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Agency of Education

May 14, 2021

TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL

Mark Bodin, President, Board of Trustees
Kurn Hattin Homes for Children
708 Kurn Hattin Road
Westminster, VT 05158

Dear Mr. Bodin:

The Agency of Education's review of Kurn Hattin Homes for Children's compliance with the standards required of approved independent schools conducted pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 166(b)(5) and Vermont State Board of Education Rule 2222.8 is complete, and the Review Team has shared its written report with me. I am writing today to provide the written report to you and to inform you of my recommendation, as required by Rule 2222.8.

Based on the Review Team's findings and conclusions, I will not recommend revocation or suspension of Kurn Hattin's status as an approved independent school. In the course of its thorough investigation, the Review Team found that Kurn Hattin has taken action to revise its policies and procedures, reduce residential student to staff ratios, add additional oversight of day-to-day operation through the Assistant Executive Director's position, and increase involvement of the Board of Trustees through your active leadership as Board Chair. I accept the Review Team's conclusion that through consistent implementation and ongoing oversight, KH can remain compliant with the standards required of approved independent school and provide a safe and healthy environment for its students.

In order to provide assurances that Kurn Hattin will continue to implement the changes highlighted by the Review Team, the Agency of Education will conduct two additional, targeted reviews of Kurn Hattin as follows:

1. On or before September 10, 2021, Kurn Hattin shall provide the Agency of Education with documentation of trainings provided to staff, as discussed in the Review Team's report. This documentation must include proof of participation by all educational and residential staff members.
2. Kurn Hattin shall allow an on-site visit by Agency staff in Spring 2022 during which Agency staff will review the policies and procedures the school has implemented for mandatory background checks, supervision of staff, and mandatory reporting to the Department for Children and Families.

Please confirm your acceptance of the terms outlined above by return email no later than May 21, 2021. You may contact the Agency's General Counsel, Emily Simmons, with any questions about the Review Team report or my recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan French".

Daniel M. French, Ed.D.
Secretary of Education

