



Thursday, January 13, 2022

The Charter School *Advocate*

NEW PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

We are pleased to announce the hiring of **Joey Cienian** as our new Public Policy & Advocacy Director. Joey comes to the Association from the High School for Recording Arts where he has served as the Director of Education. Joey has a Masters Degree in Teaching from Hamline University and a Bachelor Degrees in History and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Before working at HSRA, he was a Political Organizer for Greenpeace in Arizona and Minnesota. He is a political advocate committed to equity and social justice, passionate about civic engagement, and a storyteller. **Joey will join the MACS staff on Monday, January 31st.**

MACS CHARTER SCHOOL DAY @ THE CAPITOL - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Again, this year the MACS Charter School Day @ the Capitol will be virtual given the protocols that the Legislature has put in place for this session. While the Capitol Building is open, the State Office Building (SOB) which houses the offices of House members and the Senate Office Building are closed to the public. It is expected at this point that all legislative hearings will be virtual.

REGISTRATION: [Click here.](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

On December 6, 2021, the **Cruz-Guzman Lawsuit** entered a new phase with the Ruling by Hennepin County District Judge Susan Robiner in which she stated that the question (below) posed by the Plaintiffs relates to the state constitution and creates statewide impact, so she certified the question as important and doubtful, requiring immediate appellate review.

Is the Education Clause of the Minnesota Constitution violated by a racially-imbalanced school system, regardless of the presence of de jure segregation or proof of a causal link between the racial imbalance and the actions of the state?

In plain language, the question is: **Are racially-imbalanced schools illegal under the Minnesota Constitution, no matter what caused them to be racially imbalanced?**

The parties involved in the lawsuit are in the process of petitioning the Minnesota Supreme Court to conduct that immediate review.

MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

Monday, January 31st – House and Senate convene at noon for the 2022 session

Tuesday, February 1st – Precinct Caucuses of the Major Parties

Tuesday, February 15th – Five Judge Panel Announces Minnesota Redistricting Maps

MN SENATE – 8 of the 67 members have announced they are not seeking re-election or seeking another office. **Senators NOT Seeking Re-election:**

- **Senator Susan Kent** - (DFL -53) - 2 charter schools in District
- **Senator Chris Eaton** - (DFL - 40) - 6 charter schools in District
- **Senator Greg Clausen** - (DFL-57) - 1 charter school in District
- **Senator Jerry Newton** - (DFL -37) – 2 charter schools in District
- **Senator Torres Ray** - (DFL -63) – 13 charter schools in District
- **Senator Chuck Wiger** - (DFL-43) – 3 charter schools in District

Senator NOT Seeking Re-election but running for another Office:

- **Senator Paul Gazelka** - (R- 9) – 1 charter school in District
- **Senator Michell Benson** - (R -31) – No charters in District

MN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – 10 of 134 have announced they are not seeking re-election or seeking another office. **Representatives NOT Seeking Re-election:**

- **Representative Jim Davnie** - (DFL – 63A) – 8 charter schools in District
- **Representative Ami Wazlawik** - (DFL -38B) - 5 charter schools in District
- **Representative Todd Lippert** - (DFL -20B) – 1 charter school in District

- **Representative Alice Hausman** - (DFL -66A) - No charters in District
- **Representative Rod Hamilton** - (R -22B) – No charters in District
- **Representative Tim Miller** - (R – 17A) – No charters in District
- **Representative Paul Marquart** - (DFL-4B) – No charters in District

Representatives NOT Seeking Re-election but running for another Office:

- **Representative John Poston** - (R – 9A) – 1 charter school in District
- **Representative Tou Xiong** - (DFL -53A) – 1 charter school in District
- **Representative Ryan Winkler** - (DFL – 46A) – No charter schools in District

FEBRUARY BUDGET/REVENUE FORECAST

In early February, the MN Office of Management & Budget will announce the February Forecast which will be used by the Legislature for making any spending decisions in the upcoming session. The January monthly revenue report shows that revenues are running higher than the November Forecast projected.

FEDERAL CASE - STUDENTS RIGHT TO ADEQUATE CIVICS EDUCATION DENIED

Rhode Island – “Students asserting the right to an adequate civics education have lost their appeal of a federal court ruling that dismissed their suit accusing the state of Rhode Island of failing to prepare them for the duties of citizenship. Like the federal district judge who had ruled in the case, now known as *A.C. v. McKee*, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st Circuit, in Boston, lauded the student plaintiffs for their effort but ultimately concluded that their suit could not prevail.”

“The students have called attention to critical issues of declining civic engagement and inadequate preparation for participation in civic life at a time when many are concerned about the future of American democracy,” a unanimous three-judge appeals panel said in an [unanimous Jan. 11 decision](#). “Nevertheless, the weight of precedent stands in the students’ way here, and they have not stated any viable claim for relief.”

Education Week – January 12, 2022

BLUFFVIEW'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

On Tuesday, we honored Bluffview Montessori School for the 30th Anniversary of their approval as the first authorized charter school in MN and the Nation! The program included a performance from the Bluffview Jam Band and words from Rep. Gene Pelowski, Rep. Steve Drazkowski, Winona Mayor Scott Sherman, and former Senator Ember Reichgott Junge, the author of the first charter school law.



L to R – Senator Ember Reichgott Junge, Winona Mayor Scott Sherman, Eugene Piccolo, Representative Gene Pelowski, Representative Steve Drazkowski, Bluffview Director Henry Schantzen

"Unleashing education from convention" - is more than the MACS motto, it is a reminder of our purpose, our goals and it serves as a clarion **Call To Action.**

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