

## **PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

February 11, 2010

Approved Minutes

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Trustees: Susan Baskett, Glenn Nelson and Simone Lightfoot

Staff Members: Dr. Todd Roberts, and Jane Landefeld (Director of Student Accounting and Administrative Support),

Others: David Jesse (AnnArbor.com), Bill Miller (Supt. WISD), Sarah (guest student)

Susan Baskett called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

### **Public Commentary**

Kathy Griswold requests that the AAPS hold the city to its original intent to move the cross walk at King School and do away with the current one at the 4-way stop sign. A parent first raised this issue over two years ago. Ms. Griswold states that things were moving forward to change the walkway's location when it was halted by one single resident because the resident did not want the responsibility of maintaining the walkway.

### **Policies**

Suggested changes to expiring policies were submitted to committee members. They will be reviewed at the next meeting.

### **Charter Schools**

Bill Miller provided the committee with an overview of charter schools.

They were created in the 1990's. They can be chartered by a college or university, a local school district or a by an intermediate school district. The WISD chartered Honey Creek Community School that serves students K-8.

There are approximately 350 schools in the state. The number of schools chartered by universities has been limited since 2000, although community colleges can continue to do so.

Charter schools are publicly funded. They are governed by its own school board that in turn can contract with private companies to provide services. There are at least 12 charter schools in Michigan that are operated by private management companies. The greatest growth in number are those chartered by Bay-Mills (Indian Affairs). Each chartering entity receives a percentage of the local foundation allowance plus funds for administration costs.

The Race To The Top (RTTT) legislation allows for an additional 20-30 charter schools (to be called, "Schools of Excellence") to those already operating. The federal government appears to be very 'pro-charter'.

There are massive waiting lists for charter schools. They are smaller. They encourage more parental input and governance. They are deemed to be more customer friendly. They often have a certain target student population, such as those based on ethnicity or religion (although they are allowed to teach religion) or learning styles.

Jane Landefeld confirmed that each year, AAPS loses approximately 1000 students to the charter schools. Charter schools continue to attract students from each of the local school districts. There are approximately 47,269 students in the county. AAPS has 35% of the population. Charter schools enroll approximately 7.2% of the total students.

### **Schools of Choice**

Private school enrollments are declining, perhaps due to their costs.

Many of the county's districts offer 'schools of choice' options. Some, like AAPS offer placements for children of their employees. This opportunity is only for the duration of the parents' employment.

The committee discussed the pro's and con's of expanding AAPS's school of choice option.

#### **Pro's:**

- Additional revenue (short and possible long-term)
- Could show a proactive strategy in slowing down the growth of charter schools, etc.
- Increase AAPS visibility to 'new' families

#### **Cons:**

- The foundation allowances of incoming students will be less than what AAPS currently receives for its students
- The cost of educating some of the new incoming students could exceed their allotted foundation allowances
- Some in the community may resent the ability of non-tax payers being able to enroll.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Minutes Prepared by Susan Basket