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**DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

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**TO: PCCS COMMUNITY**  
**FROM: GEOFF DEIGAN (PCCS)**  
**SUBJECT: WOODLAND DISTRICT #50 LAWSUIT**  
**DATE: MARCH 24, 2015**

Dear PCCS Community,

Late yesterday afternoon, Cook County Judge Thomas Allen ruled in favor of Woodland District 50 to overturn the Illinois State Charter School Commission's (Commission) decision to renew Prairie Crossing Charter School's (PCCS) charter through 2019 despite the Judge's finding and recognition of PCCS's high academic achievements and performance.

Woodland has been contesting the existence of PCCS since our opening in 1999. Regardless of our accomplishments, under Charter School law in Illinois, it is required that Charter Schools renew their charter agreements every 5 years. PCCS has successfully renewed our contract 3 times since our inception and each time Woodland has been at the front of the line contesting our right to exist. Woodland feels that closing our school will miraculously cure years of mismanaged budgets by their administration and their school board.

As demonstrated with our past successful renewal struggles, we will fight this and we will win. As is common in an unprecedented case such as this, PCCS and the Commission will appeal the Judge's decision with the Illinois Appellate Court to ensure that the Illinois Charter School Law is correctly interpreted and applied.

Many have asked what you can do to help. I ask that we band together to strengthen our School community and stand in solidarity as we continue to create natural leaders. I ask that you share your experiences at PCCS with your neighbors, your legislators, and your elected officials.

PCCS has endured many challenges in our 15 years and like those before, this will not stand in the way of our focus to provide a free K-8 public education where children learn the value of community and the environment.

PCCS is confident that the Commission's action to renew PCCS through 2019 was not "clearly erroneous". The renewal was a transparent, thorough, and arduous process conducted by the Commission's Accountability plan and PCCS met or exceeded standards within the categories in which we were evaluated.

PCCS is proud of our students' accomplishments and look forward to the opportunity to continue to provide award-winning education to the families that choose an alternative to traditional public schools through 2019 and beyond.

