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To State Board of Education Chair, Oliver Olsen:

I am writing this letter so you can share it with the State Board Members at the 2/16/22 State Board of Education meeting.

I am writing to ask that Stone Path Academy be allowed to remain open through June 2022. I am a Burlington School District Special Ed Case Manager/LEA and BSD has a student who is in the midst of graduating from Stone Path Academy. If things go according to plan, this student will have credits finalized to graduate from high school by June 2022.

Stone Path teachers/staff have been a tremendous support for this particular student for many years, but especially this school year when this student suddenly became homeless. This student is currently living outside of Burlington as a person who is homeless and BSD has continued to be the LEA. Stone Path has supported the student by connecting the student to adult services so housing options and other resources can be looked into; transporting the student to and from school after the student became homeless; and supporting the student in a Driver's Education program that BSD is currently funding.

If this student needed to attend a different program, it is possible that the student would not graduate in June of 2022. There are many waitlists for alternative school programs. Building trust and relationships with teachers/staff would likely take time. Things would be extremely challenging for this student without the support of Stone Path teachers/staff and there would be the possibility that the student could drop out of high school.

I hope you will consider keeping Stone Path Academy open through June 2022 so this student has the opportunity to graduate as planned from a school program the student knows and has engaged with for many years. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sally Martin

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courageous people. Join the journey!