

## September/October news & updates

September 11, 2020 | Volume 18 | Issue 1



### JANUARY 2021 RECON Safety Reviews

Several academies have taken advantage of the Charter Schools Office offer to have a professional safety and security review of their academy performed by RECON Management Group. Some had reviews scheduled for this past spring that were cancelled by the onset of COVID-19.

Reviews will still take place; however, we have asked RECON to postpone all visits until January 2021. We are hopeful that school operations will have largely returned to normal by then so that the RECON team can accurately assess safety issues.

If your academy did not have a review last year and you still wish to schedule one, please contact Ron Rizzo.

**Dr. Ronald S. Rizzo**  
Director of Charter Schools  
(231) 660-2851 cell  
(231) 591-5807 office



### Director's Opening Thoughts

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! It certainly goes without saying that the beginning of this school year is unlike any opening we have experienced in many years. The challenges of COVID-19 are still with us, there is uncertainty about funding, and the political ground beneath us seems to be shifting almost daily. Despite these challenges; however, I am confident that we will rise up to overcome these difficulties and provide a quality education to the children and families that choose to attend the Ferris State University (FSU) authorized academies. After all, the charter school sector is no stranger to challenges and obstacles!

[READ MORE](#)

## Greetings from the Associate Director



### Greetings!

As we begin what will be an interesting, challenging, and non-traditional school year, I wanted to share some thoughts about our School Support Team (SST) plans and opportunities. Our entire team will continue to review and discuss the **Four Pillars** of our School Support process: 1. *Academic Progress*, 2. *Fiscal Solvency*, 3. *Operations*, and 4. *Compliance/Governance*.

[READ MORE](#)

[Link for House Bill 5912 of 2020](#)

## Academic Assessment Specialist Updates

### Assessment News

The recent passage of House Bill 5913 altered previous communications to you regarding remote testing for the 2020-21 school year. HB 5913 clearly requires a benchmark assessment be given to all students within the first nine weeks of school and then again before the end of the school year. It also requires that a report on progress on the educational goals created in the extended learning plan to be presented February 1, 2021.

[READ MORE](#)

[Link for House Bill 5913 of 2020](#)



## Compliance Auditor/Board Liaison Updates

### Board of Director Updates

Facilitator – Angela Irwin, AirWin Educational Services

*Governing in a Post-Pandemic Environment: Navigating your Board Role Within a New Reality*

[READ MORE](#)

Sharon K. Hopper  
Compliance Auditor/Board Liaison  
(231) 591-5804 office  
[SharonHopper@ferris.edu](mailto:SharonHopper@ferris.edu)



# Compliance Updates

## You Made Ferris State University Charter Schools Office History



Although it is a contractual obligation to maintain 100% on-time compliance, that is no small achievement. Epicenter users, school leaders and board liaisons have the responsibility of ensuring the school and board submit all required documents accurately and on-time in Epicenter. There are over 100 requirements, such as board meeting documents, insurance policies, financial statements, contracts, permits, budgets, inspections and various plans.

For the first time in Charter Schools Office (CSO) history I'm proud to report that all of our academies achieved 100% on-time compliance for the 2019-2020 school year. Thank you to all that made this happen! We are very fortunate to have such conscientious and adept individuals responsible for Epicenter documents and requirements.

Special plaques honoring your 100% on-time compliance will be mailed to all Board Presidents to be presented at a board meeting. Please join all of us at the CSO in expressing thanks and special recognition to those that were a part of this significant accomplishment.

## Welcome New School Leaders

Ferris State University Charter Schools Office welcomes four new school leaders to Bridge Academy, Clara B. Ford Academy, Creative Technologies Academy, and Muskegon Montessori Academy for Environmental Change.



**Mohand Jadallah, Principal**



**Yvonne McClean, Superintendent**







**Autumn Mattson, Superintendent**



**Melissa Manning, Head of School**

Is the content of this email relevant to you?

Yes

Select

No

Select

## Our Mission

### FSU Mission

Ferris State University prepares students for successful careers, responsible citizenship, and lifelong learning. Through its many partnerships and its career-oriented, broad-based education, Ferris serves our rapidly changing global economy and society.

### CSO Mission

The Ferris State University Charter Schools Office focuses on student success and continuous improvement through quality oversight, professional learning opportunities, and relevant resources for its authorized public school academies.

## Contact Us

Ferris State University  
Charter Schools Office  
1020 Maple Street  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
Phone: (231) 591-5802  
[www.ferris.edu/charterschools](http://www.ferris.edu/charterschools)

Dr. Ronald S. Rizzo  
Director of Charter Schools  
(231) 660-2851 cell  
(231) 591-5807 office  
[RonaldRizzo@ferris.edu](mailto:RonaldRizzo@ferris.edu)

**Ferris State University is an equal opportunity institution. For information on the University's Policy on Non-Discrimination, visit [ferris.edu/non-discrimination](http://ferris.edu/non-discrimination).**

