



MN ASSOCIATION OF
CHARTER SCHOOLS

The Charter School Advocate

Friday, February 13, 2015

Good Morning,

Monday, February 16th President's Day is a time to reacquaint ourselves with the contributions of those who have taken on the mantle of national leadership – especially *President Washington*, who as first president set an example for all leaders no matter their field of endeavor; and *President Lincoln*, who demonstrated incredible strength of character in the face of an enormous political and moral crisis, and personal tragedy.

The life stories of these Presidents remind us of the writing of Robert Greenleaf who has written that – *Good leaders must first become good servants*. How fortunate our country was to have these good public servants as leaders– there is much for all of us to learn from their life and example.

HEADLINES - WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9 -13, 2015

- Small School Revenue Legislation House Hearing & Upcoming Teleconference
- State Publishes Proposed Rule on School Desegregation and Integration
- Charter School Day @ the Capitol – March 5th
- The CHARTER SCHOOL CURRENT
- Final Note: Expression of Sympathy

SMALL SCHOOL REVENUE LEGISLATION – HOUSE HEARING

Yesterday, the House Education Finance Committee heard **HF 557** authored by **Rep. Bly** that would extend **Small School Revenue** enacted for traditional districts to small charter schools. I want to thank **Simon Tyler**, *Executive Director of Prairie Creek in Castle Rock* and **Ryan Krominga**, *Executive Director of Acradia Charter School, Northfield* for joining me in testifying on how small school revenue would help small charter schools deal with the higher costs small schools face implementing programs and meeting state mandates.

It was the first time that Simon and Ryan had attended a legislative hearing and given testimony before a committee - **they did a great job** in representing both their own schools and all small charter schools.

[MACS Testimony](#)

To learn more about the Small School Revenue Legislation – we invite you to participate in a teleconference next week.

SMALL SCHOOL REVENUE LEGISLATION - TELECONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY - February 18, 2015

1:30 – 2:00 P.M.

You are invited to participate in a Teleconference on **HF 557/ SF 676** that would provide small charter schools with Small School Revenue, a revenue source that small traditional school districts have had since 2011.

Teleconference Agenda

- 1] Original Concept and Rationale for Small School Revenue
- 2] Legislative History
- 3] Overview of the HF 557/SF Legislation
- 4] What Your School Community Can Do to Assist Small School Revenue for Charters

To register to participate in the teleconference, Click [HERE](#)

STATE PUBLISHES PROPOSED RULES RELATED TO SCHOOL DESEGREGATION AND INTEGRATION

On Monday, February 9th, the **STATE REGISTER** published the **Proposed Permanent Rules Related to School Desegregation and Integration**. The proposed Rules would require charter schools to comply with the School Desegregation and Integration Law and Rules for the first time.

http://www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/stateregister/39_32.pdf

Under the current Rules charter schools are exempt as schools of parental and student choice. The new Rule would require most if not all charter schools to develop 3-year Achievement and Integration Plans that would have to be evaluated by the Commissioner. The rules would give the Commissioner authority to approve plans and budget adjustments of the district or charter school's budget to aid in meeting achievement and integration goals.

Given the scope and impact of the Proposed Rules on charter schools, **the Association will be convening a series of meetings in the next month to convene schools to discuss and develop a response to the Proposed Rules. Watch for more information in coming days.**

CHARTER SCHOOL DAY @ THE CAPITOL – MARCH 5th

We want to express our thanks to all those who have indicated that they will be participating in the 8th Annual Charter School Day @ the Capitol. This week calls have been made to every charter school in the state to make sure that folks have an opportunity to sign-up to participate in our annual lobbying day.

If you have not yet signed up yet – please do so this next week – as we need to get appointments on legislators' calendars now for March 5th.

THE CHARTER SCHOOL CURRENT

We invite you to subscribe to [THE CHARTER SCHOOL CURRENT](#) for information on legislation, school and association news, as well as events and other issues about charter schools in Minnesota and the nation.

FINAL NOTE: EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY

The staff of the MN Association of Charter Schools wishes to express our deepest sympathy to:

- **Rep. Linda Slocum**, DFL – Richfield, on the death of her father **Chuck Slocum** this past weekend. Rep. Slocum is a strong supporter of the charter school community, who has authored several pieces of charter school legislation.
- **Brian Sweeny**, *Director of Public Affairs, Charter School Partners* on the death yesterday of his wife **Karla Sweeney**, who has been in Hospice care for the last year.