



The Charter School Advocate

Thursday, June 14, 2018

AGENDA TO FULFILL THE PROMISE – An Overview (*Abridged Version*)

When Minnesota's charter school law was enacted in 1991 the underlying premise was that chartered public schools would have the autonomy and ability to be innovative in exchange for being accountable for student success and good stewardship of resources.

Twenty-seven years later that promise is still a work in progress.

While charter schools have been held accountable for student success and good stewardship of resources, public policies have not provided the autonomy, nor resources for charter schools to fulfill the innovative purposes outlined in the charter law.

One measure of accountability is that 25% of chartered schools have closed, or never opened because they did not demonstrate results or fulfill their original promise. One measure of public policy not fulfilling its promise is the growing disparity in funding for charter school students.

Twenty- seven years later that promise is still a work in progress.

Today, there are three significant areas of public policy which need to be addressed to provide the latitude promised to charter schools.

1] Equitable Funding for Charter School Students

2] A Rationale Policy Approach for Charter School Facilities

3] The Latitude for Innovation – Balancing Accountability vs Autonomy

We call on the Governor and the Legislature to enact policies to fulfill the promise to Chartered Public Schools made twenty-seven years ago by ensuring equitable funding for students, appropriate cost-efficient facilities for learning, and the autonomy for schools to be the innovative laboratories for public education.

The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools has been and continues to be committed to putting forth ideas and legislation to fulfill the promise of chartered public schools established with the enactment of the nation's first charter school law.

We offer the Agenda to Fulfill the Promise because we believe that our students, our families and our state deserve the Promise be fulfilled.

AGENDA TO FULFILL THE PROMISE – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR IDEAS

The MACS *Government Affairs* Committee is working on developing an **AGENDA TO FULFILL THE PROMISE – MN CHARTER SCHOOL LAW 3.0**. The Committee is currently reviewing the charter school law, current public policy positions of the Association, and identifying new issues that need to be addressed legislatively. The goal is to have the various policy positions of the Agenda ready for ratification by the Association’s membership in late September/early October.

YOUR ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING THE AGENDA IS REQUESTED – attached is a form for you to identify the issues that you believe the Government Affairs Committee should examine as it works on developing an *AGENDA TO FULFILL THE PROMISE – MN CHARTER SCHOOL LAW 3.0*.

We ask that you submit any issues you wish the Committee to consider by **FRIDAY, AUGUST 3rd**.

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY:

Does your school want to be more involved in Public Policy Advocacy?

One of the goals of the Association is to strengthen the Advocacy Capacity of the charter school community. To that end our Government Affairs Consultant/Lobbyist Peg Larsen and our Associate Director, Tom DeGree, would love to schedule a time to talk to your school leadership (board, school director or others) about how your school community can get more involved in Public Policy Advocacy to assist in moving forward the charter school policy agenda. **Contact Tom @ the MACS OFFICE.**

PELSB UPDATE- LICENSURE

June 8th was the final Public Hearing for the Rule Making of the MN Tier License. If you were not able to make it to the hearing you can still give your feedback online until **Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.**

Here is a link to the online comment (you can also link to the current draft):

<https://minnesotaoah.granicusideas.com/discussions/minnesota-professional-educator-licensing-and-standards-board-notice-of-hearing-1>

MDE PUBLISHES THIRD DRAFT OF PROPOSED NEW ARTS EDUCATION STANDARDS

MDE has posted the Third Draft of the proposed new Arts Education Standards for public comment. Here is the link to the **Third Draft of the Proposed Standards**.

We encourage school administrators and teachers to review the proposed Standards and submit your comments to MDE, as the proposed Standards will apply to charter schools

\$\$\$ - NEW TEACHER RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (TRA) CONTRIBUTION RATES

The 2018 MN Legislature enacted and Governor Dayton signed into law a comprehensive Pension Reform Bill that included increases in the **Employer Contribution Rate of TRA** and **new language about the coverage of charter school directors or chief administrative officers**.

A Contribution Rate Chart and the New Language about the coverage of charter school directors can be found **here**.

SUMMER PUBLIC POLICY INTERN – KATIE YOUNG

We are extremely happy to welcome **Katie Young** as our Public Policy Intern this summer. Katie is doing background research on a number of school finance and policy issues that will be helpful in making the case for equitable funding for charter schools students in 2019 and beyond.

Katie is a student at the University of Minnesota majoring in Political Science and History. She anticipates graduating in May, 2019.

HEADLINES FROM WASHINGTON D.C.

Federal School Safety Commission – *Education Secretary DeVos told Congress recently that the Federal School Safety Commission **will not** look into the role of firearms in school shootings as that was not part of the Commission's charge.*

Trump Budget Proposals for FY19 – *The proposed Education Budget for FY19 would **eliminate Title 2 Educator Professional Development funding** (\$2.1 billion), and **eliminate the 21st Century Community Learning Programs** (\$1.1 billion).*

MN PRIMARY – TUESDAY, AUGUST 14th

Filing for the **August 14th Primary** closed last week and there will be competitive primaries in both the DFL and Republican Parties for Governor, as well as some of the other statewide and legislative races. Here is the list of candidates of the DFL and Republican Parties.

DFL Candidates for Governor/Lt. Governor

- Erin Murphy & Erin Maye-Quade – *(DFL Party Endorsed)*
- Tim Walz & Peggy Flanagan
- Lori Swanson & Rick Nolan
- Tim Holden & James Mellin II
- Ole Savior & Chris Edman

Republican Candidates for Governor/Lt. Governor

- Jeff Johnson & Donna Bergstrom – (*Republican Party Endorsed*)
- Tim Pawlenty & Michelle Fischbach
- Matthew Kruse & Theresa Loeffler

We encourage you to learn more about the candidates for Governor and if you have the opportunity to meet them, ask them what their position is on charter schools in general and equitable funding for students who attend charter schools.

2018 ELECTION SCHEDULE

July 24th – Last Day to Pre-register to Vote in Primary

Aug. 14th – Primary

Oct. 16th – Last Day to Pre-register to Vote in General Election

Nov. 6th – General Election.

ELECTION LAW NOTES:

MN Statutes 204C03 Subd. 3. – Public Meetings on Election Day

Public elementary and secondary schools. Except for regularly scheduled classes, a public elementary or secondary school **may not schedule a school sponsored event** between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the day that a regularly scheduled election is held in any political subdivision in which the school is located.

MN Statutes 204C.04 EMPLOYEES; TIME OFF TO VOTE.

Subdivision 1. Right to be absent.

Every employee who is eligible to vote in an election has the right to be absent from work for the time necessary to appear at the employee's polling place, cast a ballot, and return to work on the day of that election, without penalty or deduction from salary or wages because of the absence. An employer or other person may not directly or indirectly refuse, abridge, or interfere with his right or any other election right of an employee.