily the educators. That is precisely why we cannot let Arnn's unwarranted comments detract us from doing what is best for our children; creating alternative educational options to empower our talented educators to better serve students.

A comprehensive study of K-12 education in Tennessee found our public education system is certainly in need of a "kickstart". Contrary to a common misperception, the study does not find a positive relationship between more spending per student and performance on state assessments. So it is not a lack of financial resources.

But this does not mean that the failures of public education are necessarily the fault of educators or administrators either. Rather, the problem in public education is the system. We have a monopoly public education system that denies all but the wealthiest families the opportunity to find the best school for their children. Given the number of students and the diversity of their needs, we should not be surprised that a uniform system fails many of them. As a monopoly, the system suffers from a lack of accountability, creates poorly structured incentives for performance, and, most egregiously, constrains public educators from adopting innovative teaching practices.

These are quite predictable consequences of a monopoly. Competition is necessary to provide the market incentives for accountability, alignment of incentives, and innovation. Imagine how grocery stores would perform if, rather than providing those in need with the necessary resources to purchase food, the government took over the operation of grocery stores.

Across the country, states are finding that they can empower families by providing them access to a wide variety of educational options to suit the

needs of their children better. They do this simply by adopting the common-sense practice of tying school funding to children so that resources flow to the educational establishments, be they public, private, or charter, that work best for Tennessee children.

Under a competitive system, underperforming schools would face the pressure to improve or risk losing students to options that served students better. This is the underlying incentive of market competition to better cooperate with consumers that has led to an almost uninterrupted increase in our standard of living.

The educators for the charter and private schools that open when given the opportunity, however, must come from somewhere. Often, they come from public schools. Just as many families are finding that their children begin to thrive in educational environments outside traditional school structures, talented educators, attracted by the opportunity to innovate in the classroom to better serve their students, are thriving under school choice.

Developing a system that enabled educators to be rewarded for their innovative teaching methods would naturally lead colleges of education across Tennessee to update their curriculum to better serve those seeking to enter the teaching profession. Colleges of education, after all, are in competition to serve these prospective educators. And, by making teaching a more gratifying experience, it might expand the ranks of those individuals looking to go into education.

I attended the informational meeting for a Hillsdale charter school in Rutherford County. I was thoroughly impressed with how their classical liberal curriculum was being successfully implemented elsewhere. It was readily apparent that they were enabling their educators to adopt innovative methods, even including a fundamental redesign of how schools are physically structured, to better expose students to a wide range of cultures, religions, and worldviews.

Like all groups of public employees, whether they work for the police, department of motor vehicle, or universities, there are certainly some problems emerging from bad employees. But systematic problems require systemic solutions. Larry Arnn made a mistake, but it would be an even bigger mistake to let his mistake halt our progress towards improving K-12 education in Tennessee.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: August 31, 2022 10:39 am
Browser: Chrome Mobile 99.0.4844.88 / Android
IP Address: 172.76.163.17
Unique ID: 1004142378
Location: 36.1732, -85.4536

Name Denelle Bratcher

Email denelleb52@gmail.com

Phone (615) 624-1351

Organization None

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

I was sad to hear that a classical model charter school was rejected. It would be a great gift to students and parents and to the county. My own children received a classical education and it prepared them to do exceptionally well in college and beyond. I think the board should carefully research the model, methods, and related successes of this type of education which served so many of our country's best and brightest long before now.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: August 31, 2022 4:32 pm
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 76.122.247.128
Unique ID: 1004347808
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name	Timothy Hinote
Email	tnhinote@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 330-1672
Organization	Rutherford Students First
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today as a parent who supports both school choice and ACE Rutherford's efforts to establish a school in Rutherford County. I am writing rather than be in attendance, due to work obligations at the time of the scheduled meeting. As a parent of 4, with two currently in the RuCo School System, I am in favor of ACE Rutherford County and would apply for all my children to be students if granted the opportunity.

Currently our residence has us zoned to an elementary school with great leadership and staffing, a blessing not shared by all RuCo parents. While I know we are blessed with our current school, I know not all RuCo parents share the same sentiment towards their child's school. My wife and I both value a solid educational foundation and would apply for ACE because of the classical curriculum used. Classical curriculum better prepares the student to meet and exceed both in and outside of the classroom. Our experience with the current curriculum utilized by RCS has been lukewarm, and while we have been pleased with our teachers and administrators, the curriculum that RCS has adopted for use in our public schools is sub par. I along with many other RCS parents am concerned with annual performance on TN Readiness. Year after year, TN Readiness results show that a majority of RCS students do not meet expectations in both ELA and Math, and in the same breath we are told that RCS is above state average. I am not concerned with a state average, I am concerned with my Rutherford County students and ensuring they have the best educational opportunities available, be it public, private, or home.

This leaves us along with other parents with limited choices. We could send our children to a private school, home school, or move. Unfortunately, like most parents in RCS, we do not possess the financial means to send all of our children to private school, and homeschooling, while not completely off the table, is currently not an option. Why as a parent that is unsatisfied with our zoned schools must we face the idea of relocation to obtain a better education from our child? And lets not forget the routine zone changes that have plagued Rutherford County. There is no guarantee that we will not be rezoned to a new school shortly after relocation. One's zip code should not be the defining factor in access to a quality education.

Parents simply want choice within Rutherford County. RCS cannot keep up with the ever growing community and is consistently behind on building, zone planning, and maintenance of existing facilities. Put simply, they need help! School choice offers that assistance so desperately needed in our overcrowded schools.

Some parents in attendance will likely argue that tax dollars would be diverted from public schools to charter schools, and that's correct, funds will be diverted from public to charter schools BECAUSE charter schools ARE public schools and entitled to the same funding as all schools in RCS.

Taxpayers do not pay school systems to educate empty seats. We pay to educate a student. No student, no per student funding.

In closing, I understand that many are opposing this charter school based on their prior or current affiliation with Hillsdale and comments made by their President Larry Arrn. Have you never made a comment in bad taste or that you regret? Was it not only a few months ago that Director Spurlock voluntarily stepped down after a leaked review and comments / tweets made publicly? Were Arrn's comments in poor taste, absolutely, but are they worth penalizing the students? Are you willing to let the comments made by one man, and hurt feelings, prevent children from receiving a chance at a high quality classical education?

Thank you.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: August 31, 2022 10:26 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 104.0.5112.97 / Android
IP Address: 71.199.198.72
Unique ID: 1004461510
Location: 36.0164, -86.5615

Name Jen Chapman

Email jmantle1@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 283-8947

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

As a Rutherford County citizen and parent, I am writing to express my concern with any approval you may give to American Classical Academy. I do not believe that American Classical Academy is a good fit for Rutherford County, nor did our local school board. Our County continually excels in academics and therefore a charter school is not needed. In addition, I have serious concerns regarding the derogatory comments about teachers (dumb, trained in dumbest schools) recently made by Larry Arnn. I believe that Rutherford County Teachers deserve admiration and that approving a school connected to such comments would be disrespectful to them. Rutherford County already offers a wide range of school choice, American Classical Academy has nothing to offer that we don't already have in that area. Thank you for your time.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 1, 2022 11:13 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 107.3.229.245
Unique ID: 1004945944
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name Randi Graham

Email grahamr810@hotmail.com

Phone (901) 651-8211

Organization Speaking on behalf of myself and family

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

I am writing on behalf of the American Classical Academy of Rutherford County and ask that you justly consider their application to establish a charter school in our county. If after you review their application you find that they meet all of the requirements, then I pray you set any personal political differences aside and approve their application. Classical education provides children with a full, rigorous, and beautiful education steeped in rich history. To have a charter school offer such curriculum to our county's children tuition free would be incredibly beneficial to our community.

Other benefits include helping the overcrowding in our schools and offering new job opportunities for teachers moving into our community from other states. Rutherford County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state and we need new schools to continue to meet the demand of providing a solid education for new students and job opportunities for new employees moving to the area.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and consider the American Classical Academy's application.

-Randi Graham, local mom of three

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 7, 2022 6:23 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 23.117.25.161
Unique ID: 1006938399
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Annette Nelson

Email edithannette@gmail.com

Phone (707) 540-5049

Organization RCS

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

As the parent of a student in the Rutherford County School District, I am writing to oppose the appeal made by American Classical Academy. I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the charter application.

ACA's charter application acknowledges the challenges our county faces in supporting disadvantaged learners. Though it highlights these known learning needs and suggests that the ACA learning model "may meet the needs of disadvantaged learners", it fails to adequately indicate how the school will engage and educate these vulnerable students. One of the primary concerns raised by the RCS review board was the lack of detail in special education identification and services - as well as the lack of a sustainable RTI2 plan to provide for individual student needs. ACA has yet to address those concerns.

The academy also emphasizes its use of Hillsdale's "K-12 Program Guide: An American Classical Education" which is built around several academic programs, including the "Core Knowledge Sequence". The Core Knowledge model has been criticized for its rigidity and failing to take children's unique learning styles into consideration. A study performed in New York Schools, indicated "no significant differences in the achievement gap of the advantaged and disadvantaged students when comparing the reading achievement scores of the... students who were taught the Core Knowledge curriculum and... students who were not."

Given that ACA failed to elaborate on its plans to engage special education students - and we don't have details on how the Core Knowledge model was adapted by Hillsdale - we can only hope that it at least lives up to the New York performance level.

The mission of Rutherford County schools says in part, "We believe: All students should be empowered to reach their fullest potential." Our students deserve schools that strive to educate everyone.

Please vote no.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 8, 2022 8:24 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 12.204.217.7
Unique ID: 1007108475
Location: 35.9787, -86.9134

Name	Lacey Ballard
Email	trumpetjaz@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 585-5357
Organization	RCS Parent
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

As the parent of a student in the Rutherford County School District, I oppose the appeal made by American Classical Academy. I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the charter application (especially since they failed to even show up to the meeting, when the time was even changed to cater to their need).

ACA's charter application acknowledges the challenges our county faces in supporting disadvantaged learners. Though it highlights these known learning needs and suggests that the ACA learning model "may meet the needs of disadvantaged learners", it fails to adequately indicate how the school will engage and educate these vulnerable students. One of the primary concerns raised by the RCS review board was the lack of detail in special education identification and services - as well as the lack of a sustainable RTI2 plan to provide for individual student needs. ACA has yet to address those concerns.

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Given that ACA failed to elaborate on its plans to engage special education students - and we don't have details on how the Core Knowledge model was adapted by Hillsdale - we can only hope that it at least lives up to the New York performance level.

The mission of Rutherford County schools says in part, "We believe: All students should be empowered to reach their fullest potential." Our students deserve schools that strive to educate everyone.

Please stand with the families of Rutherford County and our School Board and vote confirm our County's choice to NOT ALLOW Hillsdale in our community. Thank you.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 8, 2022 3:03 pm
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 12.25.200.162
Unique ID: 1007341820
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name	Amanda Peck
Email	kaischoey@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 587-1570
Organization	Parent in Rutherford County TN
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am writing in support of the Rutherford County School board's decision to deny the American Classical Academy's charter school application.

Hillsdale College President Dr. Larry Arnn has become well-known for his distasteful comments about our Tennessee teachers. It has been argued that Dr. Arnn's statements shouldn't be considered with respect to the ACA's charter application because Hillsdale is a completely separate and unrelated entity. There are several facts that call this assertion into question.

Even if we set aside the fact that the academy couldn't consider opening without a very generous grant from Hillsdale (which reserves the right to revoke funding if it disagrees with decisions made by the charter operator), and the fact that many of the board members are employed by Hillsdale - there is much to contend with here. Dr. Arnn himself recounted the founding of ACE, the charter school management organization that oversees the academy. He stated, "We started [the CMO] because we don't take any money from the government." He personally recruited Joel Schellhammer, a Hillsdale graduate, to head the commission earlier this year..

In the February 2022 edition of the Hillsdale Collegian, Joel's appointment as CEO of ACE was announced. An excerpt from the article clearly outlines Hillsdale's significant, intentional influence over the ACE mission and trajectory: "Before ACE, Hillsdale would wait to be contacted by a local group asking for support in starting a charter school. But with the Tennessee project, the partnership with ACE brings a way to be more proactive." In addition, the ACE board is composed of many Hillsdale staff members.

It's clear that the academy's ties to Hillsdale are not up for debate. In fact, until this appeal, they were proudly advertised. Given this, let's revisit how Dr. Arnn feels about Tennessee teachers: "The teachers are trained in the dumbest parts of the dumbest colleges in the country." Does this exemplify the "moral character and civic virtue" that Hillsdale and its charter partners intend to bring to Tennessee students?

I think that Reverend Donna Whitney said it best:

"The comments made by Larry Arnn, President of Hillsdale College, an education advisor to Governor Lee ... is just further proof that Governor Lee needs to distance himself from Hillsdale and abandon his attempts to bring Hillsdale Schools to Tennessee. These schools erase the line between church and state and are an attempt to bring White Christian Nationalism into our public schools."

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 8, 2022 3:06 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 76.248.235.140
Unique ID: 1007343345
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name	Beth Priest
Email	bbp0524@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 681-3086
Organization	N/A (RCS parent)
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am writing in support of the Rutherford County School board's decision to deny the American Classical Academy's charter school application. Hillsdale College President Dr. Larry Arnn has become well-known for his distasteful comments about our Tennessee teachers. It has been argued that Dr. Arnn's statements shouldn't be considered with respect to the ACAs charter application because Hillsdale is a completely separate and unrelated entity. There are several facts that call this assertion into question.

Even if we set aside the fact that the academy couldn't consider opening without a very generous grant from Hillsdale (which reserves the right to revoke funding if it disagrees with decisions made by the charter operator), and the fact that many of the board members are employed by Hillsdale - there is much to contend with here. Dr. Arnn himself recounted the founding of ACE, the charter school management organization that oversees the academy. He stated, "We started [the CMO] because we don't take any money from the government." He personally recruited Joel Schellhammer, a Hillsdale graduate, to head the commission earlier this year..

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It's clear that the academy's ties to Hillsdale are not up for debate. In fact, until this appeal, they were proudly advertised. Given this, let's revisit how Dr. Arnn feels about Tennessee teachers: "The teachers are trained in the dumbest parts of the dumbest colleges in the country." Does this exemplify the "moral character and civic virtue" that Hillsdale and its charter partners intend to bring to Tennessee students?

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 8, 2022 6:05 pm
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows 7
IP Address: 108.248.214.49
Unique ID: 1007417103
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name Tommy Snowden

Email junkityjunkjunk@comcast.net

Phone (615) 625-3822

Organization Parent of Rutherford County Students, citizen of TN

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am writing in support of the Rutherford County School board's decision to deny the American Classical Academy's charter school application. First, just to address the elephant in the room...the ACE's application has already been reviewed and rejected by the duly elected school board of my county. That really should be the end of it. The notion that the decision would even be second-guessed at all by this state-level Commission seems entirely inappropriate.

Having said that, the ACE's charter was rejected for good reason and I agree with the decision. The problems with the plan submitted still exist. This is a thinly-veiled Hillsdale project and, as such, it is not in the best interest of Rutherford County's students.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 8, 2022 7:55 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 172.58.146.42
Unique ID: 1007448972
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name	R McDonough
Email	mcdfamilyof3@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 900-4167
Organization	None
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Below you'll find a form letter that I agree with and I'd like to add - this is just going too far. From the anti-mask "actors" who took over Covid meetings here (who had absolutely zero to do with the schools or even have kids at all - until they wanted their own 15mins of fame and a witty, non-factual sound bite in hopes to make a name for themselves - regardless of the consequence) to this...We should have seen it coming a mile away. I'm tired of wasting tax payer dollars on these fools. They're being deceptive. It's been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt with clear evidence. End of story.

I am writing in support of the Rutherford County School board's decision to deny the American Classical Academy's charter school application. Hillsdale College President Dr. Larry Arnn has become well-known for his distasteful comments about our Tennessee teachers. It has been argued that Dr. Arnn's statements shouldn't be considered with respect to the ACAs charter application because Hillsdale is a completely separate and unrelated entity. There are several facts that call this assertion into question.

Even if we set aside the fact that the academy couldn't consider opening without a very generous grant from Hillsdale (which reserves the right to revoke funding if it disagrees with decisions made by the charter operator), and the fact that many of the board members are employed by Hillsdale - there is much to contend with here. Dr. Arnn himself recounted the founding of ACE, the charter school management organization that oversees the academy. He stated, "We started [the CMO] because we don't take any money from the government." He personally recruited Joel Schellhammer, a Hillsdale graduate, to head the commission earlier this year..

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It's clear that the academy's ties to Hillsdale are not up for debate. In fact, until this appeal, they were proudly advertised. Given this, let's revisit how Dr. Arnn feels about Tennessee teachers: "The teachers are trained in the dumbest parts of the dumbest colleges in the country." Does this exemplify the "moral character and civic virtue" that Hillsdale and its charter partners intend to bring to Tennessee students?

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 2:55 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 76.248.235.31
Unique ID: 1007802916
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Krista Blackwell

Email krisk2006@hotmail.com

Phone (931) 607-1103

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Our school system is one of the top in the state. If you allow the charter school in, when they do not meet the standards you are hurting our great school system. I do not support the charter school. Please do not allow them.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 2:55 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 90.0.4430.216 / iOS
IP Address: 172.58.146.200
Unique ID: 1007802938
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Kristy Setzer
Email	krislynn1979@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 971-7129
Organization	N/a
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	It would be great for Rutherford County to have a charter school because it will be a great fit for our community. I have a 4 yr old almost 5 that will be going into kindergarten next year and I rather have her in a charter school vs a public school.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 2:57 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.195
Unique ID: 1007803757
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name	Michael Fleener
Email	mfleener@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 517-7911
Organization	None
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	Charter schools need to meet or exceed the requirements that public school and public school teachers are held too.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 2:57 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 99.51.241.182
Unique ID: 1007803785
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name	Elizabeth Powell
Email	elizabeth.powell@urgentcaregroup.com
Phone	(843) 496-0315
Organization	David Youree Elementary School
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	As a parent with a child that could potentially attend a charter school, and as a person who personally attended charter schools for much of my education greatly to my benefit, I strongly advocate for this charter school to be allowed to move forward.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 2:58 pm
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.181
Unique ID: 1007804212
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name	Jamie Shields
Email	shieldsj@rcschools.net
Phone	(615) 594-0482
Organization	La Vergne High
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	<p>We already have a teacher shortage. If we allow smaller, charter schools to drain our workforce our situation will only get worse.</p> <p>Larger schools provide more opportunities and helps provide services with less staff/student ratio.</p>

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 2:59 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 172.226.168.160
Unique ID: 1007804645
Location: 35.0458, -85.3135

Name	Franklin Gongora
Email	franklingh2014@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 546-9766
Organization	Private
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	We don't need any charter schools in our county we are extremely satisfied with our public schools and our teachers , god bless them!!!!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 2:59 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 71.199.199.146
Unique ID: 1007804740
Location: 36.0164, -86.5615

Name Rachel Fandel

Email rc.fandel@gmail.com

Phone (703) 217-0183

Organization Citizen

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below There is no need for charter schools. Fund Rutherford County Schools properly and increase teacher pay! I do not support tax dollars intended for our public schools being sent to charter schools instead.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:00 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.97
Unique ID: 1007805027
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name	Dawn Fritz
Email	fritzd@rcschools.net
Phone	(615) 556-7254
Organization	Rutherford County Schools
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I think a charter school option for areas where the school system is failing to provide a high quality education for their students might be needed. Rutherford County Schools is not one of these systems. If funding is taken away from the Rutherford County Schools system to fund public charter schools, I think the high level of education our students receive will suffer. I do not feel that charter schools for Rutherford County are a good option.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:01 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 76.22.167.14
Unique ID: 1007805665
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name	Michael Dortch
Email	dortchm@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 415-3326
Organization	Parent of two RCS school students
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	I am requesting that you deny the application for new-start charter school American Classical Academy-Rutherford (ACAR) in Rutherford County.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:03 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 108.88.16.82
Unique ID: 1007807609
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Lea Maitlen

Email lea.d.maitlen@gmail.com

Phone (615) 484-5323

Organization RCS Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Our school board made the right decision in denying American Classical Academy. This charter spent no time learning the needs of our district, has no plan for educating special needs students, and is connected to (and will use curriculum provided by) Hillsdale College, whose code of commitment clearly states that the teaching of the Christianity is central to their mission. Giving public money to ACA is a violation of the Establishment Clause as written by our Founding Fathers. I don't want my money paying for religious indoctrination.

Say no to American Classical Academy.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:04 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.52
Unique ID: 1007808028
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Tammy Anselmo

Email anselmot@rcschools.net

Phone (931) 273-3697

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am writing to ask that the appeal for American Classical Academy be denied. The lack of transparency and accountability by the organization will harm students and waste tax payer dollars. Also, the curriculum taught by American Classical Academy is from an extreme viewpoint which should not be considered truth for all. The curriculum is more consistent with a private school curriculum. If parents wish to choose to send their child to this school, funding should NOT be removed from the public schools for a private education.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:05 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 99.76.48.122
Unique ID: 1007808324
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name Bobby Simon

Email bobbysimonii@gmail.com

Phone (615) 358-7410

Organization Parent with students at Walter Hill

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

I am very much against this charter school being approved as the school does not have the interest of the community and teachers in mind. As a parent that does support Charter Schools and the way they fit within the school system, American Classical Academy has history in other states of not maintaining proper funding and other financial obligations. They also have had issues such as a large number of uncertified teachers and not properly providing exceptional-student education services. They also is some type of affiliation with Hillsdale College, whose president was caught on hidden camera badmouthing teachers and the colleges that train them. This undermines the whole education system for our kids and teachers to have them apart of this education system.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:06 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.173
Unique ID: 1007808971
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Celina Thornton

Email thorntonc3@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 556-4321

Organization Rutherford County

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Charter schools have no place in our public education system. Charter schools undermine our society's commitment to educational excellence for all children, and impairs equity and inequalities. Charter schools take money away for our public education system that is already struggling to retain good and effective teachers. Why? Why would you vote for something that has no merit or place in our county.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:06 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 68.53.40.107
Unique ID: 1007809036
Location: 35.7625, -86.372

Name Greg Graham

Email gegraham@gmail.com

Phone (319) 404-7265

Organization Parent of RCS Student

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Control of the Rutherford County Schools should be left to the board elected by the people of Rutherford County. Taxpayer money should be spent on improving existing public schools, not given to private organizations that are seeking to end public education. Deny the appeal.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:07 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.203
Unique ID: 1007810183
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Henry Mitchell

Email mitchellh@rcschools.net

Phone (615) 785-0523

Organization Stewarts Creek Middle School

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I do not support the push for charter schools, as it will eventually lead to funds leaving public schools, which are already underfunded. Charter schools in our county will not help, but hurt. Our schools are already successful, and allowing businesses to open schools in our district will tarnish our reputation as being pro-public education. The best teachers will begin to leave, the arts will begin to lose funding, and results will not get better on accountability measures due to the records of most charter schools.

I do not support this charter school in Rutherford County Schools.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:08 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 172.58.147.54
Unique ID: 1007810605
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Tonia Holleran
Email	toniaholleran66@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 877-1990
Organization	None
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	Rutherford county does not need charter schools

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:08 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.194
Unique ID: 1007810735
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Crystal Barnett

Email crystalbarnett50@gmail.com

Phone (615) 605-0001

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

American Classical Academy could not provide specific details that explained how the organization will serve Special Education and English Language Learners. As a teacher and resident of Rutherford County, most of my students and students in my own community would not be adequately served at American Classical Academy. It seems higher achieving students are the target demographic for American Classical Academy. Rutherford County Schools already provide school choice options to students who are higher achieving in the form of magnet schools.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:09 pm
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address: 71.128.161.171
Unique ID: 1007811060
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name Vicki Hendricks

Email vickirhendricks@gmail.com

Phone (615) 397-0391

Organization Rutherford county parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

As a parent in the district, I would prefer for county tax dollars to benefit public schools in the district that have greater accountability. Charter schools on average in Tennessee have pathetically low performance data and by all accounts, leadership has little oversight to prevent fraudulent activities. Consider New Vision Academy in Nashville, which shut down after state and federal investigation into financial irregularities, failure to comply with federal laws concerning special needs students and English language learners, and cramming too many children into classrooms in violation of the fire code. The husband/wife team leading the school of 150 students earned \$563,000 per year. That money would be better spent split among the elementary principals in the county. If this plan is successfully appealed, I will do my best to publicize to every parent in the county the absolute trainwreck that follows the implementation of a charter school.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:10 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 172.58.147.103
Unique ID: 1007811258
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Kacie Clemens
Email	clemensfamily8@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 964-0424
Organization	None
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	I believe our school district doesn't need a charter school whose director has no respect for our teachers who go above and beyond daily. We hold a high standard and I think allowing the charter school in will tarnish it.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:10 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 73.88.176.57
Unique ID: 1007811388
Location: 36.0164, -86.5615

Name Daniel Shanaman

Email Dan.sarah717@gmail.com

Phone (615) 202-5957

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below It is my belief we should be focusing on supporting and growing our public education system with tax dollars. There are choices for those who choose not use public education.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:11 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.29.100
Unique ID: 1007811886
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Sean Picklesimer

Email picklesimerse@rcschools.net

Phone (615) 418-8713

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

The last thing we need as a community is a charter school. The schools in the community need enough assistance as is and building a charter school instead of solving the issues plaguing our public schools is so out of touch. This is a prime example of shifting the problems else where. Funding from taxes should not benefit schools that do not benefit our community. Money allocated for charter schools should be used to hire more teachers and support staff and increasing the pay for positions that are difficult to hire for. There so many other things that can be done for public education. Solve that problem first. There should be funding for programs to tackle the attendance problems in our schools, Programs to hold parents accountable for their students under performing and not doing their jobs as parents. There are so many more issues that need to be resolved long before we decide to allocate funds for a school that doesn't even benefit our community.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:11 pm
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.201
Unique ID: 1007811954
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Myranda Peterson

Email petersonmy@rcschools.net

Phone (423) 827-9438

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Based on information provided by ACAR, there are multiple areas of concern that lead me to wholeheartedly support the decision of the Rutherford County School Board. The most glaring of these is the 1776 curriculum that was developed by Hillsdale College for use in the American Classical Academy schools. This curriculum has multiple pieces of information that are clearly politically-charged and represent historical inaccuracies.

For example, on page 23 of The 1776 Report for 9th-12th grade, it states "Teach students about both the important gains and protections Republicans won for African Americans during Reconstruction as well as the ways in which these were undermined by actions in the former Confederate states and Johnson himself."

On pages 41-43, the description of the Civil Rights movement is inaccurate, as it states "The civil rights movement was almost immediately turned to programs that ran counter to the lofty ideals of the Founders" and "The justification for reversing the promise of color-blind civil rights was that past discrimination requires present effort, or affirmative action in the form of preferential treatment, to overcome long-accrued inequalities."

Such claims are both untrue and misleading, serving a purpose that is at odds with that of the education system. Rutherford County Schools have proven, particularly over the challenges of the past few years, to be a school district that is seeing success and growth. Allowing the existence of a school that teaches blatant untruths undermines the work that is happening in our public schools.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:15 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6 / iOS
IP Address: 107.127.49.16
Unique ID: 1007813587
Location: 35.2296, -80.843

Name	Johnna Waggoner
Email	johnna.waggoner@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 848-8031
Organization	American classical academy Rutherford
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	Rutherford county school system isn't the best it would be great idea for a new Charter school for this district. Charter schools academically is better than a public school system.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:15 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 73.58.239.231
Unique ID: 1007813596
Location: 36.0964, -86.8212

Name	Dara Medina
Email	darastvns37@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 330-7252
Organization	Private Citizen, Resident of Rutherford County
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	Our local school board has determined that this charter school is neither needed nor wanted. Rutherford County Schools is one of the top ranked districts in the state. Through our elected representatives, the members of the school board, the people of Rutherford County have made our wishes known. Outside interference in this matter would be egregious overreach.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:19 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.191
Unique ID: 1007815068
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Richard Delbridge

Email rdelbridge@realtracs.com

Phone (615) 330-7326

Organization My wife and I

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below No to the charter school. I want real, state certified teachers for my students, and I never want any public school money going into ANY private institution of any kind.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:21 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 99.76.49.172
Unique ID: 1007816180
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name Joshua Yates

Email joshua.yates@gmail.com

Phone (989) 980-2588

Organization N/A

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

I believe that ACAR, and programs like it provide a valuable alternative to government run institutions. This gives a choice to parents in Rutherford County, and helps hold public government schools to a higher standard. Whitworth-Buchanan Middle School for example, where we are zoned has consistently performed below average. Our alternatives to this are to either to move, or to pay the high costs of private school. I support ACAR coming to Murfreesboro, and I support the concept of public charter schools in general.

Please consider allowing your constituents the choice of selecting a school that more closely aligns to their values (whatever they may be), and that does not create a financial hardship for them in the process.

Thank you for considering this.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:22 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address: 107.3.227.206
Unique ID: 1007816552
Location: 36.3066, -86.6101

Name Dustin Walker

Email dbwalk@Gmail.com

Phone (817) 909-4375

Organization Citizen

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below The connection between American Classical Academy Rutherford and Hillsdale College is well documented.

Please read this investigative piece by Newschannel 5 in Nashville:
<https://www.newschannel5.com/news/newschannel-5-investigates/revealed/revealed-charter-schools-claim-they-are-separate-from-hillsdale-but-evidence-tells-different-story>

I strongly encourage you to vote to reject ACAR's charter proposal in Rutherford County. This organization is a Trojan Horse for alt-right leaning ideologies to be taught to the children of this county. Their presence in this county is not wanted, as clearly seen in the overwhelming rejection vote by RCS's Board back in July 2022.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:22 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.97
Unique ID: 1007816558
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name	Jacob Truax
Email	signor_benedick@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 545-7676
Organization	none
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	We do not need the expansion of charter schools into this county. Lawmakers talk a big game about allowing for local control, states' rights, etc. and then override a local decision to allow a charter school to come in. Charters are a drain on public school funds and our schools should be allowed to operate in the manner that our school board deems fit.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:23 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.196
Unique ID: 1007816918
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Ronald Whitmore

Email whitmorer@rcschools.net

Phone (615) 904-3856

Organization Smyrna West Alternative

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

* We are a Level 5 School District. Our families have a plethora of opportunities for a great education for their children already

*Allowing charter schools into our district will definitely result in provocation, division, and the ultimate dismantling of a strong stable district.

*What do charter schools have to offer us? The thought of spreading charter schools across this state arose from nefarious thoughts, evil intents, and with the intention to divide, re-segregate, and ultimately bolster white supremacy through the institution of education.

*There is no good reason to allow charter schools here in Rutherford County. We have many different schooling options already. We don't need a charter school. Public funds need not be used to perpetuate evil.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:23 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 76.22.199.210
Unique ID: 1007816946
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name Paul Gerald

Email paul.gerald1985@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 714-1294

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below I do not want charter schools in our community. Public funds for education should remain with our public schools. Our public schools need every dollar they can get to retain and expand teachers, administrators, and staff.

Charter schools have been shown to consistently perform the same, or more oftentimes worse than traditional public schools.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:25 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 107.119.65.86
Unique ID: 1007817528
Location: 35.2296, -80.843

Name Nicole Ary

Email niki.ary14@gmail.com

Phone (615) 812-9209

Organization None

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below To whom it may concern:

I am a proud supporter of Rutherford County Schools. I have 2 children, a daughter in 7th grade, and a son in 1st grade. As a parent, and an educator- I teach courses for Bryan College, I was thankful the RCS Board denied the application for a charter school in our county. The leadership of American Classical Academy does not have the best interests in mind when it comes to providing an excellent education for our students- if they did, they would value the hard work and effort teachers put in each day serving our students. Let me be clear, I am not anti-charter school.

My brother is the principal at a charter middle school in Chattanooga, and it is an amazing opportunity that I would fully support being set up in Rutherford County. However, ACA does not add anything of value to the options we currently have within our school system, and thus their application should remained denied.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:26 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 174.212.64.141
Unique ID: 1007818086
Location: 36.0571, -86.6729

Name	Krista Blackwell
Email	krisk2006@hotmail.com
Phone	(931) 607-1103
Organization	Parent
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	Our school system is one of the top in the state. If you allow the charter school in, when they do not meet the standards you are hurting our great school system. I do not support the charter school. Please do not allow them.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:26 pm
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 24.104.79.6
Unique ID: 1007818307
Location: 40.8229, -74.4592

Name phil huss

Email lightningph@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 574-1916

Organization parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I do not support charter schools opening in Rutherford County. Charter schools can make sense in places that have failing schools. We don't have that. In fact most charter schools end up with students that perform worse than public schools. My sister in law taught at Knowledge Academy in Laverne and hearing about the poor conditions and lack of basic supplies she had to deal with because they didn't want to spend the money solidified my opinions that charter schools should not be allowed in most school systems.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:29 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 99.34.233.63
Unique ID: 1007823289
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Lucas de Brito

Email britolucas@hotmail.com

Phone (615) 767-9299

Organization Self

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

As a parent of a current Rutherford County student, I highly recommend that the Commission is open to working with American Classical Academy to find a way where Rutherford County families can gain access to another option where they can send their kids to receive an education within this County. The United States is a country where people have the choice to invest and dedicate their time and resources to institutions that they find to be of the highest utility to them. The Commission should support increasing the abundance of choices where parents can send their kids to school rather than limiting it. Please note, although I do not plan to send my kids to American Classical Academy, I do support my neighbors to have the choice to do what they believe is the best for their kids. That's the United States of America.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:31 pm
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.185
Unique ID: 1007828199
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Shae Crowell

Email crowells@rcschools.net

Phone (615) 809-2549

Organization Riverdale High School

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

As a parent of Rutherford County Schools students and a public school educator, I support the decision of the Rutherford County Board to deny charter school to American Classical Academy. American Classical Academy has questionable curriculum standards and its influencers do not think very highly of educators or of respecting the growing diversity of our communities. On the other hand, Rutherford County schools have a proven record of solid schools that serve diverse communities and students performing at or above state averages. We don't have failing schools, our county and state money works to support an education system that is working for our communities, and we do not need tax dollars diverted from this functioning system to support questionable, biased, non-secular curriculum and system that will not be held to the same performance standards as our public schools. ACA charter schools divide and destabilize communities and systems, and the larger outcomes of their narrow, biased curriculum are not desirable goals of civic education. American Classical Academy will not serve the public good, will not strengthen the education system in this county, and is not desired by the majority of Rutherford County citizens. You should support the decision of our LOCAL elected representatives and vote to uphold the Rutherford County Board's decision to deny the ACA charter application.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:31 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.176
Unique ID: 1007828360
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name	Bobbie Palmer
Email	palmerb@rcschools.net
Phone	(615) 556-6729
Organization	Holloway High School
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	I am concerned that money will be allocated to a charter school that is not held to the same academic standards as our public schools. Our public schools have highly qualified teachers who have years of experience. I think charter schools should be held to the same standards as public schools and therefore don't understand why we would divert money toward the private sector.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:32 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.173
Unique ID: 1007828665
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Melissa Etheridge

Email david.etheridge@comcast.net

Phone (615) 663-8996

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below "RCS Review Committee found that ACAR's amended application did not meet the criteria set forth by the Tennessee Department of Education in the areas of Academic Plan and Operations Plan."

ACAR submitted a modified application to establish a Charter School in Rutherford County. Their amended application was deemed below expectations. If ACAR cannot meet the criteria in the application process, I do not feel that they will meet the criteria for educating any RC students. Their academic plan does not meet the excellent standards that the students and parents of Rutherford County expect from our education system. Tax dollars spent on establishing a charter school in Rutherford County is a waste of tax dollars that would be better spent hiring and retaining qualified teachers.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:33 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.208
Unique ID: 1007829060
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Jennifer Paris

Email parisj@rcschools.net

Phone (931) 492-0184

Organization Rockvale Middle School

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below I teach reading intervention for middle school. Over the past few years, we have had to place charter school students who moved into our zone into either reading or math RTI classes because the students demonstrate struggles in reading comprehension and/or basic math concepts.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:36 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.60
Unique ID: 1007847014
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Laura Roland

Email rolandl@rcschools.net

Phone (615) 904-6789

Organization Central Magnet School

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

This past summer Tennessee Public school teachers were attacked by proponents of charter schools as an attempt to discredit our educational system. The issue concerning a charter school within Rutherford County is not about school choice but rather lack of ownership of our schools. As a teacher of 20 years, I find it disturbing that those who are not in the trenches make assumptions about what is actually occurring in our schools. Charter schools are not an answer in a district where we have the number 1 school in the state of Tennessee and 7th in that nation. Charter schools are a for-profit entity, and a 2017 Harvard study found that charter schools typically lose 24% of their teachers annually because of longer work hours and lower pay. Additionally, the study noted that the academic performance of students was equal to that of public schools. I respectfully ask that you again vote no to the charter school.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:37 pm
Browser: Chrome 92.0.4515.159 / Windows
IP Address: 69.21.237.114
Unique ID: 1007848383
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name melissa limbaugh

Email mlimbaugh@palminc.com

Phone (615) 714-1829

Organization Palm Commodities International

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

As a parent of RCS children and a Tennessee tax payer, I am submitting my disapproval for charters continuing to feed off taxpayer money taking away from fundamental public education but at the same time inadequately serve and allow attendance for children with special needs and prove disproportionate amount of minorities. Current RC charter schools admit students based on testing scores, which should be a violation under the ADA, and discriminatory against "average/poverty" students that should be allowed to be admitted due to charters using tax payer money for their operations. The majority of students residing in RC attend public school, therefore money from taxes should be invested in public schools, not schools that segregate and divide all different types of children and students.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:38 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.177
Unique ID: 1007850854
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Alysia Jenkins

Email bradandalysia@comcast.net

Phone (615) 668-9855

Organization Rutherford Co

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Rutherford County Schools is a successful district even in the midst of a booming population, building schools to keep up with needs, and trying to fulfill all faculty and staff positions. The county has multiple options for alternative schooling from virtual, homeschool, tutorials, private, and religious options. A charter school is not needed at this time because it would not solve any specific problem.

Form Name:	American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time:	September 9, 2022 3:40 pm
Browser:	Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	174.212.98.224
Unique ID:	1007851621
Location:	36.1187, -86.2626

Name	Dana Croy
Email	fengshuimama@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 300-2057
Organization	Parent of a Rutherford County student
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other

Please provide your written comments below

Public education in the United States began in the 1830's and has developed a rich tradition of community based learning in the years since. My husband and I are products of Tennessee's long educational history and fully support traditional neighborhood based education in all parts of our great state. Several years ago we moved to Nashville and have been longing to return to Murfreesboro since. Having lived in Nashville and seeing first hand the effects of allowing students to leave their neighborhood schools with "school choice", we have seen the devastating effects on local communities. Furthermore, we have first hand experience with a top publicly funded charter school in Nashville. While its intentions are good, without the oversight of the Board of Education, there are many red flags that we saw during our daughter's year there. We returned to Murfreesboro this year and our daughter is happily enrolled in one of the local public high schools. She is thriving in its community environment, under the tutelage of the amazing teachers and administration. I truly hope Murfreesboro does not allow "school choice" or charter schools to rip apart the fabric of this community. It will devastate neighborhoods, increase traffic (more parents driving kids all over), create a more segregated schooling system and open the door for more of these schools to come in. Stay strong and vote no on the appeal. Thank you.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:42 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.203
Unique ID: 1007852255
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name James Scannell

Email scannellj@rcschools.net

Phone (615) 879-5131

Organization Stewarts Creek Middle School

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Despite claims made by proponents of charter schools, the data does not support the development of additional charter schools as a means to raise student performance and state test scores.

At Rutherford County Schools, teachers are held accountable and responsible for enhancing student growth and student achievement. The district maintains high standards for licensing and professional experience and teachers work diligently every day to provide an environment that makes student growth possible. The county can produce copious amounts of data to support the growth that has taken place in the last five years, even with the challenges of Covid.

Charter schools offer many promises, but rarely do they provide the data to support those promises. Even more rarely are they held to the same rigorous standards of accountability as local public schools. Charter schools are often promoted by individuals looking to turn a profit rather than providing the highest quality learning environment for students.

Allowing more charter schools in Rutherford County will, over time, drain money and resources from programs that are proving to be successful. For these reasons, I would oppose the license currently under review.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:43 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 174.212.103.128
Unique ID: 1007852738
Location: 36.1187, -86.2626

Name	Pam Curray
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Email	pcurray@gmail.com
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Phone	(615) 653-1841
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Organization	Life long resident of Rutherford County, product of RC Schools, former RC Schools parent and current RC Schools Middle School Teacher
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I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
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Please provide your written comments below	<p>The state of Tennessee Department of Education sets a rubric to help School districts grade potential choice school applicants. RC Schools reviewed the application of American Classical Academy and based their decision on how the applicant scored under the rubric set forth by the state.</p> <p>As a teacher of 19 years, I use rubrics and grading scales to determine the level of mastery for my students. If my students are lacking the proper skill set, I can not just give them the grade they want. It's all based on how they performed. I see no difference.</p> <p>Rutherford County is a Level 5 district based on the state's expectations. We have our own choice Schools within our district, as well as private school and home school options.</p> <p>Why would we approve a charter school application that DID NOT meet requirements set forth by the state in a district that has MULTIPLE options of quality Schools for the children of Rutherford County?</p> <p>If you overturn our school boards decision, I believe there is more to your decision than what's best for the children of Rutherford County...I believe it is more political and NOT in our best interest!!</p>
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Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:44 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.162
Unique ID: 1007853145
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name	Jennifer Austin
Email	austinbrianjenni@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 476-1934
Organization	Lifelong Rutherford County resident, product of RCS, teacher of RCS, and parent
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	<p>The American Classical Academy is not wanted or needed in Rutherford County. We have a successful school system. A charter school of any kind will NOT enhance our community by providing something that is not already available in our county. If parents want to go to a private school, we have those options here. If parents want to apply to a magnet program, we have those options here. If parents want virtual or homeschool, we have those options here. Charter schools have the possibility of not being permanent and that provides a chance of inconsistency and instability for students if the charter school fails. Rutherford County, we do not want to take that chance with our children's education.</p>

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:44 pm
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.178
Unique ID: 1007853196
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Elizabeth Fancher

Email fanchere@rcschools.net

Phone (615) 556-8087

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

We do not need this charter school in Rutherford County. We have fantastic public schools that provide an excellent education to students. Public school teachers do not want this charter school. We also do not support Larry Arn of Hillsdale College. I don't know if this charter school has any affiliation with Larry Arn, but we do not want him involved. Please do not bring this charter school to Rutherford County.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:45 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.203
Unique ID: 1007853335
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Lori Knox

Email watson.525l@gmail.com

Phone (615) 796-1832

Organization Stewarts Creek Middle School

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I believe in public education. Rutherford County schools are excellent and the faculty and staff in the schools care about students and families and education. A charter school should not be able to take away funds that are meant for the public schools. They struggle enough. Also, charter schools are not held to the same standards and guidelines as the public schools. I feel that Rutherford County does an excellent job and I am proud to say that my children and grandchildren are educated here.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:45 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 104.0.5112.97 / Android
IP Address: 71.203.232.87
Unique ID: 1007853452
Location: 36.0164, -86.5615

Name Jennifer Lingo

Email jennifer.lingo@outlook.com

Phone (615) 785-0964

Organization Mother

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below We do not want these charter schools. They will take away money from our great public schools.
This would be a disservice to all public school kids.
Please do not let this pass!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:45 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 50.194.6.118
Unique ID: 1007853498
Location: 36.397, -86.1707

Name Joshua Thibodeaux

Email joshuacthibodeaux@gmail.com

Phone (615) 971-7989

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

As a parent, I want as many options as possible for my child. At a time when Rutherford Co can't build schools fast enough and our students are in portable class rooms, why would you not allow another option? Competition in the market place favors the consumer, and right now, RCS has no competition.

I ask the members of the board, who voted to deny, what are you afraid of? Losing power or money? Or both?

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:46 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.200
Unique ID: 1007854023
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name	Emily Gill
Email	gille@rcschools.net
Phone	(615) 631-9158
Organization	Rutherford County Schools
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	I agree with the vote made on July 18 by the Rutherford County School Board to deny the application for charter school American Classical Academy-Rutherford (ACAR). My hope is the appeal is denied.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:47 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address: 75.33.148.160
Unique ID: 1007854388
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name Joseph Croasdaile

Email jcroasdaile@gmail.com

Phone (615) 796-5397

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

I have no have confidence in American Classical Academy as they are affiliated with Hillsdale College who insulted the great teachers of TN. I also do not believe charter schools are a good idea when it comes to children with special needs. In addition, I worry if they will discriminate based on religion/sex orientation/ethnic factors.

I say no to American Classical Academy

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:48 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 99.0.4844.88 / Android
IP Address: 68.47.182.166
Unique ID: 1007855147
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name	Jeremy Parker
Email	Missionjp@gmail.com
Phone	(850) 232-4276
Organization	Self
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	Rutherford County is growing and schools are overcrowded. Don't waste tax dollars deciding what not to do, let American Classical Academy succeed, let's not fail our students by not giving them this opportunity.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:52 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 14.1.2 / iOS
IP Address: 67.203.145.194
Unique ID: 1007857382
Location: 25.4931, -80.4344

Name	Tracey Barton
Email	traceybclay@yahoo.com
Phone	(601) 551-7028
Organization	Concerned teacher and citizen of Smyrna
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	The school could help with increasing testing scores and getting students on the correct path to academic success.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:54 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 74.51.6.190
Unique ID: 1007858395
Location: 35.7508, -86.635

Name	Lindsey White
Email	lindseywhite888@gmail.com
Phone	(601) 405-2206
Organization	Rcs
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	I do not support the charter school. Instead of a charter school to help certain children - use that money to go into the public schools you already have to benefit ALL children

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:55 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.97
Unique ID: 1007858857
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name	Deborah Ward
Email	wardd@rcschools.net
Phone	(615) 785-3184
Organization	RCS
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	If a charter school does not meet the basic requirements for our school system, they should not be allowed our tax dollars for profit and should not be allowed a charter to educate our students

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:57 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 208.118.199.124
Unique ID: 1007859655
Location: 35.816, -86.0486

Name	Jodie Walburn
Email	jwal1968@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 481-2293
Organization	N/A
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	We should dedicate resources to our public schools and teachers rather than contract with for-profit charter schools with their own agenda.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:58 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 172.58.172.127
Unique ID: 1007860110
Location: 28.5788, -81.4396

Name Anna Tidwell

Email annactidwell@gmail.com

Phone (270) 315-1774

Organization None

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below With the high growth that this community, I support school choice. America is based on the freedom to choose. There should be options for parents. An individual who pays taxes to keep school doors open should have the option to be able to choose from. A reason for denial seems to be a miscommunication issue as ACE does except special needs Children. I believe further review is necessary in an unbiased manner.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 3:58 pm
Browser: Safari 14.1.2 / OS X
IP Address: 68.53.47.145
Unique ID: 1007860265
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name christine merchant

Email twin1chrissy@netscape.net

Phone (615) 684-4093

Organization RCS parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am writing in support of the Rutherford County School board's decision to deny the American Classical Academy's charter school application.

The monies collected for schools should continue to be used by the public school system. Some of RCS are struggling financially, it's unfathomable to me why the board would approved much needed funds to a private out of state organization. The ties to Hillsdale are undeniable and their hidden agenda is dangerous. If residents are SO compelled to send their children to a school with religious undertones, please be my guest but it needs to be with your money not mine! There MUST be a separation of church and state! Please continue to deny such requests not only from ACA, but other charters as well that want to syphon much needed dollars into the public school system. -Very concerned RCS parent!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:00 pm
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.193
Unique ID: 1007860739
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Anthony Wolfe

Email atwolfe2016@gmail.com

Phone (615) 692-9401

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Rutherford County Schools is a high performing school district. Because of that fact, I see no need for this charter school to be approved for Rutherford County. We need all the funding we can get in the Rutherford County school system, and this would take away funding from our schools. In addition, time and time again, Charters have not shown to increase student achievement in any meaningful way. It is in the best interest of students in Rutherford County for this school to be denied.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:01 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.126
Unique ID: 1007861283
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Sarah Esberger

Email sarahesberger75@gmail.com

Phone (615) 268-7011

Organization Eagleville School

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I do not believe that the state should overrule this district decision. American Classical Academy has not provided evidence that they will offer residents of this district anything that is not already offered. Further, they have financial ties outside our state and should not benefit from public money. Our district is not a liberal district, but our conservative school board is utterly against sharing our funding with this program, depleting our already stretched-thin resources. Rutherford County is one of the highest-performing districts in the state. The typical argument for a charter school does not apply here.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:04 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 174.212.172.134
Unique ID: 1007862622
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name Amelia Evans

Email amelia.m.evans@gmail.com

Phone (615) 631-1804

Organization Eagleville School

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Our tax dollars belong in our public schools-improving those educational spaces. Opening charter schools will divert funds from their intended schools. A simple Google search reveals that an American Classical Academy school has been closed in Florida for mishandling funds. We have to protect our county and our students from groups like this without proper oversight.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:06 pm
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.107
Unique ID: 1007863577
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Lucas Jobe

Email jobel@rcschools.net

Phone (615) 474-1744

Organization Siegel High School

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I object to the construction of an American Classical Academy. Based on their website, their classroom environment is counter-productive to education and is not conducive to a successful learning environment. Current research supports collaborative learning, small groups, and student-led activity-based education. Their website states that they object to education driven by educational research and current data, instead opting to adhere to an outdated, ineffective, "old school" model that discourages critical thinking, discourages free thought, and produces brain-washed, indoctrinated, easily manipulated, obedient workers and predictable consumers.

I would prefer educational funding go toward education. Thank you.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:07 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.213
Unique ID: 1007864082
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Beth Hodge

Email beth.hodge77@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 586-8338

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

As a teacher and a parent, I am concerned about an organization that plans to hire uncertified teachers. We want to best for our kids, and our students have many needs that are best addressed by individuals with experience and training. I am not confident that American Classical Academy could successfully teach the majority of our students who have special education needs.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:21 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 76.18.181.224
Unique ID: 1007869681
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name Nicole McGowan

Email nikki.mcgowan@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 788-7139

Organization N/A

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am firmly against proposed charter schools coming to Rutherford County primarily because funds should not be diverted to other institutions when the ones we currently have are not up to par. Something as simple as facility maintenance is sub par. For example, my family and I attended LaVergne High School's Freshman Orientation this year. While walking around I noticed how terrible the floors were, appearing to have been stripped and in disrepair throughout. Then as we passed through the main doorway in the Freshman hall, a metal section which holds the ceiling tiles in place was hanging down within reach, I would very much like for my son to feel the same pride in his school as I felt when I attended Smyrna back in 2005. We need to take care of our children and continue to build within what we have instead of expanding in the manner proposed. I believe in RuCo schools and think we can do better.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:21 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 172.58.146.92
Unique ID: 1007869913
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name Jennifer Sauvie

Email jennifersauvie@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 830-9084

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I agree with the RCS school board on the denial of the charter school application. I believe it is extremely important for all schools to follow the guidelines set forth by TN Dept of Education . The Dept of Ed has set guidelines based on educational outcomes & measurable goals. The TN Dept of Ed Standards Committee is made up of diverse selection of educators and the entire "Setting the Standard" review process is accessible for public review. If an application for any school does not meet the standards set by the State, please continue to deny the application.
Thanks! Jennifer Sauvie, LCSW

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:22 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 161.45.254.242
Unique ID: 1007870321
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name Amy York

Email amcyork@gmail.com

Phone (615) 210-4230

Organization Parent of RCS students

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Please DO NOT approve the charter application for American Classical Academy in Rutherford County. Our existing public schools and teachers need more support than ever, not to have resources diverted to a divisive, politically motivated, profit-driven charter school. I have two children in Rutherford County schools (one in middle school and one in high school), and the last two years have been difficult, but this year it feels like we are all finding our footing again, despite staffing challenges. We need to focus on moving forward with the schools born in our communities.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:23 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 69.245.42.170
Unique ID: 1007870702
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Tiffany Fee

Email tiffany.fee07@gmail.com

Phone (615) 478-5900

Organization Parent of student

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

My son is currently a high school sophomore. He has attended public school in Rutherford county since pre-k. It is very concerning to my family that the decision of the school board on the matter at hand is not being respected and is being challenged. Our public school systems are in a crisis and there is not an end in sight currently. Our teachers are underpaid, overworked and ridiculed as being ignorant by the very for-profit group looking to rob our children of their educational rights. Our schools are severely understaffed. We lack the appropriate number of teachers, custodians, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, support staff. Rutherford county schools are overcrowded as soon as they are built because of the influx of people moving into the community. We cannot keep up with the demand. Teachers are leaving in record numbers. There are not nearly enough college students willing to fill those positions for a variety of reasons, for which I do not blame them. Are we supposed to put our heads in the sand while the charter schools try to force their will and greed on our community? Our board has voted on this matter and yet this company still tries to get what they want through force. I have no problem with parents paying for their children to go to private schools. What I do have a problem with is the underfunded public school system being robbed to finance charter schools that make profit off of educating children at the tax payers' expense. I have an even bigger problem with them not accepting no and trying to force us to line their pockets when we have shown no interest in supporting them. The comments made about educators by the leader of this particular charter school are reprehensible. The disgust and disdain he showed for people who spend their life trying to help make our children brighter and better versions of themselves is repugnant. The fact that the bipartisan response in our state is overwhelmingly on the teacher's side speaks volumes in this current divisive political climate. The voters elect our school board members to make the best decisions for our children and the school system. Their vote, which aligns with the majority of parents in our county, must be upheld.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:27 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 75.245.181.100
Unique ID: 1007873555
Location: 36.1052, -86.6591

Name	Gary Simon
Email	garnles@bellsouth.net
Phone	(615) 519-1471
Organization	Rutherford County Resident
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	I applaud the board's decision to reject this application. This is clearly part of an effort to undermine public education. It doesn't take too much digging into Hillsdale to learn what their true motives are, and I strongly encourage the board to remain opposed to this charter.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:28 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 172.225.216.106
Unique ID: 1007873983
Location: 41.8764, -87.6133

Name	Todd Dirksen
Email	novices-rear-0m@icloud.com
Phone	(615) 648-2884
Organization	None
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

The taxpayers should not be paying for this Hillsdale curriculum. I am vehemently opposed to this Christian MAGA white supremacist organization. If they want to have their own segregated school, let them pay for it themselves. These private Christian groups already have enough money of their own, and they don't need mine.

This is supposed to be a secular country and a secular community. Rutherford county has people of all races and religions, and it's not appropriate for us to have to pay for the Christians only. Unless Rutherford county also plans to pay for Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, Rastafarian, Zoroastrian, and Flying Spaghetti Monster curricula.

And it's not bad enough that Hillsdale is a Christian nationalist organization, promoting their own religion. But they are also a right wing political organization that tries to impose their MAGA politics on others. I get their hateful pamphlets in the mail even though I have not requested them. So this means Rutherford would be supporting one religion, and one political party. Not good, and not constitutional.

Moreover, as we all know, Hillsdale is very open about their intent to undermine public school education in Tennessee and all throughout America. Why would any school board or any county want to support this dismantling? It's like paying for our own destruction.

I can't believe this discussion is even happening.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:29 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 96.60.86.253
Unique ID: 1007874391
Location: 36.0164, -86.5615

Name Emily McKee

Email emilys.mckee@gmail.com

Phone (615) 397-0766

Organization RCS Parent/Children's Social Worker

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below I am writing in support of the Rutherford County School board's decision to deny the American Classical Academy's charter school application.

Governor Lee should be ashamed to continue to push the acceptance of Hillsdale College and ACA in this state after local school boards have clearly voted against them. His continued campaign to move this organization into our area makes it clear that he does not actually believe in allowing local municipalities to govern themselves, as he claims.

Considering the fact that most - if not all - of our RCS schools currently have openings and teachers are leaving the profession daily due to a lack of respect, support, and safety measures, I do not understand how bringing in an organization whose representatives declare that "teachers are trained in the dumbest parts of the dumbest colleges in the country" is even on the table. Does this exemplify the "moral character and civic virtue" that Hillsdale and its charter partners intend to bring to Tennessee students? Does no only mean no when they feel like hearing it?

Hillsdale/ACA's white Christian nationalist leanings and refusal to use appropriate, historically/scientifically accurate curriculum is problematic and their consideration as an educational organization should be examined. Tennessee is nowhere near the top state rankings when it comes to education, and Hillsdale will only continue to drag us further and further down. This state needs to invest more money in our public schools- not take money away from them.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:40 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 99.51.243.192
Unique ID: 1007878485
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name	Amy Burton
Email	spinningplates13@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 444-4444
Organization	None
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	It is my belief that our funding, time and energy is much better spent on our currently existing public schools and teachers. We don't need more options, we need to better support the ones we have.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:47 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.107
Unique ID: 1007881334
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name	John Horton
Email	Walberan@gmail.com
Phone	(423) 930-0717
Organization	Parent of RUCO student
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	I do not wish to see this organization receive a license to operate a charter school in my county. Their instruction does not meet minimum requirements for state standards and furthermore will only dilute funds and resources to the schools currently operating in the area.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:51 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.185
Unique ID: 1007883110
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Tim Layne

Email timericlayne@hotmail.com

Phone (615) 663-2641

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

Charter schools are a collective attempt to undermine public schools, and the motivation for the companies that operate them is to make money rather than to educate students. Education is the single largest expenditure of every state, and it consumes approximately 90% of most local budgets. These companies are attempting to grab as much of the education industry as they can. Politicians that support these companies do not have the best interests of the average person in mind. They are motivated by profit.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:58 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.185
Unique ID: 1007887027
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name	Leonard Brannom
Email	brannoml@rcschools.net
Phone	(615) 971-1700
Organization	Riverdale High School JROTC
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	I think having this school will help the overall level of education in all of Rutherford county and strongly support this project. Competition in academics can only enhance every student.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 4:59 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 68.53.150.94
Unique ID: 1007887625
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name Andrew Kent

Email aekent@gmail.com

Phone (615) 200-8123

Organization self

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below There simply is no articulable reason to overturn the decision that has already been made. Having the country support a for profit charter school is not in the best interests of the education, the housing values, or the academics of this county.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 5:01 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 172.58.39.138
Unique ID: 1007888457
Location: 37.7652, -122.1579

Name	Rachel Dennis
Email	racheldennis12@hotmail.com
Phone	(916) 968-0991
Organization	Pie
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	A classical charter is just what the community needs ! Best edjucation my kids received was a classical charter !

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 5:04 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.101
Unique ID: 1007889615
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Gabriel Fancher

Email fancherg@rcschools.net

Phone (615) 445-5073

Organization Rutherford County Rockvale High School Economics Teacher

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I believe that adding more choices for parents is a good thing. While Rutherford County offers many good opportunities for children to learn, there is always room for more. Giving parents choices in where their child attends school makes my job as a teacher easier. It makes it easier because the standards I am teaching may not match what they would like for their child to be learning and perhaps a charter school's standards may. This will allow me to focus on other children whose parents are happy with the traditional public school offerings.

As a parent, I am confident that most parents will still choose Rutherford County Schools to educate their children. The added choices will only increase the counties' education readiness of its graduates and help deal with some of the over crowding we are seeing. In a growing county like Rutherford County, I would love to see some students attend a charter school so that the teacher to student ratio might be lower for my children who continue to attend our public school system.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 5:08 pm
Browser: Safari 15.5 / OS X
IP Address: 68.53.67.196
Unique ID: 1007890750
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name Collier Smith

Email colliersmith@gmail.com

Phone (615) 828-7063

Organization community member

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Many thanks to the school board for representing the interest of your students and district employees. Prioritizing the public schools in Rutherford County should be the focus and not diluting our children's educations by spreading out funds.

I am very much opposed to charter schools.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 5:18 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 161.45.224.77
Unique ID: 1007894007
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name Michael Harlan

Email mharlan14@gmail.com

Phone (615) 473-1811

Organization None

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Our tax dollars should NOT be spent on charter schools. This will hurt our local schools, teachers and students. The Rutherford County School board was right to deny their application and the fact that the charter school is appealing to the state to override the local government is absurd. Charter schools do not perform at the same level or better than public schools, and only serve themselves by syphoning off our tax dollars.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 5:21 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 98.240.6.98
Unique ID: 1007895158
Location: 36.3066, -86.6101

Name	Alissa Joslin
Email	alissajoslin@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 556-6809
Organization	NA
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	I absolutely stand by the county school board's decision on this matter. If the charter isn't school providing the proper requirements for the state and county, they have NO business being here educating anyone. Period.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 5:23 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 161.45.100.15
Unique ID: 1007895850
Location: 35.3436, -86.2088

Name Rebecca Oldham

Email c.rebecca.oldham@gmail.com

Phone (806) 302-0023

Organization Middle Tennessee State University

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below As a Murfreesboro parent with a school-aged child, I do not support approving the application for American Classical Academy.

Public comments from Hillsdale College president, Larry Arnn, demonstrated utter disrespect for educators and an arrogant ignorance regarding the craft of teaching and learning.

He has demonstrated that he is not qualified to be trusted with educational leadership. Thus, I do not support an establishment in Murfreesboro that collaborates with him or his college, nor utilizes his propaganda that masquerades as "curriculum."

At their best charter schools should create opportunities to level the playing field for children who otherwise would not have access to high-quality education. Nothing about Dr. Arnn's statements and mentality toward education or teachers suggests to me that he is capable of actualizing those assets, nor would any school made in his image.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 5:46 pm
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.72.132.206
Unique ID: 1007902785
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Brandy Weaver

Email ms.brandy.weaver@gmail.com

Phone (615) 772-8567

Organization Rutherford County Resident

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am an educator with 16 years experience. There is no reason to bring in a Hillsdale school to Rutherford county. Rutherford county taxpayers do not want our vital tax dollars taken away from public schools and shuffled to low-accountability charters with a low-quality curriculum.

The Hillsdale curriculum is insulting. It seeks to indoctrinate students, particularly in the areas of history and government, by using an approach that never turns a critical eye towards American history. It is possible to hold these two statements in your hand at the same time: America has done some terrible things in its history, and America has also been a powerful force for good. We do not need to deny the former to be able to celebrate the latter.

Say no to Hillsdale. Say no to American Classical Academy. Say yes to continuing to fund high-quality locally-controlled public schools.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 6:11 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 66.72.133.160
Unique ID: 1007909806
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Christopher Massengale

Email mgmt007d@gmail.com

Phone (615) 424-5410

Organization Rutherford County Schools Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Dear Charter Commission,

I wanted to share my opinion on this Charter school initiative that is currently taking place under the leadership of our current Governor Bill Lee. I am a graduate of the Tennessee public schools of LaVergne High School and Middle Tennessee State University. I am a tax paying citizen of Tennessee and a resident of Rutherford County. I am a huge supporter of one's choice for education whether it be homeschooling, private, or public. I, however, draw the line at Charter schools. I do not want my tax dollars to be spent on other children attending these type of educational institutions that are not regulated to the extent that our public schools are. Also they take funding away from our current educational districts. Charter schools are not right for Tennessee and even more so not right for Rutherford County.

Sincerely,
Christopher Massengale

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 6:31 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 104.28.32.220
Unique ID: 1007915369
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name Stephanie Mumpower

Email stephanie.mumpower@gmail.com

Phone (615) 962-5509

Organization Na

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Charter schools are dangerous and destroy public education. I'm sure they will arrive here soon enough but our family is completely against them. They skew history and science and do not have to welcome all students if they need accommodations. It's a terrible idea which is why the GOP is in favor of it

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 6:40 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 172.58.146.201
Unique ID: 1007917824
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Maria Casajuana
Email	mcristycuenca@hotmail.com
Phone	(615) 906-0390
Organization	Church of Crist Nort Blvd
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	Some children learn differently and they are really bright Charter school offers an education that focuses these children to have a high quality education to support these childrens who need a small school, we need a public school of this level in Rutherford County schools please reconsider the appeal to benefit Our community ,thank you!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 6:47 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 71.128.163.49
Unique ID: 1007919648
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name William Triplett

Email eroltriplett@gmail.com

Phone (931) 408-3043

Organization Private citizen

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Any entity, public or private must meet the minimum standards of the state. ACAR must meet those standards because the standards are in place to ensure our children receive a quality education. To allow ACAR to operate without meeting those standards would be a grave disservice to our children.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 7:17 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 68.53.147.91
Unique ID: 1007926760
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name	Shiante Ballet
Email	shianteballet@gmail.com
Phone	(504) 669-0674
Organization	Unknown
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	I think bringing the Charter school to Rutherford county will be an absolute wonderful asset to the school community and excellent learning experience for the kids!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 8:28 pm
Browser: Safari 14.1.2 / OS X
IP Address: 92.119.18.163
Unique ID: 1007940705
Location: 33.7485, -84.3871

Name	Ryan Trahan
Email	ryan.trahan@vanderbilt.edu
Phone	(213) 604-5733
Organization	Parent; Research Professor at Vanderbilt University
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Rutherford County Schools are among the very top performing schools in Tennessee. One example, among many, is that there are 485 public high schools in Tennessee, and Rutherford County high schools all rank in the top half, and the majority place in the top quartile, or well above. The District consistently receives excellent marks for the performance of its administration and its student outcomes. The results are recognized within and outside the District, including nationally. The excellence of Rutherford County Schools constitutes the primary reason we live in Rutherford County.

The County board vote on the Orwellian-named American Classical Academy Rutherford (ACAR)/Hillsdale application was not at all close. We do not want ACAR/Hillsdale here. Indeed, few, if any, parents would or should elect to have their tax dollars diverted to the unserious boondoggle that is ACAR/Hillsdale. Although Hillsdale President Arnn has been loose-lipped in expressing his strange feelings of academic superiority (from his perch at ... Hillsdale?), he appears in need of basic remedial schooling to understand the data that conflicts with his dogma. The reality is that public school teachers perform in Rutherford County, and the results prove it.

The existence of the Commission itself raises troubling questions. This is not Memphis where Patterson and Richards live and have long experience with a failing district. It is not a real estate development opportunity for Sisnett. Experts from other parts of Tennessee that have struggled mightily with student outcomes are not helpful in making educational decisions for parents in the high-performing District of Rutherford County. Perhaps the Tennessee Charter Commission has a valid purpose to exist. I do not live in other parts of Tennessee and could not knowledgeably opine as to their local issues with education. What is clear is that ACAR/Hillsdale has no case for consideration in Rutherford County, and it has already been cleanly rejected by Rutherford County Schools.

The choice before the Commission then is an obvious, layup rejection of ACAR/Hillsdale in support of the landslide determination of Rutherford County Schools. If the Commission fails to follow the facts, then it will have shown that it is merely a charter-school industry trade group, as many have alleged. That outcome would present a host of novel and interesting legal issues. It will be informative to discover whether Lee and the Commission, like Arnn, also feel superior to public school teachers that have a demonstrated record of performance.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 8:53 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 104.0.5112.97 / Android
IP Address: 68.53.70.248
Unique ID: 1007944664
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name	Debra Marshall
Email	gogetumduke@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 556-4795
Organization	Retired Teacher
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am a 40 year teaching veteran of Rutherford County Schools. I retired in May of 21. My husband is also a retired teacher and our son is in his 12th year as a Special Education teacher.

Both my husband and son have Dyslexia and struggled in school. In fact, our son was so concerned about other children with learning disabilities not being identified or served , that he gave up a lucrative job in Advertising to get his SpEd degree.

At one point in 1st grade, he was making himself throw up at school so he would not have to go to Reading class. This was before he was tested. It is an awful feeling for a parent to see our once happy child lose all his confidence. Fortunately we were able to switch from Mboro City to RuCo and he had a 2nd grade teacher who taught Phonics and began to excel and enjoy school again. Our son became determined to overcome his reading disability and exit from Resource classes. He has 2 college degrees and won many accolades throughout school in both Academics, Athletics, and Extra-Curriculars and was 13th in his graduating class. He teaches SpEd in hopes that no child will ever resort to what he did!

Our granddaughter is also Dyslexic, but was identified and served by 2nd grade. She works very hard and loves to read. She is in 5th grade and Reading on level now.

My biggest concern for Charters is that there are no programs for children with Special Needs and/or disabilities.

I taught with a teacher whose only experience was teaching in a Charter school. Her class there consisted of 7 students. There were no students of color , disabilities, or different races. She was overwhelmed with a class of 21 in Rutherford County Schools. Having students that spoke another language, were ADHD, and also Autistic were major problems for her. She was unsure how to challenge her higher level children or to differentiate for those 2 grade levels lower. There were days for her with many tears, many stress induced stomach issues, trips to the ER, and extreme loss of weight. She told me at Christmas that she made a mistake accepting the job because she was at a complete loss with her class and had lost control of them. Many of us tried to help her but she was still absolutely miserable. Her students lost lots of individual instruction. At the end of the year she resigned and went back to the Charter School.

Please let's keep serving ALL of our children in our public schools!!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 9:15 pm
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 96.61.171.184
Unique ID: 1007948301
Location: 36.0164, -86.5615

Name Luan Chew

Email wehcnaul@aol.com

Phone (615) 793-3289

Organization n/a

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

I wish all children in RCS had equal opportunities for academic programs regardless of their zip code. The district is always promoting Blackman, Central High and Stewarts Creek with advanced learnings that the rest do not get. If our students are to compete in the world one day, RCS needs to make sure all students have opportunities. In our zip there are no clubs, no high tech opportunities or even a GATE program for children testing at the top of the district & the state! All rich kids aren't smart and all poor children aren't dumb. Economics should not pick winners and losers. Opportunities should.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 9:29 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 71.199.194.230
Unique ID: 1007950453
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name Ryan Crowley

Email rcrowley_05@hotmail.com

Phone (615) 396-7987

Organization N/A

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below I support public education and not the privatization of our schools.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 9:34 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 108.199.149.148
Unique ID: 1007951253
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name	Janelle Sullivan
Email	janellesullivan@gmail.com
Phone	(303) 906-4865
Organization	Parent
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	Our public funds need to support the public schools in our county. I do not think charter schools should take funds away from the public setting. I do not agree with opening charter schools with money that was given to the public school setting. Please stand firm, and do not allow another charter school to open in our county

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 9:40 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 172.14.69.225
Unique ID: 1007952071
Location: 36.2646, -86.702

Name	Angela Risto
Email	kdgymrat@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 310-2417
Organization	RCS, MTSU, TSU professor
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	This charter does not meet the requirements to serve all SPED and ELLs. Therefore, it should not receive public funding.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 10:44 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 99.96.222.232
Unique ID: 1007961517
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name Marcie Barfield

Email marcie.england@gmail.com

Phone (573) 225-1346

Organization NA

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I wish to provide my support for the decision made by Rutherford County Schools (RCS) to deny the application of American Classical Academy. The fact that American Classical's application did not meet the requirements set forth by the State In their academic and operations plan is grounds for RCS's decision to be upheld by the charter commission. Irregardless that American Classical submitted a not complete or appropriate application to RCS; RCS is one of the highest performing districts in the state providing amazing educational opportunities to its students and a charter school is not needed in Rutherford county.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 9, 2022 11:49 pm
Browser: Chrome 102.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address: 68.53.163.194
Unique ID: 1007968630
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name Juli Spann

Email dajjspann4@gmail.com

Phone (615) 890-0339

Organization parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below As an educator of public schools and a parent of public school children, I would like to speak against the charter school applications. I stand against the organization starting a charter school system within the RCS system.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 10, 2022 1:39 am
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 68.53.74.160
Unique ID: 1007983023
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Maurice Young

Email moeyoung824@gmail.com

Phone (615) 995-6315

Organization Self

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

Allow this private school to open in Rutherford county. Now is the time to open up the school system for my tax dollars to go to a private school which will force Rutherford County schools to listen to what the parents want and need for there children not the government to decide what is "best " for my child. Rutherford county schools should embrace change not be afraid of change. This will be for the children not the school system , Politics, or a union. Which would weed out the bad teachers. Thanks for listening.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 10, 2022 5:57 am
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 76.18.164.229
Unique ID: 1008015162
Location: 37.6875, -85.8747

Name	Chiana Adair
Email	chiana_adair@hotmail.com
Phone	(901) 218-3531
Organization	Parent of Rutherford County school aged children
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I oppose this charter school especially after an RCS Review Committee found that ACAR's amended application did not meet the criteria set forth by the Tennessee Department of Education in the areas of Academic Plan and Operations Plan. If they have not mastered the core basics for the application process, how and what can we expect then to deliver to our children as academics and operations seem pretty profound for leading our children and the core for running a school.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 10, 2022 8:05 am
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 174.212.65.128
Unique ID: 1008032316
Location: 36.0571, -86.6729

Name	Jason Stewart
Email	jstewart2297@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 692-4388
Organization	Parent
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	I'm unsure this body is capable of making making ANY decisions on our behalf when they can't even proof an email before sending it out. " Public Comment REQEUEST on Charter School Appeal"... Makes you look inept and just downright stupid.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 10, 2022 9:14 am
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 172.58.147.90
Unique ID: 1008043537
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Amy Nicholson
Email	amy.nicholson1219@gmail.com
Phone	(815) 919-0576
Organization	Rutherford County Schools
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	As a Staff member and parent of a Rutherford County Schools, I object to a Rutherford County Charter Schools for numerous reasons.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 10, 2022 10:24 am
Browser: Firefox 104.0 / Linux
IP Address: 74.51.6.45
Unique ID: 1008057866
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name	Moe Mondal
Email	cobalt_ss+stoffnformstack@ecotecpowah.com
Phone	(615) 461-0637
Organization	Personal
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	I have two kids in Rutherford County Schools and I support their decision.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 10, 2022 11:44 am
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 107.119.65.131
Unique ID: 1008075003
Location: 35.2296, -80.843

Name	Molly Patton
Email	pattons6@att.net
Phone	(615) 973-5762
Organization	Parent of RCS Students
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other

Please provide your written comments below

To whom it may concern,
I am writing to express my opposition to the appeal made by American Classical Academy to open a charter school in Rutherford county. As an RCS parent, I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the ACA's application.
Part of ACA's rationale for coming to Rutherford County includes their opinion that parents want access to "schools that match their philosophical views and want students to be engaged in values or character-based instruction". If you walk through any school in Rutherford county you can clearly see that both values and character are fundamental to the RCS educational approach. RCS is already aligned with the TDOE mission to "exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark upon their chosen path in life." So, this really begs the question: Exactly whose moral and philosophical views does ACA align with, and which RCS/TDOE values and views contradict them?
It's very clear in the charter application that American Classical Academy intends to target a specific philosophical belief system. Given this, it's extremely concerning that the academy has deep ties with Hillsdale College. Hillsdale's Code of Commitment states "The teaching of Christian faith shall remain a conspicuous aim of the College." This, by its very nature, undermines the mission of educating ALL students - regardless of their philosophical or personal belief systems. Using public funding to advance a specific, religiously driven philosophy also violates the Establishment Clause as written by our Founding Fathers.
Please vote no.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 10, 2022 4:23 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 69.137.78.44
Unique ID: 1008127671
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name Elizabeth Hamby

Email mizhamsesl@gmail.com

Phone (615) 653-6911

Organization Rutherford County

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Please vote no to the addition of charter schools to Rutherford County LEA. I am especially concerned at the conservative Christian influence propagated by public monies. Public funds should not be used to support religious institutions. Thank you

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 10, 2022 5:03 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 107.135.229.109
Unique ID: 1008134435
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Caitlin Krzysnik

Email princessck14@gmail.com

Phone (702) 610-9744

Organization None- just a Rutherford Co. Mama!

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

I want to speak in favor of ACAR. You see, my son came from UT to Rutherford County. This is his first time in public schools. When we came from a charter school in UT. He's never been in public school in TN. My son has behavioral and sensory issues, has Aspergers, and is ADHD. Regular public school is hard for him already. When we moved here he was ahead on a 3rd to 5th grade level. Now, he's barely registered into K-2. He is a 2nd grader. How he fell behind, I'm not sure. He's teacher is nice but has other kids to take care of. Charter schools tend to have less per class. They also, do hands on learning instead of just sit at a desk, and write or read all day. Just because a few are fearful or can't drive doesn't mean everyone else's kids should fall behind and get the short end of the stick. As a conservative Republican, even I agree that it's time for more Charter schools to help our children, and make public schools compete with ways to challenge kids and learn instead of government run indoctrination across the board.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 10, 2022 7:13 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.79 / Android
IP Address: 76.22.181.131
Unique ID: 1008154627
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Catherine Frye

Email katesfrye@gmail.com

Phone (615) 653-1021

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the appeal made by American Classical Academy to open a charter school in Rutherford county. As an RCS parent, I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the ACA's application.

Part of ACA's rationale for coming to Rutherford County includes their opinion that parents want access to "schools that match their philosophical views and want students to be engaged in values or character-based instruction". If you walk through any school in Rutherford county you can clearly see that both values and character are fundamental to the RCS educational approach. RCS is already aligned with the TDOE mission to "exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark upon their chosen path in life." So, this really begs the question: Exactly whose moral and philosophical views does ACA align with, and which RCS/TDOE values and views contradict them?

It's very clear in the charter application that American Classical Academy intends to target a specific philosophical belief system. Given this, it's extremely concerning that the academy has deep ties with Hillsdale College. Hillsdale's Code of Commitment states "The teaching of Christian faith shall remain a conspicuous aim of the College." This, by its very nature, undermines the mission of educating ALL students - regardless of their philosophical or personal belief systems. Using public funding to advance a specific, religiously driven philosophy also violates the Establishment Clause as written by our Founding Fathers.

Please vote no.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 10, 2022 7:26 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6 / iOS
IP Address: 172.58.146.121
Unique ID: 1008156667
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name Marlene Miller

Email marellis@bellsouth.net

Phone (615) 423-0943

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I 100 percent support the decision of my local school board. They are elected by the people of Rutherford County. They are tasked to make decisions in the best interest of the students and families of Rutherford County. It is my opinion they did so with regard to denying this charter school application.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 10, 2022 9:25 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 70.136.30.120
Unique ID: 1008173965
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name Kelly Messerly

Email messerlyk@hotmail.com

Phone (615) 785-1540

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Abide by local decisions. DO NOT siphon money from our schools. Do not ram your for-profit businesses into a community that doesn't want or need them. Our district is one of the best in the state...with some of the best and brightest teachers and students. We don't want or need the snake oil they are selling.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 10, 2022 11:56 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 64.252.61.46
Unique ID: 1008190033
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Sarah Saysoukha

Email sarah.saysoukha@centerstone.org

Phone (270) 875-8424

Organization Safe RCS

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

To whom it may concern,
I am writing to express my opposition to the appeal made by American Classical Academy to open a charter school in Rutherford county. As an RCS parent, I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the ACA's application.
Part of ACA's rationale for coming to Rutherford County includes their opinion that parents want access to "schools that match their philosophical views and want students to be engaged in values or character-based instruction". If you walk through any school in Rutherford county you can clearly see that both values and character are fundamental to the RCS educational approach. RCS is already aligned with the TDOE mission to "exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark upon their chosen path in life." So, this really begs the question: Exactly whose moral and philosophical views does ACA align with, and which RCS/TDOE values and views contradict them?
It's very clear in the charter application that American Classical Academy intends to target a specific philosophical belief system. Given this, it's extremely concerning that the academy has deep ties with Hillsdale College. Hillsdale's Code of Commitment states "The teaching of Christian faith shall remain a conspicuous aim of the College." This, by its very nature, undermines the mission of educating ALL students - regardless of their philosophical or personal belief systems. Using public funding to advance a specific, religiously driven philosophy also violates the Establishment Clause as written by our Founding Fathers.
Please vote no.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 11, 2022 5:17 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 174.212.112.74
Unique ID: 1008363870
Location: 36.0711, -86.7196

Name Chelsea Webb

Email chelseapwebb@gmail.com

Phone (937) 509-7200

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I request that you deny the appeal of American Classical Academy Charter Schools in Rutherford County.

Charter schools have not been proven to be effective academically or economically. As a parent I would love to have options on where to send my kids to school but I know that having that option is not worth the cost to the community as a whole. Our elected officials denied this application twice and we support our school board's decision.

Thank you

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 11, 2022 5:27 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 64.252.63.49
Unique ID: 1008365654
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Robin Bollman

Email robinterese820@gmail.com

Phone (615) 500-5653

Organization Rutherford County School

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I request that the appeal of American Classical Academy Charter Schools in Rutherford County is denied. Charter schools have not been proven to be effective academically or economically. We have options in this county already and I know that having this option is not worth the cost to the community as a whole. Our elected officials denied this application twice and I support that school board decision.

Thank you

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 11, 2022 9:29 pm
Browser: Chrome 95.0.4638.54 / OS X
IP Address: 162.238.241.145
Unique ID: 1008414335
Location: 35.7625, -86.372

Name Shannon Hallavant

Email shannonhallavant@gmail.com

Phone (615) 992-1601

Organization RCS

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I request that you deny the appeal of American Classical Academy Charter Schools in Rutherford County.

Charter schools have not been proven to be effective academically or economically. As a parent I would love to have options on where to send my kids to school but I know that having that option is not worth the cost to the community as a whole. Our elected officials denied this application twice and we support our school board's decision.

Thank you

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 11, 2022 10:32 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 74.51.6.108
Unique ID: 1008427035
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name	Carrie Perkins
Email	perkinc@rcschools.net
Phone	(615) 593-3111
Organization	Riverdale high school /Rutherford County
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	To whom it may concern, Decisions about how local money will be spent should get left to the locals who spend the money. If the Rutherford County school board reviewed the application and deems the applicant unqualified, they shouldn't be overruled by the charter school board. Carrie E Perkins

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 11, 2022 10:37 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 76.18.179.196
Unique ID: 1008427866
Location: 35.9787, -86.9134

Name Becky spence

Email bckyspnc@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 480-5459

Organization Blackman middle

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

In Michigan my 2 older kids attended a charter school. Traverse City Academy. It was the best school by far that my kids ever attended. When we moved here in 2007 they were far ahead of the students here. My thoughts are to have better education available to the community than what is currently available in Rutherford County. But I hate that this whole thing has been political. Our politicians have no true concerns towards any valuable education unless it's a dollar in their pocket. Let the parents decide and let the community not the school board or politicians decide what choices the parents should have. Unless your child plays sports or a straight "A" student your child has no chance in the Rutherford County school system. Too many kids in the classrooms. No one on one teacher student ratio. It's sad.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 11, 2022 11:10 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 38.53.164.246
Unique ID: 1008433799
Location: 35.9314, -86.6867

Name Paige Jorge

Email jorgep@rcschools.net

Phone (615) 904-3777

Organization Cedar Grove Elementary

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I have very serious concerns about the lack of resources/staffing that ACAR is proposing to provide for students with disabilities, English Language Learners, and students who struggle academically (who would qualify for Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions). Although they claim to be a school for all students, their application makes it clear that these needy populations would be underserved through the school's current plan.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 11, 2022 11:34 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 103.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 206.251.215.108
Unique ID: 1008437504
Location: 35.4825, -86.4629

Name	Lakita Jones
Email	akitajones28@gmail.com
Phone	(931) 220-0524
Organization	Parent
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	I really wish it would pass

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 12, 2022 12:35 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Linux
IP Address: 99.34.234.159
Unique ID: 1008454869
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name LALIT CHAWATHE

Email lalitstar@gmail.com

Phone (551) 221-5789

Organization TN Tax Payer

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

The school quality standard of RCS (except Central Magnet School) is well below than that of nearby counties. While M'BORO is growing, to nurture the local talent and attract outside gifted student, TN Dept of Education and RCS should open and fund more magnet and charter schools in M'BORO and surrounding area. As such Rutherford county and M'BORO tax rates are above even Williamson county (or Franklin), so the school system must improve.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 12, 2022 2:20 am
Browser: Chrome Mobile 104.0.5112.97 / Android
IP Address: 172.58.59.144
Unique ID: 1008475338
Location: 39.7388, -104.9868

Name	Frances Rosales
Email	frivera75@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 480-2093
Organization	Not applicable
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	Rutherford County is experiencing growth & it'd impacting our schools. There are several schools near or at capacity. By approving this charter school, this will help improve the issue of overcrowding by giving families an opportunity to choose to send their children to a new school. Rutherford County families want school options for their children.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 12, 2022 7:04 am
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 172.58.147.91
Unique ID: 1008526563
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name Anna Stewart

Email anna.m.stewart@gmail.com

Phone (615) 600-6197

Organization Parent of Rutherford County Student

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I do not support the American Classical Academy (ACA) Rutherford application. The introduction of this charter school would remove needed funding from Rutherford County Schools (RCS), and the Hillsdale 1776 curriculum used by ACA is questionable. RCS is one of the top-performing districts in Tennessee, and we don't need Hillsdale College in Michigan to be influencing the content or the methods in which our students learn. I am very satisfied with the public education my child is receiving from RCS and do not wish for RCS funding to be limited or local students' knowledge to be limited by the confines of the ACA curriculum.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 12, 2022 9:39 am
Browser: Chrome 90.0.4430.93 / Windows
IP Address: 173.95.246.242
Unique ID: 1008572832
Location: 35.3084, -81.0256

Name	Jeanna Scholz
Email	gnascholz@gmail.com
Phone	(865) 599-8954
Organization	Parent of RCS student
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I urge the Charter Commission to deny American Classical Academy Rutherford's appeal for their charter school in Rutherford County. As numerous articles and news stories have shown, Rutherford County is experiencing tremendous growth in both its residents and its children attending school. This charter school would only serve to dilute the money going to an already burdened public school system struggling to keep up with the demands of so many incoming students. The teacher shortage in Rutherford County is already alarming, and adding a charter school to take away potential qualified teachers from the public school system is going to make a big problem even worse.

The state and local governments need to figure out a way to fix the school systems they already have in place - not opt to open more schools that will take away from the systems already there and operating.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 12, 2022 10:06 am
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 174.212.165.224
Unique ID: 1008583882
Location: 35.5055, -82.9912

Name Sarah long

Email seraholadae1@gmail.com

Phone (615) 785-9427

Organization None

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

The classical charter school has been proven that they have religious undertones. The government should not be paying for a religious education. If they want to open a school they need to be clear about their intentions and do so as a religious school without public funding. As a public school system we need to invest in our children and keep the majority of our students in the public school system so that it continues to thrive. We need to build more schools that will help all children be successful, including children with special needs, autism, behavioral issues and ADHD. Our school system needs to start thinking outside the box in order to make sure all students are educated.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 12, 2022 10:53 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.194
Unique ID: 1008606163
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name	Malinda Upton-Seadorf
Email	malindamus@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 617-0591
Organization	Parent
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	As the leader of the American Classical Academy has publicly denigrated the hard working public school teachers of Tennessee, no consideration should be given to their application.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 12, 2022 11:42 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 161.45.246.130
Unique ID: 1008630025
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name Kristen Keene

Email crawkeen@gmail.com

Phone (615) 223-1948

Organization I AM A PARENT OF 2 Rutherford County students

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

I oppose the appeal made by American Classical Academy to open a charter school in Rutherford county. As an Rutherford County parent, I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the ACA's application.

The ACA's argument for coming to Rutherford County states that parents want access to "schools that match their philosophical views and want students to be engaged in values or character-based instruction". If you walk through any school in Rutherford county you can clearly see that both values and character are fundamental to the RCS educational approach. RCS is already aligned with the TDOE mission to "exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark upon their chosen path in life." So, this really begs the question: Exactly whose moral and philosophical views does ACA align with, and which RCS/TDOE values and views contradict them?

It's very clear in the charter application that American Classical Academy intends to target a specific philosophical belief system. Given this, it's extremely concerning that the academy has deep ties with Hillsdale College. Hillsdale's Code of Commitment states "The teaching of Christian faith shall remain a conspicuous aim of the College." This, by its very nature, undermines the mission of educating ALL students - regardless of their philosophical or personal belief systems. Using public funding to advance a specific, religiously driven philosophy also violates the Establishment Clause as written by our Founding Fathers.

Please vote no.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 12, 2022 11:57 am
Browser: Safari 15.6.1 / OS X
IP Address: 136.58.117.187
Unique ID: 1008637482
Location: 36.1769, -86.7339

Name	George Grant
Email	george@parishpres.org
Phone	(615) 521-1439
Organization	Franklin Classical School
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other

Please provide your written comments below

To the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

I am the founder of Franklin Classical School located in Franklin, TN and I have founded dozens of classical schools around the world. Additionally, I am a pastor at Parish Presbyterian Church, Director of the King's Meadow Study Center, Founder of Bannockburn College, and Coordinator of the Chalmers Fund. I've also authored dozens of books in the areas of history, biography, politics, literature, and social criticism.

I know and value the importance of a quality education. It's for this very reason I founded Franklin Classical School. Today, I write in support of American Classical Academy Rutherford's application and appeal to the Commission. The Tennessee Public Charter School Commission was founded to take politics out of the process and to judge an application solely on its merits. The Commission is responsible to provide a fact-based review of an application. I believe American Classical Academy Rutherford's application should be approved.

While there are many quality schools in Rutherford County, even the finest school is not the best fit for each student. Ultimately, I trust parents to make the decision that is best for each of their children regarding their education.

We need to provide additional public school options including high quality charter schools with a rigorous curriculum. For those students that need another option-this public charter school would provide at least one additional choice. Many families cannot afford other options and must rely on their traditional taxpayer funded public school and public charter school options.

I believe ACA dispels many of the falsehoods in Rutherford's rejection of their application in their Commission Appeal Statement-so I will not regurgitate those valid points here.

The proposed curriculum that ACA will use is built around time-tested quality materials that are used in thousands of public schools to help students master these subjects.

Ultimately, families, community members, elected officials and teachers in Rutherford County have expressed interest in and support for American Classical Academy's application as expressed in their numerous letters of support. And, I believe their application meets all the standards in order to be approved.

The Commission should judge the application on its merits-full stop. And, once approved, let families decide if they believe ACA would be a good fit for their students. This is about providing high quality educational options for families. The more high-quality options for families, the better. It is no surprise that the traditional public schools are afraid of the unknown and therefore instead of providing options for families, they want to squash

additional options.

We cannot fit kids into a one-size-fits-all approach. Most students will stay in their current school, especially if they are happy and believe their needs are being met. And, even if a student leaves and goes to ACA or another schooling option-that traditional public school still receives partial funding to not educate a student. Ultimately, this should not be about money-which sadly, is what it seems the administrators in monopolistic public school system are most worried about. We should be empowering families to seek out options to best fit their student's needs. School choice is proven to help raise the bar and provide a quality education for students.

If the pandemic showed us anything, it is that each child has different and unique learning needs. We need to approve high-quality options and empower families to seek out the best public school option for each student. We should fund students and not systems.

I implore you to take politics out of the review process-alas, something Rutherford County Schools did not do.

Thank you for your time and attention-and I trust you will carefully consider and approve their application.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 12, 2022 5:13 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 50.243.117.25
Unique ID: 1008796456
Location: 35.9104, -86.762

Name Kristina Cadovec

Email kcadovec@cordelllaw.com

Phone (615) 861-2121

Organization parent

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below Rutherford County parents want American Classical Academy Rutherford to be permitted to open a charter school in Rutherford County. I am a Rutherford County home owner and tax payer, and a parent of Rutherford County students.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 12, 2022 7:17 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 69.148.175.17
Unique ID: 1008843706
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Matthew Ramsey

Email matthewrramsey@gmail.com

Phone (678) 316-7200

Organization Rutherford Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I have experienced Charter schools before I moved here. My child received sub-par education and was immediately behind in public schools. I do not want my tax money being removed from our fantastic schools (who are already struggling) to pay for Gov Bill Lee's buddy to get rich.

I fully oppose any movement forward with Charter Schools and I oppose the over-reaching of the Tennessee Government to go against the will of the county. We have to do better!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 12, 2022 8:52 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 68.52.197.180
Unique ID: 1008869662
Location: 36.2646, -86.702

Name Dr. Carolyn Baldwin Tucker

Email ladybaldwintucker@gmail.com

Phone (615) 868-4060

Organization TEA - Retired Teachers

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

As a former Interim Director of Murfreesboro City Schools and educator of fifty-three (53) years, I strongly urge the Charter Commission to vote against any proposals to override local decisions made by boards of education regarding charter schools. The push by Hillsdale College to override the actions of local school boards is a demonstration of the apparent lack of concern and respect for the needs of children. Please vote NO on any proposals to override decisions made by the Board of Education for Rutherford County Schools.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 12, 2022 9:51 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 99.34.232.58
Unique ID: 1008891836
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Randy McClellan

Email randymc1908@gmail.com

Phone (615) 542-1054

Organization None

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Rutherford County is year in and year out one of the top school districts in TN both in achievement and growth. Having several open enrollment schools (Thurman Francis, campus school, McFadden, and Central Magnet) as well as internationally recognized programs at Smyrna High a school (Cambridge) and Oakland High School (International Baccalaureate) there is no doubt in my mind that students have every opportunity for a very good education. If the students or parents aren't choosing to be involved and focused on their child's learning, sending them to a charter school isn't going to fix the problem. If a charter school is approved it should be under the strict guidelines that they must take the same state tests the rest of the students in Rutherford County take, under the supervision of RCS administrators. If they can prove that they can, indeed do better, then that is a different story. But without proof that they have already achieved results higher than RCS on these test, there is absolutely no reason to approve their request when looking from an educational stand point. It would make no sense, unless an educational stand point isn't the view that is being taken.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 13, 2022 8:40 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.199
Unique ID: 1009018871
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name	Erin Robinette
Email	egarrison85@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 336-1582
Organization	Rutherford County Schools
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	As a parent and educator, I say NO to charter schools in Rutherford county.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 13, 2022 11:51 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.121
Unique ID: 1009109148
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name	Clay Burns
Email	burnscl@rcschools.net
Phone	(615) 809-4985
Organization	Central Magnet School
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am a teacher and do not have time to write up a detailed comment, but I want to say that I am against one cent of public money being taken away from the students of public education to go to a charter school, especially one with Hillsdale College's agenda. Tennessee needs strong public schools. Every effort should be made to improve the ones we have, largely by recruiting, training and retaining quality teachers by giving them respect and salaries commensurate to the value of the profession. I think the commission should call out this whole spectacle for the joke and grift that it is, but I doubt that will happen.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 13, 2022 1:38 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 68.72.129.81
Unique ID: 1009165208
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Melissa Goetz

Email mrw11102000@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 668-8653

Organization Rutherford County parent and resident

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Tennessee Charter Commission,

Based on the research that is available, I don't believe public funds should be routed away from existing schools and into privately managed facilities. Until ALL Rutherford County teachers, administrators and staff have the supplies, resources and facilities they need to perform their duties and serve students, we should not consider any portion of the budget for charter entities. I ask that you uphold the decision of the Rutherford County School Board and deny the application for new-start charter school American Classical Academy-Rutherford (ACAR).

Sincerely,
Melissa Goetz

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 13, 2022 1:39 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 96.4.9.70
Unique ID: 1009165659
Location: 36.4198, -86.7946

Name	Michael Williams
Email	simiusgravis@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 631-0563
Organization	None
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

I am an educator with 30 years experience in the classroom, a Ph.D., and almost 10 years of private and international school administration; two of my years (the worst ever) were in Tennessee Charter schools. Never in my career had I witnessed and experienced blatant disregard for educational best practices, "shifty, questionable" use of public tax dollars, and complete disregard for student expression and exploration. Furthermore, there is no "real, hand-on" accountability, once a charter is approved.

To say the least, I now am opposed to ANY and ALL future Charter Schools in Tennessee, without more involved, hands-on, and direct oversight.

All decisions should remain at the local level and all those decisions should be upheld.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 13, 2022 6:06 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 45.18.161.93
Unique ID: 1009285272
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name	Jessica Logan
Email	aaronansjesssubs@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 585-2910
Organization	Teacher
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	I believe that Charter Schools will negatively affect our public schools. I feel that the approval should continue to be denied.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 13, 2022 6:43 pm
Browser: Firefox 104.0 / Windows
IP Address: 69.180.201.168
Unique ID: 1009297186
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name James Coleman

Email lillip@comcast.net

Phone (615) 435-9452

Organization Myself.

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Charter schools are fundamentally flawed.

1. Lack of regulatory control creates opportunities for the unscrupulous. Charters have little to none. The amount of fraud that has been uncovered so far nationwide is proof.
 2. Lack of testing data from charters, or any objective measure of effectiveness.
 3. Unnecessarily divides our community based on the existing school as a socially bonding focal point.
 5. All charter schools, 'public' or private exist for profit. Subsidizing the dismantling of public education through tax payer funds is incorrect
 4. The Free market does not exist to serve everyone. Some will now be denied enrollment or managed out.
 6. Charters encourage segregation, both socio-economic and racial.
 7. The concept of Charter schools as laboratories for innovation has not come true for over 35 years.
-

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 13, 2022 9:24 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 99.123.20.178
Unique ID: 1009341501
Location: 35.7472, -86.5389

Name Ellen Byrd

Email ellenkbyrd@gmail.com

Phone (615) 957-8522

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

As a parent in Rutherford County, I would like choices in education for my children and the children of my community. Please consider overturning the denial for the American Classical Academy Rutherford. Denying charter schools like American Classical Academy Rutherford denies parents in the county, like myself, the opportunity to choose the best educational fit for my child. I support alternative models of education for all children, and charter schools provide that for students across all people groups.

Thank you, and may God bless you with wisdom as you make this decision and all decisions regarding education in Tennessee.

Ellen Byrd

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 13, 2022 10:08 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 98.193.198.134
Unique ID: 1009352051
Location: 35.9306, -86.8788

Name Brenda Royal

Email brendafcr@aol.com

Phone (615) 498-8167

Organization Central Magnet School

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Please do not divert public money to organizations that repeatedly perform in the bottom 20% of schools. Public schools deserve your respect, your support, and your full funding. Rutherford County has the #1 school in the state, the #7 school in the nation. I teach AP Biology there and last year all 90 of my students passed the AP exam. Don't pull resources to find lesser efforts. Support public needs!!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 13, 2022 11:35 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 73.108.205.89
Unique ID: 1009371939
Location: 35.9243, -83.9965

Name Rob Quillin

Email robquillin@comcast.net

Phone (865) 588-7308

Organization None - Tennessee citizen

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

I'm a 49 year old life-long Tennessee citizen with a graduate degree. My nephew just graduated from Hillsdale College this year. It was a wonderful experience and a balanced, truth- seeking education. I'm confident that any charter school associated with Hillsdale will be a wonderful option for Tennessee students. Our state should support giving our parents and children a choice in education and allowing them to use their hard-earned tax dollars to finance that education rather than limiting them to only the one-size fits-all government schools.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 10:28 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address: 69.137.79.26
Unique ID: 1009525041
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name Nicole Dabbs

Email nicoledabbs@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 424-8618

Organization N/A

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

The American Classical Academy should not be opened in Rutherford County for a number of reasons. It has demonstrated a lack of support for special needs students and inadequate board leadership that represents local students and their families. The American Classical Academy has strong ties to Hillsdale/Larry Arnn, is proposing the harmful 1776 curriculum, and has religious motivations. This school does not represent the community's values and what the majority of families want for education in Rutherford County. It should not be opened.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 10:43 am
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 76.248.233.228
Unique ID: 1009532518
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name Cindy Daniel

Email csdanielrn@yahoo.com

Phone (931) 722-8638

Organization Concerned parent, tax payer, Rutheford County citizen

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

To whom it may concern,
I understand the need for parents to have a choice for education for their children, however they already do. As a parent we have the option to seek private or public education for our children, virtual school, and/or home school and with those decisions come both financial and time commitments. Charter schools seem to be for those that do not want their children to be in public schools, don't want virtual or home school, and do not want to invest in private school. With that being said, charter schools should not receive funding that goes to public schools, they should operate within their own entity. Charter school students should not be included in the extracurricular activities of public schools either, if the public school education isn't what they want to be a part of why would they want to be involved in the other activities? They should seek activities through recreational sports leagues, community led activities, etc.

Growing up in public schools and raising my children in Rutheford County schools I stand firm on the opportunity in public schools are what you make it. If you want to never think it has enough for you and be troubled that is the experience you'll have, however if you get involved, yearn to learn and do more, the opportunities are endless.

We are living in a nation where some do not want to take blame, many are looking for a hand out, things are taken from those that work the hardest and given to those that make the most noise. It is time that we come together and unite to make public schools strong, if a charter school wants to be in Rutheford County that is great, but should not be funded by monies allotted for public school. The hands of many make less work, we as parents need to support and mentor, not look for ways out and do things looking for a kickback. Integrity is key, students learn from actions, not always words, choose them wisely.

Please contact me if needed, 931-722-8638,
Cindy Daniel

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 11:04 am
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 71.206.112.113
Unique ID: 1009543144
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name	Liz Chandler
Email	elizabeth.r.chandler@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 944-6716
Organization	None- representing myself as a Rutherford County parent
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Dear Commission,

I am writing to you against the proposed American Classical Academy Charter school. I have several concerns regarding this school.

First, I believe our tax dollars should be appropriated towards our existing county schools. We have excellent schools in our county, but they have achieved their excellence through meager means. Our schools need more funding, not less.

Second, the American Classical Academy has not provided sufficient documentation of their curriculum, which is one reason our county school board denied their application. We need transparency because we do not want our county's children to be taught rubbish. The lack of documentation makes me wonder, what are they trying to hide? Classical education is not a new concept, there has been plenty of opportunity to expound on their curriculum.

Third, there are plenty of private schools in our town giving parents many choices. If parents choose a different route of education, that is wonderful for their family, however our tax dollars are meant ONLY for our existing underfunded public schools.

Finally, it would be a mistake for our state to continue to associate with the likes of Larry Arnn. His philosophy and discourse is truly toxic, and he and his associates are not to be trusted. Are there even enough students that would want to attend this proposed school? People in Rutherford County are disgusted by Larry Arnn and want NOTHING to do with Hillsdale and it's subsidiaries.

Please vote against ACAR.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 11:29 am
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 76.22.163.115
Unique ID: 1009556030
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name Jon Williamson

Email jonmwilliamson@gmx.com

Phone (615) 962-2219

Organization Murfreesboro City Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

My daughter attends Erma Siegel elementary here in Murfreesboro and I pay my property taxes faithfully and I don't feel it's appropriate nor fair for my tax dollars to be taken from her and her school and given to a private school that teaches values and curricula that are counter to my personal belief system and while doing so, deprive our existing schools and all the other children of much deserved funding. Public dollars should remain exclusively with the public school system. That's what we all agreed to with the social compact regarding education. We never agreed to provide faith based indoctrination of a denomination which I do not share their views or values while taking my money away from my children to support faith based indoctrination.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 11:29 am
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 73.88.169.242
Unique ID: 1009556323
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name Jennifer Cook

Email jennifer.cook@gmail.com

Phone (615) 943-6817

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

As a parent and a homeowner, I am appalled that my tax dollars could be pulled from my excellent public schools to fund a charter school in my community. My tax dollars are for PUBLIC education-not a privatized "charter" school. I believe in public education and as the daughter of a former public school teacher from a rural district, I see the difference that teachers-trained, educated teachers-can make.

Charter schools are only truly beneficial to those whose parents are able to transport them there-leaving the poorer kids whose parents are unable to transport them out in the cold. These are the same children these schools purport to help.

The teachers in my kids' school are excellent at what they do, and I am in FULL support of them-not a charter school where they have no proven track record and are associated with a college that openly disparaged our public school teachers. I am not impressed with an attorney who brags in an appeal hearing about his accolades-his degrees, his management of projects, etc. What I want to know about us how much time he's spent in classrooms with children. How much time has he spent talking to teachers in our schools? How much time has he spent getting to know the kids his charter purports to help?

I am SO disappointed in this proposed charter school. I am so disappointed, in fact, that I'm considering removing my tax dollars from Tennessee. Our schools should not be up for a cash grab, and we do NOT want our tax dollars as homeowners to support a publicly funded, privatized charter school.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 11:33 am
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 24.11.231.85
Unique ID: 1009558258
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name Sarah Wright

Email swright22180@gmail.com

Phone (615) 278-0882

Organization None

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

As a parent with two children currently in the Rutherford County school system, I'm writing to urge the Commission to reject the charter application for ACAR in Rutherford County.

While I do believe ACAR has children's best interests in mind, their application and appeal demonstrate a somewhat cavalier approach to detail and transparency. Their plans are not clearly outlined, their leadership has changed with no notice, and their comments this morning in response to questions were both condescending and unnecessarily combative. It paints a rather unflattering picture of an organization dedicated to forming young minds, to say the least.

I am not anti-charter schools; I think they very often provide innovative solutions for students. I am, however, unimpressed by ACAR's curriculum, as well as their demonstrated disdain for this county's leadership. Please reject this appeal.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 11:38 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.29.125
Unique ID: 1009561024
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Monica White`

Email whitemo@rcschools.net

Phone (865) 809-6554

Organization Holloway High School

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below I do not support the charter school, ACA, coming into our district. As a passionate public school educator, this will reduce the morale amongst faculty and staff across the district. Under no circumstances should we reduce the funding to our other schools. We are a diverse district with students having a variety of beliefs, which would not be supported by ACA.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 11:41 am
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 154.21.21.15
Unique ID: 1009562657
Location: 33.7485, -84.3871

Name Samuel Buckalew

Email sambuckalew@gmail.com

Phone (615) 556-1492

Organization SafeRCS

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Our tax dollars do not need to go towards private schools that have no community oversight. Charters historically perform worse than public schools. ACA is ill prepared and reflect the arrogance of Hillsdale president Arnn. If they can't meet the application standards then that is a big red flag. Do not give this organization our tax dollars. They are not a serious organization in which our children should be trusted.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 11:42 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address: 76.248.232.198
Unique ID: 1009562999
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Brian Dembowczyk

Email brian.dembowczyk@gmail.com

Phone (615) 987-9012

Organization None

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

After listening to the latest hearing, I once again am shocked at how poor ACA's application is-even failing to address deficiencies when given the opportunity. Please trust the process and RCS's wisdom in denying this application and DO NOT allow ACA to start a charter school.

The issue is not one of classical education, which the stream of pro-ACA public commenters failed to understand. That is not in question. In question is ACA's viability to be a school. And it is not. *That* is the issue, not the education approach.

Listening to these hearings, the accusation by ACA proponents seems to be that denying the application was political. In fact, it seems pretty clear that the ACA proponents are political. Politics are what is driving this, not education.

One last thing: One great thing about Roberts Rules of Order is that comments must alternate between "for" and "against." It was shameful that public comment was opened to "first come, first served" allowing pro-ACA people to monopolize the public commenting time. In the future, please learn from RRO and require comments to alternate and stop once one side or the other has no more commenters or time expires.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 11:45 am
Browser: Mobile Firefox 104.0 / Android
IP Address: 206.251.216.146
Unique ID: 1009564714
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name Becca Sanborn

Email becca@sanborn.pw

Phone (615) 796-6157

Organization Parent of a rcs child

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below A decision was already made when our school board said no. If decisions are going to be overturned what is the point of giving constituents a say? Taxes should not be used for private school.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 11:46 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 69.148.170.8
Unique ID: 1009565267
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Sarah Wilson

Email sarah.bell.wilson@gmail.com

Phone (615) 971-9117

Organization n/a

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I have been a resident of Rutherford County since 2006. I am a registered voter and homeowner of 10+ years. My son attends a public school in the county. DO NOT allow my tax dollars to fund these charter schools!

It is shameful that you held your "public" meeting at 9am on a week day when most working parents and teachers/school staff would be unable to attend.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 11:48 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 70.88.6.106
Unique ID: 1009566084
Location: 36.1315, -86.8019

Name Nicole Dryden

Email nicoledryden4656@gmail.com

Phone (615) 542-5132

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am a parent of 2 Rutherford County School students, one in elementary & the other in high school. I am against using public money for private, charter schools. First, there is not enough oversight for these schools and second, they have not been shown to improve student learning.

When I heard the ACA was attempting to start a charter school in our county, I grew very concerned. The ACA's relationship with Hillsdale College's platform and curriculum is problematic at best. Their support of White-Nationalist groups and alternative history is anti-American and racist. The values of ACA & Hillsdale do not align with the values of our Teachers, Staff, Students & Parents in Rutherford County, which is why the original petition for the charter was rejected.

I am asking that the committee to reject ACA's appeal and respect the wishes of Rutherford County. We live here, work here, and learn here and do not want the ACA Charter.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 11:55 am
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 174.49.14.120
Unique ID: 1009570115
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name Laura Trout

Email ltrout1@sbcglobal.net

Phone (708) 424-5339

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Local school boards should be able to decide how their funds are spent and ours previously voted against American Classical Academy. I am totally opposed to this Charter school in our county. Our schools are underfunded as is - we should not have charter schools using up much needed funding - especially when charters are run as private corporate entities. Keep our public monies for the public good. I believe any charter with Hillsdale is in direct opposition to our public school teachers who are tirelessly working for our community. I stand for teachers and public schools.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 11:58 am
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 107.119.65.105
Unique ID: 1009571402
Location: 35.2296, -80.843

Name	Bethany Howard
Email	howardb0917@gmail.com
Phone	(931) 252-4727
Organization	N/a
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	We do not need a charter school associated with Hillsdale College in Rutherford County. We should not shift funding from our excellent public schools to an organization that denigrates teachers and our educational system -- the children of our county deserve a better education than what the ACA has to offer.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 12:09 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 192.249.1.144
Unique ID: 1009577659
Location: 35.9452, -83.9435

Name Melissa Pankake

Email mpankake@gmail.com

Phone (615) 569-5271

Organization Concerned Parent of Rutherford County School Student

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

I am against public funding being used to pay for for-profit charter schools. Our schools need all the help and funding they can get - not having it siphoned off for a charter school. Charter schools have not proven they provide better education - in many cases, their education standards are far below the public schools. I also find it questionable that all 15 speaking slots were filled by supporters when I know there are PLENTY of people who don't support this. Overturning the decision by an elected board is not the rule of law that is supposed to happen in this country.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 12:21 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 161.45.254.242
Unique ID: 1009583926
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name	Bethany Wrye
Email	bethany.wrye@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 351-2654
Organization	MTSU
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	I am strongly opposed to American Classical Academy Rutherford. It is unnecessary and would only serve as a drain to the Rutherford County School system.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 12:35 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 47.226.137.63
Unique ID: 1009591340
Location: 35.2051, -85.913

Name	Steve Corn
Email	stevostoys@gmail.com
Phone	(931) 267-8561
Organization	Public School Parent
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	Charter schools must not be allowed to funnel tax money off to unaccountable private for profit schools. Full stop.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 12:43 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address: 96.38.40.114
Unique ID: 1009594916
Location: 35.4986, -86.0848

Name Eleni McKnight

Email eleni.mcknight@gmail.com

Phone (615) 478-3274

Organization Self

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

Charter schools take money away from our public schools. Tennessee is already struggling in education, but Rutherford County and Murfreesboro City Schools are doing better than average. Making a profit on something as sacred as the passing of knowledge to the next generation should never be allowed because corners get cut and people get left behind. We decided to create a system where people made a profit on the health and medical treatments of others in our health insurance system, and now our medical system is one of the most expensive in the world and we're struggling as a nation to get necessary medical treatment to those who need it most. I don't want to see this happen to our education system. All students deserve access to education, taking away tax dollars to fund a Charter School doesn't help them at all. This will directly affect our students in low-income areas and special needs students, and I find that reprehensible!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 1:09 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.79 / Android
IP Address: 45.18.162.13
Unique ID: 1009608067
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Catherine Watts

Email cathy.watts@ymail.com

Phone (615) 796-8610

Organization None

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I attended the hearing in Rutherford County and want to thank you for a fair hearing. However, the 15 speakers were an unfair representation of Rutherford County parents and community. Not one person against the application was given the opportunity to speak. They do not speak for me or many others. As you saw, Rutherford County did an extremely thorough job of assessing the application and the appeal did not address the concerns. Rutherford County Schools are excellent schools. What they lack are funds. With the Governor's rainy day fund, we could hire more teachers, pay them better and build more schools. ACAR is an inferior school that is not prepared for our children. They haven't provided enough assurance that they will adequately teach our children. They have yet to find any suitable location either. Please reject the appeal from ACAR. Thank you. I am a grandparent of a Rutherford County student.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 1:12 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.102
Unique ID: 1009609326
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Xan Lasko

Email runnertn66@gmail.com

Phone (615) 796-9998

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Rutherford County is well equipped to handle students in the public school setting. There is not a need for a PUBLIC charter school such as the American Classical Academy that uses PUBLIC funding. As a public school teacher, I can say that we take in students that have attended schools such as charter, private, and homeschool. These students vary widely on their progress made outside of the public school setting. We have trained professionals to meet learning gaps as well as accelerate learning. We also teach students and meet their needs through a variety of programs such as athletics, ATLAS (homelessness), gifted, CTE classes, and so on. Attending a public school gives students these and many other opportunities to excel, not just in school, but in life.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 1:13 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 71.228.207.202
Unique ID: 1009609636
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name Michelle Serrano

Email serr6674@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 396-7452

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below We need to support our county schools and not add frivolous charter schools that are only here for the money! Try adding mental health counselors that actually know what they are doing and SRO officers that have the children in their best interests.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 1:49 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 47.40.195.170
Unique ID: 1009631675
Location: 35.2507, -87.3526

Name	Janice Simmons
Email	termite2265@yahoo.com
Phone	(931) 680-8961
Organization	N/A
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	All public schools are at risk under Lee

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 2:05 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 68.47.200.211
Unique ID: 1009639464
Location: 36.0164, -86.5615

Name Lee Wilkerson

Email leea37854@gmail.com

Phone (615) 785-0508

Organization US Citizen

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below It is unconscionable for this Board to approve the application from Hillsdale College to operate a charter school in Rutherford County negating the decision made by the Rutherford County BOE. The citizens of Rutherford County deserve and demand your respect as you will must surely validate the decision by the Rutherford County School Board to reject the Hillsdale College application.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 2:42 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 166.194.158.5
Unique ID: 1009657577
Location: 39.8291, -86.0859

Name Johnathan Stocking

Email john_stocking@hotmail.com

Phone (865) 209-3351

Organization N/a

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below No county in Tennessee needs an out of state organization to come here, bad mouth our teachers, and try to steal taxpayer dollars from our local schools and communities. I vehemently oppose the American Classical Academy.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 2:51 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 174.199.165.222
Unique ID: 1009661811
Location: 33.395, -86.8348

Name Mark Watson

Email nuclearcosmos@gmail.com

Phone (256) 627-2932

Organization Tennessee Citizen

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Just STOP charter schools. Just Stop, please! This is a profit making scheme only. Its wrapped in some kind of Christian Banner that sounds a whole lot like indoctrination. It's not about citizen commitment to the children and the qualified teachers needed to rebuild our public school teacher corp. It's PROFIT!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 3:28 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 174.212.97.83
Unique ID: 1009679934
Location: 36.1187, -86.2626

Name	Terri Donovan
Email	terri@terristerling.com
Phone	(615) 945-4794
Organization	Retired/35-year resident
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	I fully support our public school system and strongly reject any attempts to divert public funds to charter schools that do not have the same responsibilities to educate all of our children. Democracy is built on equal access to education for all people. We cannot further weaken our public schools and expect our country to continue as a constitutional republic.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 3:52 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 198.183.167.144
Unique ID: 1009691526
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name	Emily Gilreath
Email	egilreath@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 631-3482
Organization	Parent
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the appeal made by American Classical Academy to open a charter school in Rutherford county. As an RCS parent, I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the ACA's application.

Part of ACA's rationale for coming to Rutherford County includes their opinion that parents want access to "schools that match their philosophical views and want students to be engaged in values or character-based instruction". If you walk through any school in Rutherford county you can clearly see that both values and character are fundamental to the RCS educational approach. RCS is already aligned with the TDOE mission to "exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark upon their chosen path in life." So, this really begs the question: Exactly whose moral and philosophical views does ACA align with, and which RCS/TDOE values and views contradict them?

It's very clear in the charter application that American Classical Academy intends to target a specific philosophical belief system. Given this, it's extremely concerning that the academy has deep ties with Hillsdale College. Hillsdale's Code of Commitment states "The teaching of Christian faith shall remain a conspicuous aim of the College." This, by its very nature, undermines the mission of educating ALL students - regardless of their philosophical or personal belief systems. Using public funding to advance a specific, religiously driven philosophy also violates the Establishment Clause as written by our Founding Fathers. It is vital that my children and all RCS children do not grow up with only people like them around. Diversity has been proven to be beneficial in workplaces and should be a part of schooling.

Please vote no.

Thank you for taking this feedback into consideration.

Emily Gilreath

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 3:55 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 73.19.255.80
Unique ID: 1009693087
Location: 35.7317, -83.4837

Name	Roxy Martin
Email	missroxy@gmail.com
Phone	(865) 412-0155
Organization	Parents
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	Our public schools should not have to suffer even more under Governor Lees administration than they already so so that he and Betsy Devoss can become even more wealthy. Stop this madness and put our money towards our schools and school children

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 4:10 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.79 / Android
IP Address: 107.127.49.94
Unique ID: 1009700457
Location: 35.2296, -80.843

Name Krista Turkell

Email kmturkell@yahoo.com

Phone (423) 413-6227

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

Firts i want to say i am very sad with how the public comments were handled during the hearing. First come first served, does not allow for fair commentary from the public and it was very poorly handled to make it look like all of us parents want this, which is easy to see we dont in that only 21% approximately of 100+ responded out of 1700 people who recieved this random survey (I never was offered this survey and i have a current child in RCS). There are so many parents who were not represented in this mess and absolutely do not want it here.

I absolutely do not want this school approved to be here in Rutherford County. Not only are they not going to help with the issue of over crowding by offering space for 340 students (miniscule amount when looking at the issue) but they are going to eat into the budget of our Publix schools when they are not truly a public school and take resources away from our public schools who need them. Please really look at how useless this will be, I don't kind choices but I don't think that tax money support for public schools should go to a private school in disguise as a fake public school. Especially after the mess that their affiliates at Hillsdale made with comments undermining our great teachers!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 4:19 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 108.214.161.68
Unique ID: 1009704175
Location: 37.0368, -88.5934

Name Jill Perryman

Email jill.perryman@gmail.com

Phone (615) 427-3446

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

To whom it may concern,
I am writing to express my opposition to the appeal made by American Classical Academy to open a charter school in Rutherford county. As an RCS parent, I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the ACA's application.
Part of ACA's rationale for coming to Rutherford County includes their opinion that parents want access to "schools that match their philosophical views and want students to be engaged in values or character-based instruction". If you walk through any school in Rutherford county you can clearly see that both values and character are fundamental to the RCS educational approach. RCS is already aligned with the TDOE mission to "exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark upon their chosen path in life." So, this really begs the question: Exactly whose moral and philosophical views does ACA align with, and which RCS/TDOE values and views contradict them?
It's very clear in the charter application that American Classical Academy intends to target a specific philosophical belief system. Given this, it's extremely concerning that the academy has deep ties with Hillsdale College. Hillsdale's Code of Commitment states "The teaching of Christian faith shall remain a conspicuous aim of the College." This, by its very nature, undermines the mission of educating ALL students - regardless of their philosophical or personal belief systems. Using public funding to advance a specific, religiously driven philosophy also violates the Establishment Clause as written by our Founding Fathers.
Please vote no.
Thank you,
Jill Perryman

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 4:27 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 104.0.5112.97 / Android
IP Address: 208.86.69.240
Unique ID: 1009708121
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Elizabeth Vollbrecht-Srodka

Email lizsrodka@gmail.com

Phone (215) 534-5860

Organization N/a

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below American Classical Academy Rutherford has not demonstrated how they will meet the needs of the most vulnerable students. Today at the appeal meeting they seemed to tip toe around the questions refusing to actually answer. This is a distraction and takes away time that could be going towards the students of Rutherford county. Say NO to American Classical Academy Rutherford.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 4:35 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 103.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 172.58.147.201
Unique ID: 1009712015
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name jeff hutchison

Email jeffhutchison8@aol.com

Phone (615) 893-2776

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am a taxpayer and have a child in the Rutherford County school system. I do not think a religious cult should be in the business of teaching our public school children. they will indoctrinate them with their far right religious beliefs system. There leader disrespected hard working American school teacher recently. My mother was a teacher in Rutherford County for years. I do not think these crony capitalist should have access to taxpayer money. These charter school pick their students and kick out students who give them trouble. We should be funding our public schools and not diverting its funding to crony capitalist. We dont need this school here.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 6:07 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 24.11.208.9
Unique ID: 1009752883
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name Tammy Brown

Email todonnell09@gmail.com

Phone (615) 417-4724

Organization RuCo parent and community member

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

As a community member and parent I do NOT support public education dollars being awarded/spent in private charter schools. Charter schools do not serve the best interests of the community as a whole, they do not offer and are not prepared to offer the diversity, equity and inclusion of ALL that our community seeks and deserves. Our public dollars should be invested in our public community schools and educators. Please do not allow charter schools and vouchers into our system, instead please choose to invest in our public schools, ALL of our community children and our educators.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 6:32 pm
Browser: Firefox 104.0 / Windows 8.1
IP Address: 172.58.146.155
Unique ID: 1009761090
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name Daniel Young

Email deyyoung@gmail.com

Phone (615) 867-8324

Organization Local Murfreesboro Resident

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

The Rutherford County School officials reviewed the American Classical Academy charter school application and rejected the proposal. This was a completely fair process and focused on the community's best interests. Their decision was correct and must be left standing in order to accurately represent the will of Rutherford County residents. I do not believe the Charter Commission has any valid reason for overturning this decision of locally elected officials in Rutherford County.

Furthermore, as a parent of three, I would never send my children to any American Classical Academy charter school. I do not believe the American Classical Academy has the best interests of Rutherford County's children in mind.

Rutherford County Schools are top ranked at the elementary, middle, and high-school levels; moreover, our public school teachers are intelligent, well-educated, and well-trained. They have the best interests of Rutherford County's children in mind. I am proud to be a product of Rutherford County Schools and a parent of three Rutherford County School students.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 6:42 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 45.18.163.153
Unique ID: 1009764361
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Donna Seely

Email jfdaseely@gmail.com

Phone (931) 247-3086

Organization Citizen

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Our children's education should not be bought by Christian based curriculum charter schools, especially when local citizens don't want charter schools.. There is/should be separation between church and state. Our founding fathers felt strongly about this. Secular public education has helped the USA invent and lead the world in innovation throughout the industrial revolution and through the 20th century. If parents want a Christian based curriculum, they should send their children to private schools. Taxpayers should not have to pay for a Christian nationalist agenda. Society needs kids who are freethinkers and able to function in a diverse society.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 7:15 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 76.22.200.241
Unique ID: 1009774377
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name Poliala Dickson

Email polidickson54@gmail.com

Phone (615) 785-9679

Organization Tennessee State University

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I fully support our public school system and strongly reject any attempts to divert public funds to charter schools that do not have the same responsibilities to educate all of our children. Democracy is built on equal access to education for all people. We cannot further weaken our public schools and expect our country to continue as a constitutional republic. Our country is stronger and better with equal access for all to well funded PUBLIC schools. The contamination of public education by charter schools will do immense damage to our society.

I am researching the Charter Appeal Committee to uphold Rutherford County School Boards decision to deny the American Classical Academy's charter school application.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 7:26 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 99.175.231.84
Unique ID: 1009777577
Location: 35.9306, -86.8788

Name	William Berger
Email	will_berger@bellsouth.net
Phone	(615) 828-3108
Organization	Williamson County Schools
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	We need to continue to support our excellent public schools. They are accountable through elected school boards. Do not open this door to sectarian schools by supporting them with public tax dollars, which is exactly what this is. Tell them "no."

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 7:39 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 174.212.166.117
Unique ID: 1009781310
Location: 36.1876, -86.6119

Name	Amy E Eskew
Email	amy.eskew@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 219-9388
Organization	None
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	Charter schools simply do not work and have no place in Middle Tennessee AT ALL. The answer is not to hand public money into private hands, but to improve and fund existing schools. Don;t be part of destroying something that is a public good.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 9:10 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 64.252.61.46
Unique ID: 1009805007
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name	Sarah Saysoukha
Email	sarah.saysoukha@centerstone.org
Phone	(270) 875-8424
Organization	SafeRCS
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

To whom it may concern,

As a citizen of Rutherford County I am writing to express my agreement with the RCS Board's decision to deny the charter application for American Classical Academy. I have significant concerns about both the content and efficacy of the curriculum that ACA intends to use.

The American Classical Academy's charter application cites the fact that the "academic model and curriculum that will be implemented at ACAR is currently in use in over twenty classical public schools across the country". While ACA indicates use of the Core Knowledge model, for which studies show mixed outcomes, it also indicates that this model has evolved significantly over the years using feedback from the Hillsdale affiliated charter network. So we truly don't have any neutral studies we can use as reference for the efficacy of their curricular model.

The application continues to list several schools with widely varying demographics and states that "all of these environments and school populations have experienced success with this curriculum". Despite providing a significant sampling of different populations utilizing the model the academy fails to indicate how exactly it quantifies "success" in these schools. No data or measurable outcomes for any student populations were provided by ACA in support of this assertion.

I also find it extremely concerning that ACA intends to use the 1776 Curriculum - a comically short curriculum meant to teach students "a more patriotic approach to American history." In reality this curriculum is a highly controversial set of materials intended to teach the history of our nation through the lense of Christian white nationalism. Some common criticisms of this curriculum include its discussion of the Civil Rights movement, the discovery of America (which they attribute to Christopher Columbus) and its conversation on how identity politics serves to further divide "Americans by placing them perpetually in conflict with each other."

When discussing the Civil Rights movement, the curriculum asserts that Martin Luther King urged Americans to be color-blind. This is a complete bastardization of MLK's life's work; he did not suggest folks should be color blind but color kind. Colorblindness is not a solution to righting past wrongs. The fixers must be aware of the need to rectify historical injustices, especially in education. Color kind requires that teachers not only see race, but work actively to create conditions to ensure the success of all students. ACA would rather students be uninformed.

The 1776 curriculum teaches children in the first grade that Christopher Columbus discovered North America! Columbus never stepped foot in North America. There is no discussion of the Vikings who discovered North America 500 years before Columbus or the indigenous people who inhabited this land 15,000 years ago. The indigenous people are described as immigrants.

As if to say that the land they settled 20,000 years ago was not actually theirs. This is just another example of ACA's revisionist history.

Finally, the 1776 curriculum relates "identity politics" as groups seeking "preferential treatment contrary to MLK's dream of color-blind civil rights." If education is a "weapon" as Larry Arnn has stated then the 1776 curriculum is a cap gun. It looks like a history curriculum but doesn't pass

as a true education. The American Historical Association penned a statement (co-signed by 33 other historical societies) indicating that the report was completed "without any consultation with professional historians of the United States." On Jan 19, 2021, the Association of University Presses released the following statement: "While we leave it to historians to offer a detailed rebuttal of the document's inaccuracies - if any should choose to do so - we note that it is plagued by procedural deficiencies that would render it unpublishable as a serious work of scholarship."

Please vote no!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 9:11 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 64.252.61.46
Unique ID: 1009805390
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Sarah Saysoukha

Email sarah.saysoukha@centerstone.org

Phone (270) 875-8424

Organization SafeRCS

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

As the parent of a student in the Rutherford County School District, I am writing to oppose the appeal made by American Classical Academy. I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the charter application.

ACA's charter application acknowledges the challenges our county faces in supporting disadvantaged learners. Though it highlights these known learning needs and suggests that the ACA learning model "may meet the needs of disadvantaged learners", it fails to adequately indicate how the school will engage and educate these vulnerable students. One of the primary concerns raised by the RCS review board was the lack of detail in special education identification and services - as well as the lack of a sustainable RTI2 plan to provide for individual student needs. ACA has yet to address those concerns.

The academy also emphasizes its use of Hillsdale's "K-12 Program Guide: An American Classical Education" which is built around several academic programs, including the "Core Knowledge Sequence". The Core Knowledge model has been criticized for its rigidity and failing to take children's unique learning styles into consideration. A study performed in New York Schools, indicated "no significant differences in the achievement gap of the advantaged and disadvantaged students when comparing the reading achievement scores of the... students who were taught the Core Knowledge curriculum and... students who were not."

Given that ACA failed to elaborate on its plans to engage special education students - and we don't have details on how the Core Knowledge model was adapted by Hillsdale - we can only hope that it at least lives up to the New York performance level.

The mission of Rutherford County schools says in part, "We believe: All students should be empowered to reach their fullest potential." Our students deserve schools that strive to educate everyone.

Please vote no.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 9:13 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 64.252.61.46
Unique ID: 1009805721
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Sarah Saysoukha

Email sarah.saysoukha@centerstone.org

Phone (270) 875-8424

Organization SafeRCS

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the appeal made by American Classical Academy to open a charter school in Rutherford county. As an RCS parent, I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the ACA's application.

Part of ACA's rationale for coming to Rutherford County includes their opinion that parents want access to "schools that match their philosophical views and want students to be engaged in values or character-based instruction". If you walk through any school in Rutherford county you can clearly see that both values and character are fundamental to the RCS educational approach. RCS is already aligned with the TDOE mission to "exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark upon their chosen path in life." So, this really begs the question: Exactly whose moral and philosophical views does ACA align with, and which RCS/TDOE values and views contradict them?

It's very clear in the charter application that American Classical Academy intends to target a specific philosophical belief system. Given this, it's extremely concerning that the academy has deep ties with Hillsdale College. Hillsdale's Code of Commitment states "The teaching of Christian faith shall remain a conspicuous aim of the College." This, by its very nature, undermines the mission of educating ALL students - regardless of their philosophical or personal belief systems. Using public funding to advance a specific, religiously driven philosophy also violates the Establishment Clause as written by our Founding Fathers.

Please vote no.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 9:14 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 76.22.200.241
Unique ID: 1009806027
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name	Chris Dickson
Email	dickson185@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 809-9035
Organization	Parent
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the appeal made by American Classical Academy to open a charter school in Rutherford county. As an RCS parent, I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the ACA's application.

Part of ACA's rationale for coming to Rutherford County includes their opinion that parents want access to "schools that match their philosophical views and want students to be engaged in values or character-based instruction". If you walk through any school in Rutherford county you can clearly see that both values and character are fundamental to the RCS educational approach. RCS is already aligned with the TDOE mission to "exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark upon their chosen path in life." So, this really begs the question: Exactly whose moral and philosophical views does ACA align with, and which RCS/TDOE values and views contradict them?

It's very clear in the charter application that American Classical Academy intends to target a specific philosophical belief system. Given this, it's extremely concerning that the academy has deep ties with Hillsdale College. Hillsdale's Code of Commitment states "The teaching of Christian faith shall remain a conspicuous aim of the College." This, by its very nature, undermines the mission of educating ALL students - regardless of their philosophical or personal belief systems. Using public funding to advance a specific, religiously driven philosophy also violates the Establishment Clause as written by our Founding Fathers.

Please vote no.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 9:33 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 69.131.216.174
Unique ID: 1009810833
Location: 35.8585, -84.1206

Name	Horace Wayne Holman
Email	wayneholman@gmail.com
Phone	(865) 348-1591
Organization	None retired old man
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	Bill Lee is trying to implement changes to Tennessee education system. He cares nothing for children or education he just trying to do what Donald Trump and the Republican Party wants. Hillsdale Schools are corrupt and should never be considered for Tennessee or any other states. You have to understand what Hillsdale Schools stand for then you will see the corruption for your self. Say no to Hillsdale and say no to Bill Lee. Consider the children because they are who matter.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 9:34 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.5 / iOS
IP Address: 69.150.96.250
Unique ID: 1009811054
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Amanda Dunning

Email dunningamandag@hotmail.com

Phone (615) 828-3397

Organization Rutherford County Schools and as a parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Rutherford County Schools doesn't require a charter school as students receive instruction in some of the top performing schools in the state. Rutherford County public schools out performs nearly every county in the state in achievement year after year. Instead of funding charter schools with state allocated funds, give Rutherford County Public Schools the money and resources to fully stock and support the existing classrooms and schools along with lowering class sizes by hiring more highly trained and educated teachers.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 9:36 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 64.252.61.46
Unique ID: 1009811536
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Sarah Saysoukha

Email sarah.saysoukha@centerstone.org

Phone (270) 875-8424

Organization Saysoukha family of Murfreesboro

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Dear Charter Commission,

Please vote no to American Classical Academy. Our school board took a hard look at their application and amended application. They found deficiencies that ACA still hasn't answered for. On top of not answering any of the commission's question they were rude to the executive director when she tried to clarify herself. These are not the actions of an organization that I would want teaching our children. If you check their website it says they are building a school here, without school board approval, they are stating it as if it is fact. They are trying to walk into our county like they own it, like they own us. We cannot be bought and we cannot be taken by mutiny. Please vote no to ACA.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 14, 2022 10:55 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 73.59.137.97
Unique ID: 1009830185
Location: 35.16, -89.7768

Name	Lillian Hodges
Email	lihodges@memphis.edu
Phone	(901) 336-4116
Organization	Global Leadership, Inc.
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	<p>How can we open an American Classical Academy in Shelby County (Memphis)? Their curriculum is desperately needed in our area.</p> <p>Our children need help.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lillian I. Hodges 901-336-4116</p>

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 8:27 am
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.0 / iOS
IP Address: 96.61.173.225
Unique ID: 1009938203
Location: 36.0164, -86.5615

Name	Leora Woodrow
Email	leora.darrah@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 691-3517
Organization	Myself
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	I write to voice My concern and say I dissent in the matter of using public or taxpayer money in any way to fund charter schools that white-wash history, exclude LGBTQ+ folk, support book banning.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 8:36 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.29.124
Unique ID: 1009941228
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Sarah Esberger

Email sarahesberger75@gmail.com

Phone (615) 268-7011

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below I am both a teacher and a parent in Rutherford County.

I do not want my tax dollars going to support a charter school that has not proven in any way the validity of its program. Its curriculum has made national headlines for distorting history. It has received poor scores for helping children with disabilities and low incomes. I personally have a disabled child, and I do not feel like he would be well-served or even welcome at ACAR.

This charter has ignored the will of the people in Rutherford County. If they really want to be here, they can open a private school, and parents can choose to send their children there. Placing them as a tax burden on the citizens of this county against their will is government overreach.

If this charter is approved, we know who to blame. It will be clear that Governor Lee and his commission have ignored the will of the people to help their own rich friends.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 8:58 am
Browser: Safari 15.6 / OS X
IP Address: 76.22.177.102
Unique ID: 1009948710
Location: 35.638, -86.3955

Name Rebecca Hunsicker

Email becalynn80@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 275-8197

Organization None

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

As a parent of two current Rutherford County School students, a parent of a graduate of RCS, a graduate of RCS system myself, and a Rutherford County resident I urge you to uphold the decision made by the Rutherford County School Board to deny ACAR to operate in our county. ACAR and what they offer is not representative of our community nor have they been able to prove any benefits that they can provide for our community. NO to ACAR.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 9:38 am
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 107.119.69.61
Unique ID: 1009964291
Location: 35.2296, -80.843

Name	Monica Munoz
Email	monicamunoz90@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 556-2495
Organization	none
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	NO TO ACAR I'm an RCS alumni, and my future children will be going into RCS the school system.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 9:51 am
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.79 / Android
IP Address: 208.86.69.240
Unique ID: 1009969947
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name	Charles Srodka
Email	chuck.srodka@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 480-4408
Organization	None
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

As the parent of a student in the Rutherford County School District, I am writing to oppose the appeal made by American Classical Academy. I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the charter application.

ACA's charter application acknowledges the challenges our county faces in supporting disadvantaged learners. Though it highlights these known learning needs and suggests that the ACA learning model "may meet the needs of disadvantaged learners", it fails to adequately indicate how the school will engage and educate these vulnerable students. One of the primary concerns raised by the RCS review board was the lack of detail in special education identification and services - as well as the lack of a sustainable RTI2 plan to provide for individual student needs. ACA has yet to address those concerns.

The academy also emphasizes its use of Hillsdale's "K-12 Program Guide: An American Classical Education" which is built around several academic programs, including the "Core Knowledge Sequence". The Core Knowledge model has been criticized for its rigidity and failing to take children's unique learning styles into consideration. A study performed in New York Schools, indicated "no significant differences in the achievement gap of the advantaged and disadvantaged students when comparing the reading achievement scores of the... students who were taught the Core Knowledge curriculum and... students who were not."

Given that ACA failed to elaborate on its plans to engage special education students - and we don't have details on how the Core Knowledge model was adapted by Hillsdale - we can only hope that it at least lives up to the New York performance level.

The mission of Rutherford County schools says in part, "We believe: All students should be empowered to reach their fullest potential." Our students deserve schools that strive to educate everyone.

Please vote no.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 9:53 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 76.114.91.127
Unique ID: 1009970984
Location: 36.3066, -86.6101

Name	Alan Sellers
Email	br549das@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 895-4687
Organization	none
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	The American Classical Academy Rutherford did not even show up for the Rutherford County School Board meeting when they were on the agenda to be considered for the Charter school. Bill Lee is trying to ram this "religious" school down our throats. Don't waste our taxpayers money on this "program". Thank you.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 11:07 am
Browser: Mobile Firefox 104.0 / Android
IP Address: 209.107.190.77
Unique ID: 1010005947
Location: 40.7252, -73.944

Name	Kelly Jenkins
Email	nursejenkins@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 971-9696
Organization	None
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the appeal made by American Classical Academy to open a charter school in Rutherford county. As an RCS parent, I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the ACA's application.

Part of ACA's rationale for coming to Rutherford County includes their opinion that parents want access to "schools that match their philosophical views and want students to be engaged in values or character-based instruction". If you walk through any school in Rutherford county you can clearly see that both values and character are fundamental to the RCS educational approach. RCS is already aligned with the TDOE mission to "exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark upon their chosen path in life." So, this really begs the question: Exactly whose moral and philosophical views does ACA align with, and which RCS/TDOE values and views contradict them?

It's very clear in the charter application that American Classical Academy intends to target a specific philosophical belief system. Given this, it's extremely concerning that the academy has deep ties with Hillsdale College. Hillsdale's Code of Commitment states "The teaching of Christian faith shall remain a conspicuous aim of the College." This, by its very nature, undermines the mission of educating ALL students - regardless of their philosophical or personal belief systems. Using public funding to advance a specific, religiously driven philosophy also violates the Establishment Clause as written by our Founding Fathers.

Please vote no.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 11:08 am
Browser: Chrome Mobile 104.0.5112.97 / Android
IP Address: 172.56.21.201
Unique ID: 1010006607
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Wanda Ogletree
Email	wogletree@comcast.net
Phone	(615) 907-5775
Organization	None
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	Failure to fully fund public schools and support our teachers is a shameful policy by Gov. Lee and the GOP controlled legislature. Pushing viuchers and the Hillsdale takeover of RuCo education system will do nothing but continue to damage our children.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 1:22 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address: 76.122.199.104
Unique ID: 1010073114
Location: 36.1093, -86.8653

Name Maurie Ponder

Email marzirelli@aol.com

Phone (615) 351-6838

Organization I'm not with an organization but I'm a Tennessee educator

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Our kids do not need to be political pawns. Children in TN shouldn't be taught using the "woke" 1619 Project curriculum, but the 1776 curriculum is just as biased in the other direction. The right says they don't want our kids to be indoctrinated by woke educators, so now we are going to have our kids indoctrinated by a Christian college in Michigan that has nothing to do with Tennessee?

I don't want my children indoctrinated in ANY way, by liberals OR by conservatives! This politicization is transparent and disgusting. I want my children to learn the good of this country and the bad of this country. The TRUTH of this country. Regular old history like I learned when I was in school, not politicians pandering to their base and trapping innocent schoolchildren in the middle.

Also, WHAT IS THE POINT of having a local school board if an unelected state commission can just overrule them? Rutherford County's board voted against Hillsdale 6-1. Why isn't it over? A local school board is more in touch with their community's needs than a state commission that has no accountability to the public. This is all wrong and a power grab.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 2:55 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 70.231.118.30
Unique ID: 1010128757
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name	Frank Carter
Email	armstronging@att.net
Phone	(615) 556-2105
Organization	none
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other

Please provide your written comments below

The appeal process for Hillsdale's American Classical Academy is concerning on multiple levels.

As you know, Rutherford County School Board recently approved one charter school, but rejected American Classical Academy 6-1. And that was prior to disparaging remarks about teachers by Hillsdale's President.

The appeal is to a state commission comprised of 10 appointees of Gov Lee, an outspoken supporter of Hillsdale. Then Hillsdale proponents garnered all of the public speaking spots at the hearing.

These events give the appearance of a "rigged" system overriding local elected officials and public opinion.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 3:01 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 209.107.183.5
Unique ID: 1010131650
Location: 40.6446, -73.9743

Name	Brian Jenkins
Email	brikelj@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 904-5116
Organization	NA
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	I believe RCS board made the correct decision by denying the application for charter by ACA. I do not believe it is fair or ethical to redistribute tax dollars from my children's county school to this or other charter schools that do not meet the proper criteria and are intentionally trying to circumvent the system currently in place.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 4:21 pm
Browser: Chrome 103.0.0.0 / Chrome OS
IP Address: 99.0.39.153
Unique ID: 1010169703
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name	Zaraelia McCullough
Email	zarydlfm35@gmail.com
Phone	(956) 334-4711
Organization	Mom of Rutherford County
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

In a recent conversation my friend said to me "I never want to be so convinced of what I know that I lose the ability to be objective." Staci is a friend with whom I share almost no political ideals with, and yet our friendship has survived almost two decades. I believe we find ourselves in conflict over ACAR because each side is fervently convinced of what they know, and we cannot find a way forward. It is a story that is being repeated and played out all across our nation. The other side must not win at any cost. The tragedy being that after all is said and done and all the rhetoric is exhausted and played out, our kids are still left without the opportunity to attend a good school.

Dear Left, ACAR has the potential to be a really good school. Their curriculum is proven to be effective at raising reading proficiency amongs diverse populations up to the 80th percentile of its students. It's pretty remarkable.

Dear Left, our public schools cannot make the same claim. We looked. There were plenty of articles that described RCS as the "best district in Tennessee", "5/5 scores" all around, performing above the state average. The truth is that "best" is used to describe, depending on school and excluding the Magnet schools, a 50 percent Reading proficiency. This was the highest number we found. The lowest was 43. To be fair, this reading literacy phenomena is not exclusive to Tennessee. It is a problem for our country. The irony is that most of us won't even consider a product on Amazon with less than 5 stars, but a 50 percent reading proficiency seems to be celebrated.

Dear Left, you'll also be happy to know that a Christian worldview was nowhere to be found in the Classical Education model. We looked. Their material is available online for all to see. Reading proficiency is high in ACAR's model because of the emphasis on History and Science. This, according to researcher Jill Barshay, provides kids with context and allows them to grow in comprehension as opposed to current models public schools use that emphasize simpler phonics. If we are all honest and objective about ACAR, it deserves a chance to stand on its own merits.

Dear Right, specifically conservative Christian Right, why do we keep looking for the world to solve a problem God meant His Church to fight? Even a loose affiliation Hillsdale may be enough to garner a vote against ACAR that's true. But, as the saying goes, "we may lose this battle but we cannot lose sight of the war". A 50 percent reading proficiency in our public schools means that our churches are filled with children that are struggling to read and learn and

grow in their schools. If we're honest with ourselves, we'd realize that maybe we need to attend a few less Bible studies about faith in theory. And, it's time we start making sure that teaching our children about God includes ensuring they're even capable of understanding His written word. After all, maybe we can't do much about the Word falling on deaf ears, but we can certainly do something to ensure it doesn't fall on barely literate ears.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 6:13 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 99.147.100.244
Unique ID: 1010243877
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name	Carolyn Cox
Email	cdc4c@att.net
Phone	(615) 969-5994
Organization	Fedex
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	No to the Hillside Chartering in our County. Increase funding for public schools

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 15, 2022 6:57 pm
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 199.187.203.51
Unique ID: 1010258369
Location: 36.2178, -85.5423

Name	Barbara Allen
Email	barblee60073@yahoo.com
Phone	(865) 679-6834
Organization	personal
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	ACA is a great system that has an affordable plan to get results - that is the goal.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 16, 2022 10:06 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 96.4.9.100
Unique ID: 1010487152
Location: 36.1579, -86.8608

Name Edward Morgan

Email claymorgan001@gmail.com

Phone (615) 670-6989

Organization Tax paying homeowner in Rutherford County

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below The Rutherford County Board of Education, the locally elected school board, overwhelmingly rejected the application of American Classical Academy Rutherford.

This should be the end of the conversation.

Hillsdale has made its opinion of public schools clear. Public funds should not support privately run schools. Their rejection by the RuCo board of education was for being academically deficient.

Deny their appeal.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 16, 2022 11:12 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address: 75.100.238.252
Unique ID: 1010519621
Location: 36.0164, -86.5615

Name	Hope Oliver
Email	holiver.edu@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 631-6007
Organization	Rutherford County Citizen, Parent, Educator, Business Owner, County Commissioner
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Good Morning Commissioners,

My husband, Kevin, and I are public school graduates. Our 4 children are graduates of Rutherford County Schools. In fact, this is why we chose Rutherford County to raise our family. Rutherford County Public Schools are premier options for Rutherford County families. I firmly believe that public funds should support public schools, not private charter schools that do not have the best interest of the students and families in mind.

American Classical Academy does not have the support that their inflated numbers suggest, considering they did not survey Rutherford County citizens exclusively and submitted skewed data. This should be a violation. Additionally, only allowing public comment from their supporters is suspicious as well as the arrogant behavior of their Hearing representatives, their refusal to answer questions, and their lack of transparency. American Classical Academy claims to be the answer to school overcrowding in Rutherford County and yet their enrollment will be minimal and their proposed location/s will not solve this issue.

Hillsdale is merely taking public money to privatize and segregate schools. They have no interest in diversity, equity, or inclusion as evidenced by their lack of curriculum planning for special needs populations. Their president, Larry Arn, doesn't even support education based on his public comments about teachers. Considering he claims to be an educator, what is he saying about himself. Nonetheless, Larry Arn and Hillsdale just see Charter Schools as a cash cow to serve their own greed. American Classical Academy has not met the standards that you, the Commission, has set forth. Approval would substantiate the premise that the Commission and the hearings are merely a farce led by Governor Bill Lee and his special interests.

Commissioners, American Classical Academy is not the answer for Rutherford County.

Thank you.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 16, 2022 2:03 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 76.122.195.237
Unique ID: 1010601859
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name Victoria Patrick

Email victoriapattick2003@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 890-3630

Organization Myself

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

American Classical Academy addresses a need here in Rutherford county. We have a need for additional educational options. Our public schools are at capacity and private schools are full and increasing tuition because of demand. A strong education is the key to a strong community and as our community grows we need to offer multiple educational opportunities. School is not a one size fits all. I feel public schools can't handle all the students needs, there are too many students; I also feel that options are the parents choice. Give them the choice. Rutherford county schools should be an example of community not the epitome of a school board wanting to hold all control. American Classical Academy gives Rutherford county school board the opportunity to lead by example. An example of a strong community lead by a school board who is trying to meet the needs of students.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 16, 2022 3:05 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address: 68.47.203.68
Unique ID: 1010627814
Location: 36.0164, -86.5615

Name LeeAnne Carmack

Email Jlcarmack@gmail.com

Phone (615) 210-2580

Organization Individual

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I cannot believe the absurdity of this process. A local school board rejects a charter application, the applicant appeals to a newly created charter school commission which is hand-appointed by Governor Bill Lee, who is in love with Hillsdale's whitewashing of American History.

This process is a complete sham. Public school funds should NOT GO to private schools who have no accountability.

Absolutely, this is a heist in broad daylight.

No to Hillsdale, No to Larry Arne, No to robbing public education.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 16, 2022 4:49 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 161.45.139.11
Unique ID: 1010670785
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Elisha Lawrence

Email elisha.lawrence@borocitychurch.com

Phone (870) 897-4845

Organization Middle Tennessee State University

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

I find it quite frustrating that after RCS officials denied the application of ACA, a state-appointed commission has the power to overturn that decision. If Governor Lee actually wants to stay true to his word, then he will let the local officials make this decision. We elected the school board to represent us and it is frustrating to see their decision ignored. I am not associated with either political party and my opinion on charter schools varies depending on the school. Personally, I do not feel that American Classical Academy should be an option in Rutherford County because of their take on American exceptionalism and the fact that our RCS officials voted 6-1 to reject their charter. I went to Christian schools with history books that only told part of the story and it breaks my heart that this material is presented as the entire story. We can do better and while our current schools are not perfect in any way, I feel that setting this precedent of ignoring the voice of the county officials and the people who represented them is shameful. I would like to see the Governor and the state-appointed commission make a decision honoring the will of the people in our county and respectfully deny American Classical Academy's application to be a charter school in Rutherford County. Thank you.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 16, 2022 6:34 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 76.22.176.68
Unique ID: 1010707171
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name	Skylar Bartlett
Email	kbartlett7227@gmail.com
Phone	(270) 564-8507
Organization	N/A
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other

Please provide your written comments below

To whom it may concern:

My name is Skylar Bartlett, and I am the parent of a prospective student of Rutherford county. More importantly, however, I am a strong follower of ethics and pay close attention to the consequences of the proper use or abuse thereof.

I have always excelled in school, retaining honors and distinctions throughout my academic career from 1998-2016. I only mention this to stress how important a quality and diverse education is to me. I spent the entirety of my life devoted to taking in different perspectives and contemplating all things that harmed or benefitted people and society. I have prioritized the pursuit of knowledge over my own comfort and beliefs and have changed my beliefs and actions accordingly any time they may have contradicted.

True knowledge leads to personal growth, even if it requires uncomfortable self-reflection. It grows less uncomfortable the less one makes their beliefs their identity and prioritizes their own growth instead. I, as well as everyone else, am a servant of society, and therefore, it is my duty to always aim for what is just through the use of knowledge.

True, unbiased education is all about the benefit of society and people, as only true knowledge can aid us in living happy and quality lives. In fact, studies have shown that people who know more - like those who are multilingual as opposed to monolingual, for instance - are kinder and happier people. Anyone can agree that kindness and happiness are cornerstones of a good society that benefits all.

I have studied a large manner of things, including sciences, ethics, statistics, psychology, arts, languages, culture, and so on. I have extensive knowledge in many things from a multitude of both classes and experiences that I pride in having shaped me into the well-rounded individual that I am today, focused on the equity of all and the advancement of society.

As we are all aware, the American Classical Education organization, under Hillsdale College, is attempting to establish charter schools across the country, including fifty in Tennessee, starting with Rutherford county. This is very alarming and concerning for many, many reasons, and I would greatly appreciate it if you would actually take them into consideration as I explain them here.

Hearing that an organization was pushing so hard to set up charter schools in the area raised the question, who are these people, and what is their goal? Hillsdale College is a small conservative Christian college that has stated that they want to bring their "approach" to civics education to Tennessee, including the 1776 curriculum that glorifies the founding fathers and downplays America's role in slavery.

In fact, Phillip Schwenk, the founding principle of a "classical" school in Ohio speaking on behalf of American Classical said, "What we're trying to put together is a school that trains in virtue, resulting in high academic achievement, and the sound moral formation required for responsible citizenship."

This raises several red flags, and here's why. One, we are creatures constantly learning more and more about our universe and ourselves. Sentience does not equate to intelligence or wisdom, but the ability to attain them. So how could that be done if we erased nearly 250 years of intellectual progress to focus on an extremely outdated, highly biased curriculum?

Many things have been found to be wrong over time. A small example is the subject of blobfish. At one point, we had only ever seen specimens caught by fishermen. Therefore, we were under the impression that blobfish looked the way we saw them, in their natural habitat, and we assumed their behaviorisms were reflective of that.

However, with time, we learned that they are not, in fact, so blob-like when alive. They basically explode as they are brought from the deep up to the surface thanks to the rapid change in pressure. They look quite different when alive in their natural habitat. So for anyone studying blobfish now, do we go with the "classical" information that we once believed, or the modern, more accurate information? If anyone has the belief that we should stay with the former, then that can have dire consequences on society.

Another example is how it was once thought that women were less intelligent than men because their skulls were smaller. With time, we have learned that brain circumference is far less important than brain surface area or, more accurately, the number of neurons. Thanks to the multitude of wrinkles the human brain possesses, such a trivial thing as an inch or two average circumferential difference is negligible. In fact, studies show that time and time again, women outperform men in academic fields.

Of course, let's remember that correlation does not equal causation. If that were the case, it could be inferred that ice cream causes people to become homicidal, as both ice cream sales and murders increase significantly in warmer weather. Only a fool would believe the two were directly related instead of both being caused by another factor, such as hot temperatures, right?

Women continuously outperform men in academic fields not because they are inherently smarter, but because they have to work significantly harder to prove their worth thanks to such outdated ideas. Men could excel just as hard if they had higher expectations applied to them as well, of course.

Another concern is the continued use of the word "classical." What do they

mean by that? Well, based on what I have brought up, it's clear they mean old and outdated. Again, if we were to focus on outdated information to learn, would we truly be able to consider ourselves intelligent life? We wouldn't know about things like electricity, germs, DNA, modern medicine, and on and on. Our world would be very different and, though this need not be said, many would not be alive or would be living very poor lives - more so than today, anyway. Society would not advance, but remain still or even regress.

What kind of people would ever want to teach outdated information that could have such dire consequences on society? Well, white people who revel in the superiority such unintelligence allows; Nationalists, who strongly oppose any free thought and fall on the ideology that only blind obedience is good and loyal; and extreme Christians, who benefit from society remaining in the belief that their way is the One and Only way. Hillsdale schools happen to lean into all of these, and their teachings and curriculum reflect as much.

Let's not forget that anyone who has ever tried to erase or rewrite history was never remembered as the good guy. Take Nazi Germany as an example. The erasure of knowledge they committed is still felt today, including the history and medical information of POC, transgender, intersex, and non-heterosexual individuals, and countless other minorities. Never, not once, has the erasure of knowledge offered any good to the advancement of society, or to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that the US so proudly claims as its ideals and innate rights of its citizens.

Republican Governor Bill Lee appointed all nine members of the board involved in attempting to spread these charter schools to Tennessee, the same governor who lobbied for and partners with Hillsdale College. Note that the Republican party is heavily associated with and is mostly composed of the very same white, Christian Nationalists, as can be noted in as recent as the overturning of *Roe v Wade* and current attempts at overturning other amendments protecting human life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. Lee invited Hillsdale President Larry Arnn to bring the model of Hillsdale College to Tennessee.

Arnn is well-known for mocking modern teachers. In fact, he was secretly recorded as saying teachers are "trained in the dumbest parts of the dumbest colleges in the country." This is an extremely broad and unprofessional claim that mirrors his disinterest and dismissal of anything that contradicts his own beliefs and principles, even if that is unbiased knowledge. This mindset and demonization of unbiased knowledge are widespread, successful efforts of people trying to indoctrinate as opposed to educate.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Governor Lee refuses to repudiate Arnn's words.

Going back to what Phillip Schwenk said about American Classical's goal of establishing a school that trains in virtue, virtue is not something that can

be taught, let alone trained. True virtue comes from laying out all unbiased, unedited information for those to see and allowing them to take it all in and determine for themselves what is best for themselves and society as a whole. How could they possibly "train" virtues into young children if they are teaching edited history and highly biased beliefs? It's simple, they can't, and they have no real interest in doing so.

The proposed school has no plans for accommodations for students, like those with disabilities. As Caitlin Bullard, the district's school choice coordinator, said, "A school that is not prepared to serve special populations is not prepared to serve all learners." I believe this to be true as well, for if you have an interest in the bettering of society as a whole, as one should if they claim to value virtue and responsible citizenship, then they would eagerly serve society as a whole.

On a lesser note, in that statement I keep referring to, Schwenk stressed that their "training" in virtue would lead to high academic achievement. Pardon me for saying so, but I don't care at all about academic achievement. Academic achievement is subjective to the society, districts, schools, educators, and methods involved in teaching. If parents are only concerned about the academic achievements of their children, then their children are not their priority.

Sure, in an unbiased world, academic achievement would be reflective of knowledge gained, and every good parent should wish for their child to learn everything they possibly can, but these leaders have stressed time and time again that they do not care about true knowledge, as reflected by their erasure and rewriting of history and their glorification of outdated information. Being promised high academic achievements by people of such agendas sounds more like a bribe than a promise.

In appeals made by American Classical, they argued that the denials of their applications by school boards were "colored in politics," yet brazenly reframe their beliefs as what is true and just. So what exactly do they mean, then, by politics? If they think that a person's beliefs and values are politics, then how is it fair to not want said politics of opposing parties to be considered when their entire premise is "colored" in their politics? It's as if they're children throwing a tantrum that more than their perspective was considered when making a decision they didn't benefit from.

I have concerns about the bias of the court of appeals on the matter as well. In the most recent appeal hearing, which was held during school hours and, therefore, actual teachers could not even attend, there were fifteen speaking slots given on a first-come, first-served basis before the opposition of the appeal could even sign up. Therefore, the hearing was only representative of those in support of these charter schools, if they can be called such. Because of this, I fear all of what I'm writing to bring to light is just going to be disregarded. I beg of you to remain unbiased and keep the interest of the betterment of society in mind.

It is because of all of this that I, as well as many, believe that those attempting to establish these charter schools have absolutely no interest in education and only wish to indoctrinate future generations. It is my belief that this would greatly harm Tennessee, America, and the world at large if such schools were allowed to operate. Please do not appeal the denial for these charter schools. Thank you.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 16, 2022 11:59 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 108.88.16.82
Unique ID: 1010764276
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Lea Maitlen

Email lea.d.maitlen@gmail.com

Phone (615) 484-5323

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am an RCS parent who was in attendance at this week's meeting.

RCS did a masterful job of presenting their very valid reasons for denying ACAR's application. ACAR did not adequately address a single concern. ACAR's presentation was condescending to the Board and residents of the county. It was all fluff and no substance, and they didn't even bother appropriately addressing the questions posed by your committee.

Classical Education may or may not be a good way to educate our kids, but that is not what these hearings are about. This is about *this* charter school's ability to meet TN State standards. They can't. Please deny their appeal.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 17, 2022 9:02 am
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 23.117.26.9
Unique ID: 1010838260
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Antoinette Roche

Email rochea@rcschools.net

Phone (615) 481-1774

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below As a Rutherford County school teacher and as a parent of three children who attended RCS, I vehemently oppose allowing ACAR to operate as a public school, using public school funds.

It is clear from its mission that the school will be exclusive and only open to certain students who meet rigid religious guidelines and will not be open to all students, including students with disabilities, students who are transgendered or homosexual, students of faiths other than Christian, and many other types of students. At it's most fundamental level ACAR does not meet the value upheld in providing a free appropriate public education to ALL students!

I am not opposed to ACAR opening a private school in the community.

Thank you

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 17, 2022 10:24 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address: 71.128.160.193
Unique ID: 1010852023
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name	Sienna Holl
Email	sien.holl@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 516-7231
Organization	parent, teacher
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	Our school board has done their research and deemed American Classical Academy unfit to maintain educational standards of our level 5 school district. Do not overturn their carefully researched decision. Saying okay to this unqualified institution is opening a can of worms, because if you approve them, you'll have to approve any unfit applicant. Thank you.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 17, 2022 10:45 am
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 23.117.26.9
Unique ID: 1010856213
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Antoinette Roche

Email rochea@rcschools.net

Phone (615) 481-1774

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below As a Rutherford County school teacher and as a parent of three children who attended RCS, I vehemently oppose allowing ACAR to operate as a public school, using public school funds.

It is clear from its mission that the school will be exclusive and only open to certain students who meet rigid religious guidelines and will not be open to all students, including students with disabilities, students who are transgendered or homosexual, students of faiths other than Christian, and many other types of students. At its most fundamental level ACAR does not meet the value upheld in providing a free appropriate public education to ALL students!

I am not opposed to ACAR opening a private school in the community.

Thank you

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 17, 2022 2:30 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 68.53.103.106
Unique ID: 1010898250
Location: 36.0964, -86.8212

Name Heather Overholt

Email heathero22@outlook.com

Phone (616) 283-0399

Organization Massage Therapy

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below I think a charter school in Rutherford County area would be a nice addition to the education system here. With the overwhelming number of people moving here I think a charter school would be a nice alternative for parents who don't want to send their children to a already crowed public school .

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 17, 2022 5:26 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 204.29.15.250
Unique ID: 1010927314
Location: 36.0711, -86.7196

Name Harry Jones

Email ed321836@comcast.net

Phone (615) 305-0653

Organization Rutherford County resident

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

For years, Republicans have wanted to destroy public education. They are now closer to that goal than ever before. I've watched in horror as the right-wing evangelical cult slowly put into place their plan to turn the United States into a theocracy. They have done their job well. Due to the dumbing down of America, most middle and lower class Republicans lack the knowledge to see that they have fallen for the con. They've been led to believe that the poor and the ones who don't look or think like them are the enemy, while the oligarchs rob them blind. They've even been convinced that a well-documented grifter and conman, twice impeached and under investigation for treason, is their true savior. We may fail in our attempt to stop the GOP from erasing decades of civil rights progress, and perhaps America itself. But we won't fail quietly. #RoeveremberIsComing

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 17, 2022 8:51 pm
Browser: Chrome 103.0.0.0 / Chrome OS
IP Address: 70.231.118.30
Unique ID: 1010959863
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name	Kay Carter
Email	armstronging@att.net
Phone	(615) 337-1580
Organization	interested citizen
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	I don't like the idea that the state is trying to overrule local school boards. And I don't like that my taxes go to anyone other than public schools.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 17, 2022 8:52 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6 / iOS
IP Address: 99.123.20.45
Unique ID: 1010959961
Location: 35.7472, -86.5389

Name Janice Barkley

Email janiceb990@gmail.com

Phone (615) 904-4574

Organization Barkley & Associates, Inc.

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

As a longtime resident of this area & lifelong Tennessean I am opposed to using taxpayer money to support American Classical Academy or any other charter schools. Charter schools have a history in spite of their sales pitches of poorer curriculum, less qualified staff, and poorer student outcomes in learning. And this particular group is doing exactly what their supporters accuse others of doing in public education. They have an agenda to deliver through Hillsdale curriculum to provide erroneous information about history in this country. They do not believe in teacher education and as Hillsdale president has said they believe "anyone can teach.". Children learn in different ways and need teachers who are educated not only in subject matter, but also in styles of learning and how to meet each student where they are in their learning style.

This group is not prepared to meet students' needs and does not represent through their " Christian values" what this Christian believes, to say nothing of meeting the needs of children from other faiths or no faith tradition.

Do not spend our hard earned tax dollars on this fiasco of a group!

Janice Barkley

Owner of Barkley & Associates

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 10:06 am
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 76.248.235.140
Unique ID: 1011057621
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name	Beth Priest
Email	bbp0524@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 681-3086
Organization	Parent teacher
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other

Please provide your written comments below

As a parent of children in public schools and a tax payer I am against American Classical Academy of Rutherford.
Our County school board voted against this application because it does not meet state standards and does not meet the needs of all students.
It is the right of children with learning disabilities to have access to an education that meets their needs.
ACA has not proven that they are willing to do this.
Thank you for your consideration

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 10:07 am
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 71.199.198.72
Unique ID: 1011057732
Location: 36.0164, -86.5615

Name Michael Chapman

Email mchapman107@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 815-5128

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

As the parent of a student in the Rutherford County School District, I am writing to oppose the appeal made by American Classical Academy. I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the charter application.

ACA's charter application acknowledges the challenges our county faces in supporting disadvantaged learners. Though it highlights these known learning needs and suggests that the ACA learning model "may meet the needs of disadvantaged learners", it fails to adequately indicate how the school will engage and educate these vulnerable students. One of the primary concerns raised by the RCS review board was the lack of detail in special education identification and services - as well as the lack of a sustainable RTI2 plan to provide for individual student needs. ACA has yet to address those concerns.

The academy also emphasizes its use of Hillsdale's "K-12 Program Guide: An American Classical Education" which is built around several academic programs, including the "Core Knowledge Sequence". The Core Knowledge model has been criticized for its rigidity and failing to take children's unique learning styles into consideration. A study performed in New York Schools, indicated "no significant differences in the achievement gap of the advantaged and disadvantaged students when comparing the reading achievement scores of the... students who were taught the Core Knowledge curriculum and... students who were not."

Given that ACA failed to elaborate on its plans to engage special education students - and we don't have details on how the Core Knowledge model was adapted by Hillsdale - we can only hope that it at least lives up to the New York performance level.

The mission of Rutherford County schools says in part, "We believe: All students should be empowered to reach their fullest potential." Our students deserve schools that strive to educate everyone.

Please vote no.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 10:32 am
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 104.28.32.220
Unique ID: 1011062973
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name Holly Hunter

Email fmlyof4@gmail.com

Phone (615) 631-8640

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below American Classical Academy's application was insufficient. Furthermore, the academy itself does not provide adequate academic preparation for the students of Rutherford County. This school provides no added benefit to our community. We owe it to our students to perform due diligence and filter out schools that do not meet the academic requirements to which our students have become accustomed.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 11:38 am
Browser: Chrome Mobile 96.0.4664.116 / iOS
IP Address: 64.28.58.84
Unique ID: 1011077940
Location: 30.281, -87.5815

Name	Edna Major
Email	ejmajor@arr.net
Phone	(615) 294-3572
Organization	Retired educator and grandparent of students in both public and private schools as well as mother to two current teacher.
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am adamantly opposed to tax funded charter schools. If local school systems are required to fund these schools, they should definitely be involved in decision making, hiring, instruction, and other involvements. The current concept that is being presented is akin to taxation without representation.

It appears that the focus of the ACA schools will be on Christian education, which should not be in tax funded schools. We must continue to have separation of church and state as stated in our Constitution's first amendment. DO NOT force any local school board to give their funds to a private entity. If charter schools are established, they must either fund themselves or allow local systems to establish and manage them.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 11:45 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 73.88.209.240
Unique ID: 1011079543
Location: 35.9314, -86.6867

Name	Sarah Cherry
Email	sncherry777@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 957-3809
Organization	Private individual comment
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	Please reject the Hillsdale Charter application. Rutherford County Has rejected this application and no public money should go to Hillsdale.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 1:10 pm
Browser: Safari 14.1.2 / OS X
IP Address: 172.58.85.95
Unique ID: 1011097762
Location: 44.9618, -93.2638

Name James Rust

Email jorust65@gmail.com

Phone (615) 497-3009

Organization PARQ

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I hope that the State of Tennessee Charter Commission will not make it their task to second-guess the vote of the Local School Officials. Unless the local charter committee made an egregious error, second-guessing the local authorities would be overreach by the central government in Nashville. That overreach would be bad.

I also suggest that you reopen the Rutherford County hearing to allow opponents to the Hillsdale-Barney program a chance to present their case. Your first-come-first-served process allowed the Hillsdale-Barney folks endorsed by the governor to present one side of the case.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 2:29 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 68.72.129.241
Unique ID: 1011112909
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Katherine Hudgins

Email k.softscapes@att.net

Phone (615) 519-6992

Organization Senior Clinical Research Coordinator (Dermatology Research Assocs. & Nashville Veterans Hospital) Ret.

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

To the members of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission,

My personal Classical Education experience as a student and parent has informed me concerning the many benefits afforded to parents and students who choose this educational public charter model. In addition, I have immediate family members teaching at public charter as well as granddaughters in attendance at this particular school.

In light of my comments above I'm writing to express my support for approval of the appeal by American Classical Academy.

There's demonstrable community support for this public charter school as evidenced by the speakers at the September 14, 2022 public hearing and the letters of support you've received. I'm confident this charter will provide much needed and desired resources to aid the ongoing overcrowding of Rutherford County Schools. Further, ACAR's curriculum and classical model meet Tennessee state standards for academic instruction for our students, including students with special needs and English language learners. Finally, it has been my experience that our families and teachers are longing for a return of focus to humanity and virtue in our schools, and I propose the classical model provides this and more.

I urge the board to overturn the denial of ACAR's application and to approve this charter school for Rutherford County. Families in our community want and need educational options. Please don't deny them this opportunity.

Kind Regards,
Katherine G Hudgins

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 2:29 pm
Browser: Safari 15.6.1 / OS X
IP Address: 174.50.236.74
Unique ID: 1011112932
Location: 36.3834, -86.4512

Name Joan McRae Kleinlein

Email joanemcrae@gmail.com

Phone (615) 584-3350

Organization parents

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Both of my children have received a good education and preparation for college and life in the Rutherford County School system. We must maintain the integrity of our public schools. Siphoning off money to for-profit entities will only weaken the value and impact of our public education and create a new version of "separate but equal." I will not vote for any person who supports weakening public education, including supporting "charter schools." The benefit of public education is crucial to the survival of a government of the people, for the people, by the people, in which all are equal. Citizens must be educated equally.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 8:15 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 70.231.118.30
Unique ID: 1011179321
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name Frank Carter

Email armstronging@att.net

Phone (615) 556-2105

Organization none

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below I have now viewed on YouTube the entire hearing for the appeal of American Classical Academy in Rutherford County.

The representative of the school board (which approved another charter school but rejected ACA 6-1) identified multiple deficiencies, including lack of adequate plans for low performing and special needs students and poor track records in those areas.

The ACA advocates spoke mostly in vague generalities and did not address the deficiencies or present concrete evidence of offering a superior education or of having broad community support. Instead they sought to minimize their affiliation with Hillsdale College due to its high level of community disapproval.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 18, 2022 8:57 pm
Browser: Firefox 104.0 / Windows
IP Address: 12.195.182.215
Unique ID: 1011186706
Location: 37.8065, -85.4592

Name	Raul Lopez
Email	rauljlopez@comcast.net
Phone	(615) 977-1510
Organization	Latinos for Tennessee
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

Dear Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

My name is Raul Lopez and I am the executive director for Latinos for Tennessee. We are a statewide group committed to promoting faith, family and freedom, which are top priorities for Hispanic families across our state. I ask that you approve the charter appeal for American Classical Academy Rutherford.

On behalf of Latinos in Rutherford County, we are supporting ACAR because we strongly believe that all families should have the ability to decide for themselves where to send their children to school. For the Latino community, school choice is especially important, because we believe education is the key to living out the American Dream. We know that with a good education, economic mobility is possible.

Unfortunately, school choice is limited in Rutherford County, because there are presently no public charter schools operating in the county, and the private schools are simply out of reach for many working-class families because of the prohibitive cost of tuition. Furthermore, Rutherford County is facing extreme overcrowding, especially in the Lavergne and Smyrna areas, where there is the highest representation of Hispanic families in the county.

To those who claim that ACAR will not meet the needs of English language learners, please hear me as a Hispanic father: our families specifically want this classical charter model because of its focus on reading and literacy, which are the bedrock of all education. At the end of the day, the decision we make about where to send our children should be based on our own best judgment, not that of an outside functionary telling us what is best for our children.

On behalf of Latinos in Rutherford County who support school choice and are facing overcrowding in the public schools, I urge you to approve the charter for American Classical Academy Rutherford. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Raul Lopez

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 19, 2022 12:06 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 172.58.85.95
Unique ID: 1011221139
Location: 44.9618, -93.2638

Name Jane Rust

Email janebcr@aol.com

Phone (615) 294-1681

Organization Resident of Rutherford County

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below Opinion: American Classical Academy should NOT be given permission to operate in Rutherford Co.

My credentials: retired public-school teacher licensed in Tennessee and 35 other states.

I have examined the Barney Charter School Initiative curriculum used by the ACE, Inc and the core course requirements and history & literature curriculum of Hillsdale College. Neither reflect the current population of Rutherford Co. Both are European centered. Few, if any, courses relate to Asia, Africa, Central & South America. According to US NEWS & WORLD REPORT, Rutherford County's minority enrollment is 40% or 18,874 students with 16% or 7,550 English language learners (none of their languages are Latin--a required language in the Barney CSI curriculum). I could not find computer skill classes or classes that recognized the contributions to the USA and to the world made by cultures and people that were outside ACA's European-centered curriculum. Hillsdale College's Barney CSI curriculum and the American Classical Academy are out of step with Rutherford County's current student population and the challenges of this modern time. Rhetoric and memorization (part of Barney CSI curriculum) are questionable skills for today. Please take the time to look at this proposed curriculum and see if you can reconcile it with the many diverse backgrounds and languages of the students in Rutherford County and hopefully you will vote to deny permission for American Classical Academy in Rutherford County. I can be reached at 615.294.1681. Thank you for your consideration. Jane Rust

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 19, 2022 1:34 pm
Browser: Chrome 104.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address: 99.138.133.121
Unique ID: 1011466115
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name Katharine Elfersy

Email kelfersy@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 624-0396

Organization I am a concerned citizen

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

Sending my tax dollars, to an out-of-state fundamentalist organization to infiltrate education in TN is inscrutable. If we put aside their clear religious foundation and ignore the concept (and foundational law) of separating religion for public education, we are still left with a litany of other issues that should be insurmountable, thus the reason the local county government rightly denied the charter. If the state education council really supports education, children, families and the concept of local rule, there can be no doubt that they should uphold the will of Rutherford County. The Hillsdale curriculum, that is AT BEST, in its infancy, is rife with misconceptions, half truths and indoctrination of American Exceptionalism that I take grave issue with, as a former educator, Historian and voting parent of school age children. Perhaps generations past were unable to deal with the complexities that make American history so interesting and vital, but the current generation requires and deserves to be taught by TEACHERS and EDUCATORS. The disrespect to even consider sending the millions of dollars proposed to an organization that, through the words of their own president, has not faith, experience or understanding of how to educate. VOTE TO UPHOLD Rutherford County's rejection of the Hillsdale Charters.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 19, 2022 1:36 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 66.4.15.121
Unique ID: 1011466862
Location: 37.751, -97.822

Name Lindley Henson

Email larrydhenson@yahoo.com

Phone (414) 899-4318

Organization Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I was a resident of Arizona for several years before moving to Tennessee 2021. It was well known that the charters schools who called themselves "Classical" or "Leadership" were essentially Christian or Mormon based. These charters hire their teachers from Hillsdale College, and follow the Hillsdale model of an anti First Amendment curriculum. They do not hire certified teachers, pay on parity with public districts, and use the right to work laws to fire at will. These schools also "cherry pick" students by not providing Special Education services. They do not provide school lunch thereby avoiding free and reduced meals under the USDA.

Please do not misunderstand me. I am a practicing Episcopalian. I DO believe in the Separation of Church and State which is embodied in our constitution. Hillsdale College and its charters do not.

Please deny the appeal.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 19, 2022 3:22 pm
Browser: Safari 15.6.1 / OS X
IP Address: 45.18.163.75
Unique ID: 1011518659
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Chelsea Phillips

Email chelseaphillips43@gmail.com

Phone (615) 801-4971

Organization Community Member

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

Commission, I am a Rutherford County resident and community member, and I worked in education for several years. I echo the concerns of my school board in denying American Classical Academy's application. I am concerned over the curriculum of American Classical Academy and their ability to meet the needs of different kinds students. I am confident you have read and heard these arguments, so I do not need to reiterate them in detail here. I do want to add my name to the list of those in support of my school board, as they are the elected officials chosen by the people of Rutherford County and are the most familiar with our county's needs. They have demonstrated that they are not opposed to all charter schools, and that they particularly are opposed to this charter school. I ask and implore you not to override their decision.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 19, 2022 4:38 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 107.3.228.60
Unique ID: 1011556985
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name	Eric Boyd
Email	ericboyd1914@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 482-2294
Organization	N/A
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	The charter school leadership has been a little misleading on who will be in place as administrators. That is very important as a community stakeholder. The forceful tactics don't seem upright and understanding to the community's needs and concerns.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 19, 2022 8:07 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.79 / Android
IP Address: 45.18.160.114
Unique ID: 1011631467
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Holly Anderson

Email hollyaanderson1@gmail.com

Phone (615) 586-9463

Organization N/a

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below I am writing in support of the Rutherford County School board's decision to deny the American Classical Academy's charter school application.

Dr. Larry Arnn has been disrespectful to our Tennessee teachers. We cannot ignore this- much less reward it. This was a reflection of his lack of character which extends to Hillsdale and the American Classical Academy which will be funded and run at least in part by Hillsdale employees. This is not the values that should be taught to our students. Furthermore, we should strive to make sure we keeping church and state separate which Dr. Arnn, Hillsdale, and American Classical Academy also threatens. Governor Lee and Tennessee as a whole needs to distance from Dr Arnn, Hillsdale and American Classical Academy.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 19, 2022 8:40 pm
Browser: Chrome 103.0.0.0 / Chrome OS
IP Address: 162.238.240.172
Unique ID: 1011639389
Location: 35.7625, -86.372

Name	Jackie Slaten
Email	jjslate@aol.com
Phone	(615) 890-6783
Organization	RCRT
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	I do not want any of my money to go toward funding charter schools. And the Hillsdale College President is a disgrace to his college and to teachers everywhere.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 19, 2022 8:46 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 69.247.27.225
Unique ID: 1011640769
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Sherry Fuller

Email sherry.fuller@mtsu.edu

Phone (615) 975-1633

Organization Concerned parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

Current schools have academic standards that must be upheld. ACAR is unable to meet the criteria set forth my TDOE for academic plans and operations plans. How can you compare apples to apples when charter schools are not held to the same standard? They can NOT be compared. We need to support our current teachers and administrators more than ever and put a halt to charter schools. We need to stop encouraging charter schools with lesser academic standards than our current schools in our society.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 12:43 am
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 172.58.146.16
Unique ID: 1011687742
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Dina Piazza
Email	casadealabanzanash@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 730-2281
Organization	Latinos for TN
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	Classical School is needed in our district. Choice schools should always be an option for parents.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 7:01 am
Browser: IceDragon 65.0.2 / Windows
IP Address: 174.50.229.115
Unique ID: 1011753292
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name	Stuart Leach
Email	mrleach@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 796-9676
Organization	none
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

As a parent and a teacher in Rutherford County, I welcome the establishment of ACAR in our community. I think a classical academy would make our community a better place to live and to raise a family. Since charter schools are required to produce educational results, anyone who claims to truly care about children should support such opportunity. I welcome even more charter schools to our community. I believe competition, even in education, makes us better.

There is no such thing as a values-neutral education. Public education is a reflection of the marketplace of ideas in culture. Students are children. They are vulnerable to influences that would take advantage of their innocence. Local school boards should stand up for the values of their community, even if contradicts popular opinion in other places. If American society is running amok elsewhere, Tennessee should be digging in to say, "Not here!"

I believe that well-raised children will not become simple-minded adults, swayed by the latest internet-provided outrage. They can think for themselves. They know what is good and praiseworthy. They learned this from their parents, their teachers, their grandparents, scout leaders, and youth pastors.

It is parents who should have the final say in what makes a good education. Parents should be aware, mindful, and involved in what is being taught in their local schools, public, charter, and private. Giving parents the option to choose is part of what makes our country great. If families flock to charter schools and private schools, perhaps public education will take note and reconsider its endeavor to focus on data-driven, best-practices for measurable outcomes. Perhaps there are more important things in education than scores and funding.

We need grown-ups who again love their country and their heritage. While not perfect, our history is full of inspiring men and women to learn from. America was founded by people who sought to worship, live, and speak freely. We can learn a great deal from their successes and failures, as well as those of past civilizations, too. In studying the classics, children learn the value of being wise and avoiding the same mistakes.

Let us strive in Middle Tennessee to continue showing a genuine respect for each other. Our constitutional authors believed that God is the author of life and the reason we treat each other with respect and dignity. They argued vehemently for their idea of what a new country should look like. And yet, they did so with the utmost of respect for each other. May we act so nobly as they.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 8:45 am
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.2 / iOS
IP Address: 216.153.23.11
Unique ID: 1011783027
Location: 35.7625, -86.372

Name	Paul Myers
Email	pmyersmd@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 542-6401
Organization	None
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	I am in favor of charter schools overall. Parents should have more choice and options as it relates to their/our children's education.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 9:21 am
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 104.7.243.228
Unique ID: 1011797501
Location: 35.6854, -88.8281

Name	Jennifer Young
Email	jenniferbrawleyyoung@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 481-4687
Organization	Parent
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	As a parent and grandparent in Rutherford County I would like to see options for students in my community. A Classical approach is the most time tested and successful approach. Please allow our children options that fit their personal and families needs.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 9:34 am
Browser: Chrome Mobile 99.0.4844.88 / Android
IP Address: 172.79.22.215
Unique ID: 1011802848
Location: 35.9645, -85.0546

Name	Denelle Bratcher
Email	navigodelaney@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 624-1351
Organization	Rutherford County
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	Please allow the county residents to benefit from the option of the classical model of education. The research will support the claims that students flourish intellectually and socially, and society benefits from a generation of the kinds of leaders and thinkers that classical educations have produced over the last 500 years.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 10:05 am
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address: 162.217.212.178
Unique ID: 1011817313
Location: 36.5438, -86.0245

Name	Angela Kinsey
Email	cinnimongirl@ymail.com
Phone	(615) 670-9853
Organization	Parents
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other

Please provide your written comments below

The WAR on Public Education isn't welcome here. Our already underfunded schools can somehow afford \$32MILLION dollars for out of state "educators" who claim they themselves don't need to be educated to teach?! Sounds like a con to me!

Larry Arnn said it best: ANYONE can teach
And that's just who they mean- some burnout teaching kids in a stripmall who can't even pass a background check.
I don't want my tax dollars being thrown away for a rich kids education.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 10:35 am
Browser: Safari 15.6 / OS X
IP Address: 75.33.145.37
Unique ID: 1011832978
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name Shetika Oglesby-Phelps

Email stphelps1@yahoo.com

Phone (615) 300-6876

Organization TEA

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

Moving in those who have views that do not coincide with the views of individuals who live, teach, and raise our families in this community are not welcomed. Especially when those views belittle those who we respect and look to for hope and help in our children's education. If you cannot better us by walking alongside us and providing positive guidance which by your own words you can not then don't drag us down in a profession that is slowly being more and more disrespected daily.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 11:40 am
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.1 / iOS
IP Address: 66.72.134.18
Unique ID: 1011871073
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Susan Buback

Email novelchic@hotmail.com

Phone (615) 477-9135

Organization None

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

One of the points of debate made at the hearing about classical education was that it does not emphasized research, when in fact research is highly emphasized. Classical education teaches the students how to research by gathering their own sources, with primary sources being the best, rather than having a textbook do the research for them. Citing sources using MLA and APA is also highly emphasized and required.

Classical education teaches the students HOW to think, not WHAT to think. In our highly charged society where indoctrination rather than dialogue seems to be more prevalent, I think classical education, which emphasizes respectful dialogue especially with those with opposing points of view, is exactly what we need more of.

As a Rutherford County mother of two with more than a decade of experience with classical education, I think this charter school would be an amazing addition to our community.

At the hearing the person representing RCS said the speakers were the same ones who filled out the survey in favor of ACAR. In my case, that is not true. I never heard of the survey until that day.

Please approve this charter school. Thank you.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 12:02 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 161.45.254.242
Unique ID: 1011884484
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name	Heidi Buckalew
Email	heidibuckalew@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 556-2027
Organization	N/A
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	I do not want my tax dollars going to private religious charter schools like American Classic Academy / Hillsdale.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 1:13 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 105.0.5195.129 / iOS
IP Address: 181.214.166.126
Unique ID: 1011921046
Location: 41.8874, -87.6318

Name	Seth Buckalew
Email	sethbuckalew@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 410-5913
Organization	N/A
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	We don't want our tax dollars going to private religious charter schools like American Classic Academy, Hillsdale, etc.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 1:46 pm
Browser: Safari 15.6 / OS X
IP Address: 156.146.46.134
Unique ID: 1011938352
Location: 33.844, -84.4784

Name	Ben Buckalew
Email	benbuckalew@icloud.com
Phone	(615) 410-6171
Organization	N/A
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other
Please provide your written comments below	I don't want my tax dollars to be given to charter schools

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 2:51 pm
Browser: Chrome 92.0.4515.159 / Windows
IP Address: 99.147.101.205
Unique ID: 1011970204
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name melissa limbaugh

Email mlimbaugh@palminc.com

Phone (615) 714-1829

Organization RCS parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

As a parent of two students in Rutherford County Schools, and knowing many good RCS teachers and staff, I feel it is necessary to clearly state my opposition to the consideration of American Classical Academy's application to use funds from our excellent public schools to support a private business.

ACA has clearly failed to show any reason they should receive these funds and operate in our county, they are mainly relying on political push instead of merit. RCS has shown clearly that ACA still does not meet requirements and should be denied. ACA claims to be able to save the county money with absolutely no evidence to support this claim and plenty of evidence to prove it is false. Rutherford County Schools is proven that our public education excels and contains many of the top schools in the state and nation. Reducing funding from these public schools to accommodate financially supporting private schools (which are not performing to these same standards) could result in tarnishing the county's good reputation in education.

We should not permit ACA or any charter applicants to apply without merit and supporting evidence for the purpose of taking public funds to line the pockets of private business. Vote no on the ACA appeal.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 4:04 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 174.212.160.80
Unique ID: 1012004771
Location: 36.1671, -86.7861

Name Katie Neel

Email katieneel@clearwatermanchester.com

Phone (931) 434-3161

Organization Classical Conversation Homeschool

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

Having a Classical Opportunity for Rutherford County is something that would help educate kids to a different level. I was raised in public school and am thankful but wanted something different for my kids. We attend Classical Conversations Homeschool Co-op and I am now understanding my own gaps in my learning. My kids are excelling and getting a different learning experience than I did. I would love to have this as an option for our Community.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 5:17 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Chrome OS
IP Address: 71.199.198.72
Unique ID: 1012037351
Location: 36.0164, -86.5615

Name	Jen Chapman
Email	jmantle1@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 283-8947
Organization	Parent
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other

**Please provide your written comments
below**

As we saw during the appeal hearing, ACAR resorts to deliberately unclear language and disingenuous use of statistics in an attempt to hide their true intent.

It has now come to light that American Classical Education, Inc paraded the same man to each of their three appeal hearings, touting him as "a principal of ACE" - language naturally interpreted to mean that he is to be principal of the school in the county of each hearing. When asked directly by an investigative journalist, Joel Schellhammer (executive director of ACE) stated that they introduced him as "a principal" not "the principal." Why is ACE parading the same man around to all their appeal hearings? Could it be that Phil Schwenk, a man of color, is being used to insinuate a commitment to diversity by ACE? After all, their application did not delineate any plans for diversity in student recruitment, faculty, or board members. It seems as if the only way they can insinuate this commitment is to use shady practices.

Dr. Caitlin Bullard, coordinator of school choice for Rutherford County Schools, stated that ACA's "blatantly disingenuous use of RCS survey data" was used to falsify community support. ACAR attempted to equate 31 out of 163 survey respondents, who were in favor of any choice within Rutherford County Schools, as a potential 9,000 students seeking enrollment. This is not only creative use of math but a patently false assertion on their official application.

Even after stacking the public comments with pro-ACAR folks, ACE failed to show that there is real interest in our community. One only had to look at the stacks and stacks of pro-ACA signs without hands to hold them to see that there is no support for this charter school. Rutherford County residents believe in our school system. We are happy to invite high quality schools to provide the best education for our young people, but American Classical Academy does not fall into that category.

Vote no to ACA.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 5:19 pm
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Chrome OS
IP Address: 71.199.198.72
Unique ID: 1012037837
Location: 36.0164, -86.5615

Name	Mike Chapman
Email	mchapman107@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 283-8947
Organization	Parent
I wish to comment on behalf of	Other

Please provide your written comments below

As we saw during the appeal hearing, ACAR resorts to deliberately unclear language and disingenuous use of statistics in an attempt to hide their true intent.

It has now come to light that American Classical Education, Inc paraded the same man to each of their three appeal hearings, touting him as "a principal of ACE" - language naturally interpreted to mean that he is to be principal of the school in the county of each hearing. When asked directly by an investigative journalist, Joel Schellhammer (executive director of ACE) stated that they introduced him as "a principal" not "the principal." Why is ACE parading the same man around to all their appeal hearings? Could it be that Phil Schwenk, a man of color, is being used to insinuate a commitment to diversity by ACE? After all, their application did not delineate any plans for diversity in student recruitment, faculty, or board members. It seems as if the only way they can insinuate this commitment is to use shady practices.

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Vote no to ACA.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 8:36 pm
Browser: Chrome Mobile 96.0.4664.116 / iOS
IP Address: 64.28.58.84
Unique ID: 1012100855
Location: 30.281, -87.5815

Name Edna Major

Email ejmajor@arr.net

Phone (615) 294-3572

Organization Retired educator and grandparent of students in both public and private schools as well as mother to two current teacher.

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am adamantly opposed to tax funded charter schools. If local school systems are required to fund these schools, they should definitely be involved in decision making, hiring, instruction, and other involvements. The current concept that is being presented is akin to taxation without representation.

It appears that the focus of the ACA schools will be on Christian education, which should not be in tax funded schools. We must continue to have separation of church and state as stated in our Constitution's first amendment. DO NOT force any local school board to give their funds to a private entity. If charter schools are established, they must either fund themselves or allow local systems to establish and manage them.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 9:38 pm
Browser: Android browser 4.0 / Android
IP Address: 38.53.153.52
Unique ID: 1012118165
Location: 36.3403, -86.7195

Name Dawn McCrary

Email dloydmccrary@gmail.com

Phone (904) 495-5363

Organization None

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

To limit the availability of classical education to tax payers within your jurisdiction based on the school boards personal ideologies not lining up with the schools ideologies is unconstitutional. Schools are funded with tax payer money and you are essentially telling those taxpayers to pay taxes without representation. In my humble opinion, I feel that this could potentially put the taxpayers at risk of an unnecessary and expensive lawsuit. If there are not enough taxpayers willing to put their children in this school it will fail anyway.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 9:51 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6 / iOS
IP Address: 174.198.131.166
Unique ID: 1012121699
Location: 39.7067, -104.9694

Name Patrece McCrary

Email patrece56@gmail.com

Phone (615) 653-0278

Organization Concerned citizen

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

I am shocked and appalled that our Rutherford County school system would refuse a charter to a school based on a science based belief that girls are girls and boys are boys. Parents who do not wish their children to be taught this do not have to send their children to this school.

It is my firm belief that most taxpayers in Rutherford County would prefer their children to be taught scientifically accurate facts rather than an easily proven theory. As a Rutherford County citizen, a former Murfreesboro City teacher, and a grandparent of young children, I demand that this school board approves the charter for American Classical Academy.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 10:04 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6 / iOS
IP Address: 99.34.233.175
Unique ID: 1012125384
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name	Gayle Fisher
Email	gaylefisher52@att.net
Phone	(615) 439-8385
Organization	Retired teacher
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools
Please provide your written comments below	Girls r girls. Boys r boys

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 10:05 pm
Browser: Safari 15.6.1 / OS X
IP Address: 107.3.240.106
Unique ID: 1012125593
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Carolyn Hunt

Email cartom0908@outlook.com

Phone (615) 631-2241

Organization Citizen

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below I believe this school's charter should be approved and parents given the chance to choose this school for their children.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 10:07 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6 / iOS
IP Address: 69.137.78.0
Unique ID: 1012126243
Location: 35.8437, -86.3881

Name Georgia Buckner

Email georgia.buckner@comcast.net

Phone (615) 896-2925

Organization I am not with an organization

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

I'm very much in favor charter schools in Rutherford County and in particular American Classical Accademy Rutherford. I'm saddened by the fact that I do not want my grandchildren to attend a public school. I was a product of public schools, my three children attended Rutherford County School, my daughter is a retired Rutherford County teacher and my husband was an administrator in Rutherford County schools for many years. However in todays political invitonment I think the public schools need the competition as competition produces improvement and a a need to be the best in both entities. Money for education should follow the student and not require children to have to go to a school just because they are zoned there. The money following the student means that public schools won't need the money to educate students who do not attend public school .

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 10:09 pm
Browser: Safari 15.6.1 / OS X
IP Address: 107.3.240.106
Unique ID: 1012126744
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name	Tom Glines
Email	teetime42@outlook.com
Phone	(615) 351-0993
Organization	Citizen
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	This school choice should be allowed to survive as parents deserve a choice for their children

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 10:11 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 99.71.151.47
Unique ID: 1012127323
Location: 35.7625, -86.372

Name Mireya Ingram

Email mireyacarmen@hotmail.com

Phone (615) 995-9244

Organization American Classical Academic Rutherford

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

Dear Tennessee Public Charter School Commission,

My name is Mireya Ingram, and I am a resident of Rutherford County. I'm writing in support of American Classical Academy Rutherford.

As the grandmother of four grandchildren in Rutherford County, I am very excited to have the opportunity for a public charter school with the quality of curriculum and instruction that will be provided by ACAR. Each of my grandchildren are unique, and they all have different learning styles and personal interests. Nonetheless, the classical model of education cannot be beat for its focus on reading and literacy. We must provide the best education possible in order to prepare our students for future success, not only in their careers, but for life in general. I believe that ACAR's philosophy of virtue, character, and goodness align with the values of Rutherford County families, and the school will fill a need that isn't currently being met by Rutherford County Schools.

I ask you to please approve ACAR's charter application. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mireya Ingram

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 10:35 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 14.1.2 / iOS
IP Address: 69.138.155.84
Unique ID: 1012133591
Location: 36.0164, -86.5615

Name Carol Covington

Email cleec5@comcast.net

Phone (615) 867-0599

Organization Citizen

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below Parents should have the choice when it concerns their children.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 10:42 pm
Browser: Safari 15.6.1 / OS X
IP Address: 107.3.240.106
Unique ID: 1012135375
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name	Tom Glines
Email	teetime42@outlook.com
Phone	(615) 351-0993
Organization	Citizen
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	This school choice should be allowed to survive as parents deserve a choice for their children

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 10:42 pm
Browser: Safari 15.6.1 / OS X
IP Address: 107.3.240.106
Unique ID: 1012135387
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name	Carolyn Hunt
Email	cartom0908@outlook.com
Phone	(615) 631-2241
Organization	Citizen
I wish to comment on behalf of	American Classical Academy Rutherford
Please provide your written comments below	I believe this school's charter should be approved and parents given the chance to choose this school for their children.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 20, 2022 11:02 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari 16.0 / iOS
IP Address: 69.139.114.176
Unique ID: 1012140402
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name Barbara Garcia

Email garfam21@icloud.com

Phone (305) 764-7421

Organization .

I wish to comment on behalf of American Classical Academy Rutherford

Please provide your written comments below

Dear Tennessee Public Charter School Commission,

My name is Barbara Garcia, and I am a resident of Rutherford County. I'm writing in support of American Classical Academy Rutherford.

As the mother of two children who attended a charter school in the State of Florida, I am very excited to have the opportunity for a public charter school with the quality of curriculum and instruction that will be provided by ACAR.

The classical model of education cannot be beat for its focus on reading and literacy. We must provide the best education possible in order to prepare our students for future success, not only in their careers, but for life in general. I believe that ACAR's philosophy of virtue, character, and goodness align with the values of Rutherford County families, and the school will fill a need that isn't currently being met by Rutherford County Schools.

I ask you to please approve ACAR's charter application. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Barbara Garcia

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 12:06 am
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 104.28.32.232
Unique ID: 1012155373
Location: 35.0458, -85.3135

Name Julie Myatt

Email jamyatt@gmail.com

Phone (615) 971-9338

Organization N/A

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below As an educator and as a resident with school-aged children, I oppose the charter for American Classical Academy in Rutherford county. Taxpayer dollars for public schools should not be funneled to this unproven, unregulated "school" which refuses to teach accurate accounts of our nation's history.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 7:47 am
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 66.72.132.158
Unique ID: 1012234250
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Kelli Dodson

Email kellidsblog@gmail.com

Phone (931) 639-2500

Organization Rutherford County Schools

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

To whom it may concern,
I am writing to express my opposition to the appeal made by American Classical Academy to open a charter school in Rutherford county. As an RCS parent, I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the ACA's application.
Part of ACA's rationale for coming to Rutherford County includes their opinion that parents want access to "schools that match their philosophical views and want students to be engaged in values or character-based instruction". If you walk through any school in Rutherford county you can clearly see that both values and character are fundamental to the RCS educational approach. RCS is already aligned with the TDOE mission to "exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark upon their chosen path in life." So, this really begs the question: Exactly whose moral and philosophical views does ACA align with, and which RCS/TDOE values and views contradict them?
It's very clear in the charter application that American Classical Academy intends to target a specific philosophical belief system. Given this, it's extremely concerning that the academy has deep ties with Hillsdale College. Hillsdale's Code of Commitment states "The teaching of Christian faith shall remain a conspicuous aim of the College." This, by its very nature, undermines the mission of educating ALL students - regardless of their philosophical or personal belief systems. Using public funding to advance a specific, religiously driven philosophy also violates the Establishment Clause as written by our Founding Fathers.
Please vote no.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 7:53 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 23.117.26.251
Unique ID: 1012235798
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name	Rachel Polk
Email	rachelepolk@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 922-0842
Organization	Rutherford County School District
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am personally appalled at this governor's and his administration's overreach specifically in the public schools and charter schools subjects of focus. As Republicans, we are supposed to rally behind small government decisions and step aside and continue to allow smaller local governments take control over the body of citizens. The local government is keenly aware of the needs of its student body. As a former teacher who has personally taught in multiple states with different demographics, I fully understand the need and importance of a local governing bodies controlling the schools and the wellbeing of its citizens. This is not what Governor Lee and his administration is doing with the Charter School initiative. My vote, along with every other teacher I have spoken with, is no to this initiative and no to the abhorrent, demeaning anti support that this state government has lent to its educators, students, and local government.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 8:04 am
Browser: Chrome Mobile 96.0.4664.45 / Android
IP Address: 162.238.241.5
Unique ID: 1012238757
Location: 35.7625, -86.372

Name Lisa Schrader

Email edin696@aol.com

Phone (615) 995-1672

Organization private citizen

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am a Murfreesboro resident and parent of three young children and have followed the ACA application process with interest. The Rutherford County Board of Education, composed of members elected by the citizens they represent, voted almost unanimously in opposition of ACA. As I understand it, the ACA application was sloppy and poorly done, including evidence of copy and paste mistakes indicating a lack of due diligence. Such practices do not engender my confidence in an institution to take on the education of my children.

The need for this charter school is also highly questionable. Dr. Caitlin Bullard, coordinator of school choice for Rutherford County Schools, stated that ACA's "blatantly disingenuous use of RCS survey data" was used to falsify community support. ACAR attempted to equate 31 out of 163 survey respondents, who were in favor of any choice within Rutherford County Schools, as a potential 9,000 students seeking enrollment. This is not only creative use of math but a patently false assertion on their official application.

Even after stacking the public comments with pro-ACAR folks, ACE failed to show that there is real interest in our community. One only had to look at the stacks and stacks of pro-ACA signs without hands to hold them to see that there is no support for this charter school. Rutherford County residents believe in our school system. We are happy to invite high quality schools to provide the best education for our young people, but American Classical Academy does not fall into that category.

Please support the elected school board officials who live and work in Rutherford County and have expressed their educated opinion that ACA is not in our children's best interests.

Vote no to ACA.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 9:05 am
Browser: Chrome 105.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 174.50.237.177
Unique ID: 1012259175
Location: 36.3834, -86.4512

Name Jessica Gaby

Email jessica.m.gaby@gmail.com

Phone (305) 972-3219

Organization None

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below I am writing in support of the Rutherford County School board's decision to deny the American Classical Academy's charter school application.

I believe that every child in Tennessee deserves a quality education, and that this education should be available at public schools with adequate funding, teacher support, and facilities. Charter schools directly endanger the public school system and draw funding away from education in the most marginalized communities, in addition to contributing to systemic inequalities for special needs students. These schools have a lack of oversight in performance, discrimination, and teaching content, and are operated for private profit. They are not the solution to a struggling public school system - redistribution of funding back into public schools is the way to revitalize Tennessee's educational system.

It is clear that ACA has strong ties with Hillsdale schools, which erase the line between church and state and are an attempt to bring White Christian Nationalism into our public schools. As a mother and a member of multiple marginalized communities, I strongly oppose bringing ACA to Rutherford County.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 9:31 am
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 174.50.255.212
Unique ID: 1012270641
Location: 36.0164, -86.5615

Name DeAnna Osborne

Email ddozbo@gmail.com

Phone (615) 796-1360

Organization Personal/Community member (educator)

I wish to comment on behalf of Other

Please provide your written comments below

According to the details highlighted in the recent hearing in Rutherford County, ACAR is not prepared for the task of educating any of our students at this time. They have failed to produce sufficient evidence to support that their efforts will be successful or effective. They have produced no evidence of appropriate levels of community support and also are lacking outreach to diverse communities. Their curriculum does not align with state standards. They have neither location nor transportation for the proposed 340 student population. They have not evidenced a plan for how to work with vulnerable or/and special needs students. Additionally, the lack of transparency exhibited throughout the application process bespeaks an ethic contrary to both their stated intention and our duty to students, families, and our community.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 9:45 am
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 68.57.69.109
Unique ID: 1012277740
Location: 36.291, -82.5001

Name Richard Church

Email churchr36@gmail.com

Phone (423) 946-0839

Organization none- Concerned parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below The charter school commission should reject this application. The local board's decision should be supported. Local control!!

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 10:55 am
Browser: Mobile Safari 15.6.1 / iOS
IP Address: 161.45.254.242
Unique ID: 1012311620
Location: 35.9698, -86.5061

Name Ravel Pirouznia Jr

Email ravel.pirouzniajr@gmail.com

Phone (901) 687-6138

Organization MTSU College Dems

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

I am writing in support of the Rutherford County School board's decision to deny the American Classical Academy's charter school application. Hillsdale College President Dr. Larry Arnn has become well-known for his distasteful comments about our Tennessee teachers. It has been argued that Dr. Arnn's statements shouldn't be considered with respect to the ACAs charter application because Hillsdale is a completely separate and unrelated entity. There are several facts that call this assertion into question.

Even if we set aside the fact that the academy couldn't consider opening without a very generous grant from Hillsdale (which reserves the right to revoke funding if it disagrees with decisions made by the charter operator), and the fact that many of the board members are employed by Hillsdale - there is much to contend with here. Dr. Arnn himself recounted the founding of ACE, the charter school management organization that oversees the academy. He stated, "We started [the CMO] because we don't take any money from the government." He personally recruited Joel Schellhammer, a Hillsdale graduate, to head the commission earlier this year..

In the February 2022 edition of the Hillsdale Collegian, Joel's appointment as CEO of ACE was announced. An excerpt from the article clearly outlines Hillsdale's significant, intentional influence over the ACE mission and trajectory: "Before ACE, Hillsdale would wait to be contacted by a local group asking for support in starting a charter school. But with the Tennessee project, the partnership with ACE brings a way to be more proactive."

It's clear that the academy's ties to Hillsdale are not up for debate. In fact, until this appeal, they were proudly advertised. Given this, let's revisit how Dr. Arnn feels about Tennessee teachers: "The teachers are trained in the dumbest parts of the dumbest colleges in the country." Does this exemplify the "moral character and civic virtue" that Hillsdale and its charter partners intend to bring to Tennessee students?

I think that Reverend Donna Whitney said it best:

"The comments made by Larry Arnn, President of Hillsdale College, an education advisor to Governor Lee ... is just further proof that Governor Lee needs to distance himself from Hillsdale and abandon his attempts to bring Hillsdale Schools to Tennessee. These schools erase the line between church and state and are an attempt to bring White Christian Nationalism into our public schools."

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 12:17 pm
Browser: Firefox 101.0 / OS X
IP Address: 69.138.154.98
Unique ID: 1012356210
Location: 35.8677, -86.4174

Name	Angie Beason
Email	acbeason@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 243-1043
Organization	Parent of a Rutherford County Schools student(s)
I wish to comment on behalf of	Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

As the parent of 3 students who attend(ed) Rutherford County Schools I am STRONGLY opposed to the Hillsdale College-affiliated American Classical Academy-Rutherford (ACAR) charter school.

I fully support our School Board's Review Committee rejection of this charter school and respectfully ask that the TN Public Charter School Commission affirm this decision and reject ACAR's amended application.

The speakers allowed time during the Sept 14 public hearing did not reflect the feelings of my family and numerous other families in this district. The public schools in our district perform well, year after year. My children have received an excellent public education and I fully support our public school teachers and school staff.

We need our taxpayer dollars and support from our state's Education leaders to be fully committed to funding and continuous improvement of public education. Charter Schools drain funding and support away from our public schools, while enriching corporations with taxpayer/government dollars. Charter schools don't serve all student populations with equity, such as special needs students or low-income students. More importantly, Charter Schools have a long, documented history of insufficient accountability, lack of transparency, and overall poor performance outcomes.

Our School Board is an elected body, chosen by the voters in our county. This allows the community to have a voice in many of the decisions made by our school district. ACAR has a private, appointed board for which there doesn't appear a mechanism for public oversight or accountability.

Our public education system serves the common good, and while there is no argument that we must continue to improve our public schools, I oppose any effort to bring in charter schools to our communities.

Thank you for allowing me to provide comments on this important issue.

Form Name: American Classical Academy Rutherford Public Hearing Form- Written
Submission Time: September 21, 2022 12:51 pm
Browser: Mobile Safari / iOS
IP Address: 45.29.175.190
Unique ID: 1012373203
Location: 35.8451, -86.4901

Name Patrick Ogilvy

Email pwogilvy@hotmail.com

Phone (615) 525-3261

Organization None/Parent

I wish to comment on behalf of Rutherford County Schools

Please provide your written comments below

To whom it may concern,
I am writing to express my opposition to the appeal made by American Classical Academy to open a charter school in Rutherford county. As an RCS parent, I agree with the decision of our school board and the review committee to reject the ACA's application.
Part of ACA's rationale for coming to Rutherford County includes their opinion that parents want access to "schools that match their philosophical views and want students to be engaged in values or character-based instruction". If you walk through any school in Rutherford county you can clearly see that both values and character are fundamental to the RCS educational approach. RCS is already aligned with the TDOE mission to "exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark upon their chosen path in life." So, this really begs the question: Exactly whose moral and philosophical views does ACA align with, and which RCS/TDOE values and views contradict them?
It's very clear in the charter application that American Classical Academy intends to target a specific philosophical belief system. Given this, it's extremely concerning that the academy has deep ties with Hillsdale College. Hillsdale's Code of Commitment states "The teaching of Christian faith shall remain a conspicuous aim of the College." This, by its very nature, undermines the mission of educating ALL students - regardless of their philosophical or personal belief systems. Using public funding to advance a specific, religiously driven philosophy also violates the Establishment Clause as written by our Founding Fathers.
Please vote no.

110 Frances King Drive
Smyrna, Tennessee 37167-5352
September 17, 2022

Rutherford County Board of Education
2240 Southpark Drive
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37128

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission
Attn.: Tess Stovall, Executive Director
500 James Robertson Parkway, 5th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Sent via electronic mail to:

Charterschools.appeal@tn.gov

Individual school board members emails

Sirs and Madams:

I am writing to support American Classical Academy (“ACA”) in its appeal against its denial to establish a charter school in Rutherford County in its July 18, 2022, meeting as to vote later 5-2 to approve another charter school, Empower Academy (“EA”) at the same meeting.

As reported by the Murfreesboro Post in its September 13, 2022, print edition, the very mention of Hillsdale college and past remarks by its President, Dr. Larry Arnn, appears to me that my school board is prejudiced against Hillsdale based upon its President’s heart-felt remarks that, in my opinion, were true, even though they are unpleasant to hear.¹ It is as if the name “Hillsdale” is now poison, even if their work is impeccable, evidenced by Democratic representative John Ray Clemmons of Nashville’s comment that “Hillsdale, which was their prize pig, is now an albatross around their neck.”²

I understand that there may be opposing views as expressed by Elizabeth Vollbrecht, apparently a Rutherford County parent, who stated, ““There was no fairness, no equity or diversity in understanding the whole community’s opinions on the charter school. You only heard one side. They jammed it through”; however, whenever I hear the words “equity” or “diversity” in anyone’s statement, I personally believe that they are promoting sexual immorality or gender confusion through the LGBTQ+ agenda, racism against non-blacks, and other aspects of the Democratic party platform that wishes to transform Rutherford county into Shelby or Davidson county so that we can experience all the unmanageability these counties’ youth experience, such as their extraordinarily high teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, and drug and alcohol abuse rates and their low test scores.³ I encourage you to speak with the Rutherford County Health Department to obtain official data involving these metrics in individual counties throughout Tennessee.

While Ms. Vollbrecht may wish these for her children, I do not believe that my tax dollars should be used to train our children in our public schools to behave in this manner.

¹ Ray D. American Classical Academy charter school appeal hearing set for Wednesday. Murfreesboro Post, September 13, 2022. Available at <https://tinyurl.com/2htrrcr2>, accessed September 17, 2022.

² Beyeler K. Hillsdale continues push for charter schools despite local opposition. Nashville Post, September 15, 2022. Available at <https://tinyurl.com/3zc2kxz2>, accessed September 17, 2022.

³ Stockard S. Sparks fly over Hillsdale-affiliated charter school appeal in Rutherford. Murfreesboro Post, September 14, 2022. Available at <https://tinyurl.com/36sfar4z>, accessed September 17, 2022

As I am not an educator, I cannot ascertain the competence and quality of the curriculum offered by American Classical Academy or Empower Academy. I am impressed, however, with how the American Classical Academy will address human sexuality whose health, in my mind, adheres to the Nashville Statement that maintains that one's consummation of his or her pursuit of orgasm should only occur within a true heterosexual marriage and that anything short of that, including unmarried sexuality, transgenderism, homosexuality, "queerness", and associated fantasy (e.g., pornography), is highly destructive and, in my mind, addictive such that even Presidents succumb.⁴

I wish to state that I am impressed with ACA's approach to human sexuality as described in their proposal to the Rutherford County Board of Education that states, in part:

"In the course of our usual science curriculum, 5th grade students will learn about human reproductive organs, reproduction, and the menstrual cycle. The class will be taught in a gender separated environment. Parents will have the opportunity to preview the materials the class will be reading. Parents will also have the opportunity to attend a meeting with the teacher(s) prior to the section on sexuality. Sexual intercourse will only be discussed in the context of a monogamous relationship between two people of opposite sexes. Parents will have the choice of having their children opt out of this portion of the class, which will be taught during the regular science time.

In the upper school, themes that deal with sexuality may emerge from the reading of a serious text, such as Brave New World or The Scarlet Letter. When these topics do emerge from the curriculum itself, teachers will engage the material in a serious way. Upper school students may be involved in discussions concerning sexuality and sexual restraint as these issues affect their living a moral and responsible life. Such discussions will always be led by the Administration or a faculty member who has the full confidence of the Principal in these matters.

In addition, as mandated by the state, sex education will be taught in the high school in the context of human health. Sex education via the health class will be taught in a gender-separated environment.

Character education is an integral part of our program. Sexuality involves serious moral decision-making. It is important to help children build the capacity to make and abide by sound moral choices. We would like our teaching of human reproduction to be a springboard to initiate and facilitate discussions between parents and children on this sensitive subject."⁵

This, to me, addresses a root cause of poverty which, if avoided, enhance the health, safety, and welfare of all students should they wish to implement its principles. Of course, if any parent wishes for their children to live a life involving transgenderism, homosexuality, fornication, adultery, unplanned pregnancy, and all the consequences of misapplied sexuality, they are free to promote that since ACA does not force parents to accept the biblical standard expressed in the Nashville Statement.

⁴ Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood. Nashville Statement. Available at <https://cbmw.org/nashville-statement>, accessed September 17, 2022.

⁵ Rutherford County Board of Education. Specially Called Meeting Agenda, July 18, 2022, page 219 of the PDF. Available at <https://tinyurl.com/5fn4xid8>.

Sadly, Empower Academy is silent on this issue.⁶

I would like to cite two articles in the Wall Street Journal for you that emphasize the importance of Godly spiritual principles in our children's education. The following was published in yesterday's Wall Street Journal:

The Campaign Against Our Yeshivas

HOUSES OF WORSHIP
By Sheva Tauby

The multi-year campaign to undermine Hasidic education in New York state continued its forward march this week. On Tuesday, two days after the New York Times published a lengthy "investigation" into the state's yeshivas, the Board of Regents unanimously approved a new raft of curriculum mandates. The motivation, the board claims, is to protect children who are "not receiving a quality education."

Absent from these deliberations, however, has been an important voice—parents with children in yeshiva.

I'm part of the silent but vast majority of parents who are happy with the education my children receive at their Hasidic school. Along with tens of thousands of Jewish New Yorkers, my husband and I chose to send our children to yeshiva not only to learn how to think critically but how to live as upright, productive members of society. The goal we have for our children's education—to help them grow into healthy, virtuous, well-rounded people—is one every parent shares. Making it a reality is exactly what our polarized society needs today.

Yet for nearly a decade, there has been a crusade

against yeshivas in New York. Activists, politicians and journalists have assailed the yeshivas as unable to provide our children with the knowledge they need to survive. Ignoring or mischaracterizing the structured educational model our yeshivas employ, they point to cherry-picked testing data designed for a whole other system of education to claim that our children are deprived of knowledge that productive members of society need to be successful. Claiming we're relegating our children to lives of penury and misery, they are using this falsehood as a weapon to regulate how our children are educated.

The truth is that each morning, my sons leave for yeshiva and return happy to share the lessons of their diligent study. In the context of our faith tradition, they learn to read, write and analyze complex information and ideas. These skills will prepare them for whatever their future may hold. Their curriculum is highly structured, and their development is closely monitored.

My husband and I chose our sons' yeshiva precisely for what we see in them today. Both of them exude the inner peace, self-confidence and sense of purpose that all parents wish for their children. Our yeshiva instilled this disposition in my boys and in students of other

yeshivas across New York who have gone on to make major academic, philanthropic and religious contributions around the world.

When I look at my Hasidic community in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn, I see happy, intact multi-generational families. I also see low crime and incarceration rates and community social services that offer everything from

Bureaucrats in Albany are undermining the very education we want for our children.

meal trains for postpartum mothers to job-placement assistance for young men looking for work. I see what all New York parents would desire for their families—and what all children deserve.

We aren't immune to the perils that threaten every community, but our schools and the Torah code we live by guide us in building the foundation for healthy lifestyles. Take one recent example. When it became apparent that smartphones and social media were harming our children, groups of mothers in coordination with their yeshivas created a pledge system to limit

their children's exposure to those devices. While the rest of our nation struggles to find answers to the mental-health problems brought on by extensive social-media use—especially among children—we're addressing it head-on.

Why, then, are some people so intent on interfering with the private religious yeshiva education that is working so well for my children and so many others? The effort is made worse by the fact that government intrusion into our religious education is a clear violation of our right to free exercise, enshrined in the Constitution. Children aren't wards of the state. My husband and I have been blessed by God with them, and with the responsibility to raise them. We, and not politicians in Albany, have our children's best interests at heart.

I know there are many other parents like my husband and me who feel blessed to send their children to yeshiva, and I'm committed to ensuring their voices are heard. I pray for a world where every child is given the opportunity to grow up in a loving family, in a safe community and with a life filled with purpose and meaning.

Ms. Tauby is a mother of eight children currently attending yeshiva schools in New York City.

In the same issue, the following was written by a high school student who was shamed by her teachers for not supporting Democratic party "equity" agendas:

7

⁶ Wall Street Journal. September 16, 2022. Available at <https://tinyurl.com/8p7sxnw6>, accessed September 17, 2022

⁷ Ibid. Available at <https://tinyurl.com/2hz3d65x>, accessed September 17, 2022.

My School's 'Antiracist' Agitprop

By Sahar Tartak

I was educated in the school district ranked by Niche.com as America's third-best. Immigrants from around the world come to Great Neck, N.Y., to raise their children. My best friend's father was at the Tiananmen Square massacre. My classmates left behind their families in El Salvador. My mother escaped revolutionary Iran, and my grandfather escaped the Nazis.

Lately, though, the area's diverse and liberal-minded residents may have reason to think their local school officials aren't as open-minded as they thought. In 2021 Great Neck North High School directed the student government to give \$375 of student funds to a "racial equity" group to speak to the student body about "systemic racism." I was the student government's treasurer, and I felt we didn't know enough about the organization and its mission to disburse the funds. So I refused to sign the check.

Teachers tried to bully me into signing a \$375 student government check for an 'equity' group. I refused.

In response, the teachers who advise the student government berated, bullied and insulted me at our next meeting, which took place over Zoom for my parents to overhear. They began by announcing that my social studies teacher would be present. Together, the three adults told me that the principal himself found my stance "appalling." I had made them and the school "look bad," they told me. One teacher said the situation gave her "hives."

When I suggested that students might not need or want a lecture on systemic racism, my social-studies teacher asked whether I'd also oppose a Holocaust survivor's presentation.

I objected to that comparison, but she cut me off: "If you're not on



board with systemic racism, I have trouble with that, girlfriend."

When I didn't back down, she made a bizarre accusation: "The fact that you think slavery is debatable . . ."

I logged off Zoom and started crying. My parents comforted me, and I decided I wasn't going to sign that check.

That's when I noticed how illiberal my liberal high school had become. I once expressed disagreement with the narrative of the "1619 Project," and that same social-studies teacher snapped that I was opposed to hearing other perspectives. I had signed up for her class because it was described as "discussion-based," but certain discussion seemed forbidden.

Later, a friend showed me a lesson from his English class—a Google Slides presentation urging that students pledge to work "relentlessly" in the "lifelong process" of "antiracism." According to these slides, America is a place where racism is "no better today than it was 200 years ago." I disagreed but didn't mind the debate. Yet this wasn't about debate: Immigrant children were being told to "pledge" to defend a view many of them don't hold.

I doubt students could have comfortably objected in class. The lesson

pre-empted criticism by imputing to them "white fragility," which means they "close off self-reflection," "trivialize the reality of racism," and "protect a limited worldview." The adult presenting this accusatory material was a teacher who had the power to grade them and affect their prospects of getting into college.

When parents caught wind of this presentation, their group chats exploded: "I feel like I live under a rock." "I did not realize the extent of this at all." "If you too are troubled by this, join us at the upcoming school board meeting."

I decided to tell the school board about my treatment at the hands of teachers and school officials. I was nervous but I made my case. The response, to my shock, was a standing ovation. I also received many expressions of support from fed-up parents, from teachers who silently abhorred their one-sided "professional development" courses, and from students who had been punished by administrators for questioning the orthodoxy of systemic racism. (One of those students had been sent to the principal's office for refusing to sign an "antihate" pledge.)

That experience prompted me and a few like-minded others to look into our school's curriculums. What we found was an arsenal of lopsidedly

race-obsessed lesson plans. One was about the American Psychological Association's "Apology to People of Color" for its role in "Promoting, Perpetuating, and Failing to Challenge Racism." Another was titled "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack." My favorite: "A Critical Race Theory Approach to The Great Gatsby."

The schools in our district had always followed the guidelines of New York state's comprehensive social-studies curriculum, which included teaching about the pervasiveness and evils of slavery, mistreatment of Native Americans, discrimination against Chinese immigrants and so on. What we discovered was something else—partisanship and race essentialism, mixed in with administrative intimidation and bullying that our officials refused to address.

District officials responded in the way school officials often do when criticized. They ignored us for as long as possible, then delayed taking action for as long as possible, clearly hoping everybody would forget the controversy and move on. They didn't respond to my father's freedom-of-information request until the day before a contentious school-board election. The board then promised to further investigate the curriculums, but we never heard anything after that. My school brought in a member of the state Education Department's Board of Regents, to discuss curriculums, but that resulted in nothing.

I graduated last spring, but no one has moved on. Students and parents across the country are finally asking tough questions about anti-American curriculums. Immigrants like my mother and grandfather found refuge in America because for all its problems, it's a wonderful place full of generous and open-minded people. The nation's schools have a duty to teach students that basic truth.

Sahar Tartak is a freshman at Yale and a fellow at the Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism.

Sadly, I'm sure you are aware that a religious school promoting biblical sexuality is now forced by the United States Supreme Court and the State of New York to sponsor a group celebrating homosexuality, transgenderism, and "queer" behaviors.⁸ While I understand that the ACA will function as a charter school, its emphasis of biblical sexuality enhances the health, safety, and welfare of all Tennesseans, especially those in Rutherford county, and thus should not be dismissed.

⁸ United States Supreme Court. *YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, ET AL. v. YU PRIDE ALLIANCE, ET AL. ON APPLICATION FOR STAY*. September 14, 2022. Available at https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/22a184_new_0971.pdf.

In summary, as a Rutherford County taxpayer, I ask that following:

- That you discount or ignore the pejorative judgements against Dr. Larry Arnn of Hillsdale College who stated the obvious, that there are some inadequate teachers in our educational system and, even worse, those with an agenda to promote the Democratic party platforms on unhealthy sexuality and racism against whites as to obtain their political objectives.
- That you reconsider the ACA's application considering my comments
- That you promote the health, safety, and welfare of Rutherford County students as to encourage them to live life on life's terms, to prepare them for careers or further education that will ensure self-sufficiency, and to avoid the traps that many of our children face, given the sinful world that we live in and the demise of the traditional nuclear family.

I thank you for listening to me. I pray for you to have wisdom in your work.

Respectfully,

James S. Kennedy MD

CC: Tammy Sharp, Chair, sharpt@rcschools.net
Caleb Tidwell, Vice Chair, tidwellc@rcschools.net
Shelia Bratton, brattons@rcschools.net
Katie Darby, Darbyk@rcschools.net
Claire Maxwell, maxwellc@rcschools.net
Frances Rosales, rosalesf@rcschools.net
Coy Young, youngco@rcschools.net