



**AGORA**  
CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL<sup>SM</sup>

powered by K<sup>12</sup>

995 Old Eagle School Road  
Suite 315  
Wayne, PA 19087  
ph 610.254.8218  
fx 610.254.8969  
www.agora.org

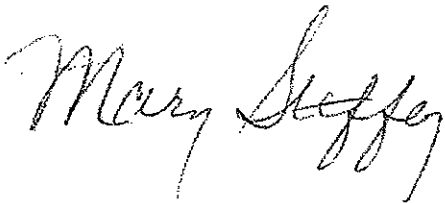
Board of Trustees Meeting  
September 27, 2011

- I. Preliminary
  - a. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM
  - b. Roll Call: Board Members in attendance included Travis Gery (TG), Bonita Harmon (BH), Mary Steffey (MS), Jim Stoltz (JS) and Board Solicitor - Lawrence Frangiosa (LF)
- II. Old Business
  - i. Approve Previous Meetings Minutes
    1. Distributed by Email
    2. Motion to Approve JS
    3. Second to motion BH
    4. Vote carried – Unanimously – Approved
- III. New Business & Report to The Board
  - a. Enrollment Report (presented by Tim Kreider)
    - i. As of September 16 total enrollment is 7762
    - ii. 3580 New students and 70% of last year's returning students
    - iii. As of this AM on September 27, 2011 total enrollment is 8060
    - iv. Discussion of geographic locations for students and reasons of why they are enrolling and where they are enrolling from
    - v. 35% above last year's numbers
    - vi. Attendance Snapshot as of 9-16-11
      1. Compared to last year's numbers
      2. Increased attendance numbers
      3. In line with expectations, no red flags or concerning issues
  - b. School Start Up: Technology, Curriculum, Logistics (presented by Sharon Williams)
    - i. Start Up Challenges
      1. Log In/Attendance Report (resolved)
        - a. Previously had issues which have been resolved
        - b. Can now move to removal of Log Hours Screen
        - c. Parent input and family impact discussed, in addition to other options
      2. Computer Shipment (resolved)
        - a. Back log of laptops
        - b. Resolved issue of most – two remaining to be resolved
        - c. Discussion regarding dates of shipments and school start information (lag time of shipments)
          - i. Recurring issue each year
          - ii. As cyber program essential for students to have
      3. World Language Access (resolved)
        - a. Brief issue, students unable to access
        - b. Issue resolved within a few days, PowerSpeak now available
      4. Elluminate
        - a. Has been inconsistent for last 48 hours

- b. Has been escalated
- c. Issue is that not all have access, and recording may not be available
- d. There appears to be significant Issues this year, more so than previous years
  - i. More dependent on system this year (all day classes for every teacher)
  - ii. Unsatisfactory service; not being provided properly
  - iii. Separate Issues of Class Connect and OLS, and training issue with scheduling
  - iv. Questions and discussions regarding K12 responsiveness vs. school based issue vs. trainings and updates
  - v. Messaging suggested to K12 regarding continued issues, and messaging to parents regarding correcting
  - vi. Board will draft letter to K12 regarding these issues
- e. Early School starts had issues with utilizing courses began prior to their start date
  - ii. 1<sup>st</sup> week of school calls to K12 Customer Support
    - 1. Detailed information presented concerning types of calls
    - 2. Request to have more detailed reporting of call types and student start in order to track computer shipment issues, etc.
    - 3. Request to begin receiving this information on a monthly basis, along with responsiveness and turnaround times to resolution
    - 4. Request for disposition list of requests by Board to K12
- c. Personnel (presented by Sharon Williams)
  - i. Hired 62 new employees Since July 2011
  - ii. 15 resignations through month of August to current
  - iii. Total employees 370
  - iv. Openings in line with enrollment – hiring needs
    - 1. Specific to high school
    - 2. Enrollment bulge is in HS, and K students are increased hence a K-6 watch list
  - v. Introduction of Bruce Elliot as new 3-6 Director
  - vi. Special Education candidate to be available for Board Approval by next meeting
  - vii. K-2 Director candidate backed out and requires still being filled
  - viii. Assistant Head of School in Addition to Kevin Corcoran position is open
  - ix. Motion to approve
    - 1. Motion by MS
    - 2. Second to Motion by BH
    - 3. Vote Carried – Unanimously – Approved
- d. Finance (presented by Jim Stolz)
  - i. Surplus from past year \$839,000 (\$281,000 higher than budget)
  - ii. As enrollment has exceeded expectations forecast of Budget changes
  - iii. Forecasted revenue due to increase in enrollment (excess of 8000) increases budget by 6.1%
  - iv. Teaching staff and enrollment related expenses are forecasted to increase in-line with enrollment

- v. Forecasted ending 11/12 SY surplus of \$2M, 7.6% increase over the original budget
- vi. ARRA
  - 1. Title and ARRA IDEA federal programs will end September 30<sup>th</sup>
  - 2. The final expenditure reports will be completed by October 30<sup>th</sup>
- vii. Audit Update: 09/10 School Year audit field work is complete. The report should be out by September 30<sup>th</sup>
- viii. Motion to approve Finance Report
  - 1. Motion by MS
  - 2. Second to Motion by BH
  - 3. Vote Carried – Unanimously – Approved
- e. Academic (presented by Sharon Williams)
  - i. Scantron Performance Fall Series Taken – reviewed percentage of students Advanced, On Target, and At Risk in Reading and Math reviewed
    - 1. Additional Class Connect Sessions offered
    - 2. K12 offered National Math Lab
    - 3. Additional supports offered via specialists, etc.
    - 4. Discussion regarding inclusion of special education, and possible tracking of comparison data from other school types
  - ii. PSSA New vs. Returning Comparisons
    - 1. Math & Reading – Proficient scores higher for returning students across school years (comparison 06/07; 07/08, 08/09; 09/10; 10/11)
    - 2. Requests to compare students scores across years to see growth
    - 3. Class Connects appear to be successful
- f. Community and Parent Updates (presented by Sharon Williams)
  - i. 13 Back to School events held this month
    - 1. Surveys went out to find out parent feedback concerning event
    - 2. Less turnout of Families
  - ii. School IDs to be made available via Family Teacher Coaches
  - iii. ADOs will begin in every region with each Family Coach on September 30, 2011
- g. PDE Requests (presented by Sharon Williams)
  - i. Awaiting PDE feedback/response
- h. Policy Recommendations
  - i. Teacher Handbook
    - 1. Meeting with Insperity happened
    - 2. Clarified relationship with Insperity and issues from previous meeting (Insperity is not in position to make decisions regarding employment, etc.)
    - 3. Handbook is ready to be reviewed and voted on for approval
    - 4. Motion to Approve Handbook with revisions
      - a. Motion by JS
      - b. Second to motion by MS
      - c. Vote Carried – Unanimously – Approved
  - ii. Stipend for National Board Certification
    - 1. Motion to approve 2,000 Stipend for teachers with
      - a. Motion by MS
      - b. Second to motion by BH
      - c. Vote Carried – Unanimously – Approved

- iii. Timing of Performance Bonus payment
  1. Motion to move payment of Bonus to September following end of SY in which bonus is based
    - a. Motion by MS
    - b. Second to motion BH
    - c. Vote Carried – Unanimously – Approved
- i. K12 Services Agreement
  - i. Proposal to authorize Board President to contact K12 regarding new educational services agreement and Non-agreement for continuing contract for upcoming SY
  - ii. Notice must be given by December 31, 2012
  - iii. Motion to draft
    1. Motion by JS
    2. Second to motion MS
    3. Vote Carried – Unanimously – Approved
  - iv. Letter to go out before next board meeting
  - v. Will not affect or impact current services we are receiving
- j. Newspaper Article
  - i. Authorization to draft letter regarding comments from K12 included in articles and issues
  - ii. Motion to put K12 on notice regarding comments used in article recently
    1. Motion by MS
    2. Second to motion by JS
    3. Vote Carried – Unanimously – Approved
  - iii. K12 access to student information is approved for use to assist Agora in educating students and any other uses would be seriously frowned upon
- IV. Public Comment (20 minutes)
  - a. New Parent feedback (teachers, systems, etc.)
- V. Executive Session
  - a. Called to order at 8:04PM
  - b. Reconvened General Meeting at 8:18PM
- VI. Motion to Deny request for bonus payments from terminated employee(s)
  - a. Motion by MS
  - b. Second to motion by JS
  - c. Vote carried – Unanimously - Approved
- VII. Adjournment
  - a. Motion to Adjourn by MS
  - b. Accepted – meeting adjourned at 8:22PM
  - c. Next meeting to be held on October 25, 2011 @ 6:30pm at Agora Cyber Charter School Administrative Office



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# Board Report

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September 20, 2011

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**AGORA**  
CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL<sup>SM</sup>

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Sharon Williams  
10/25/2011

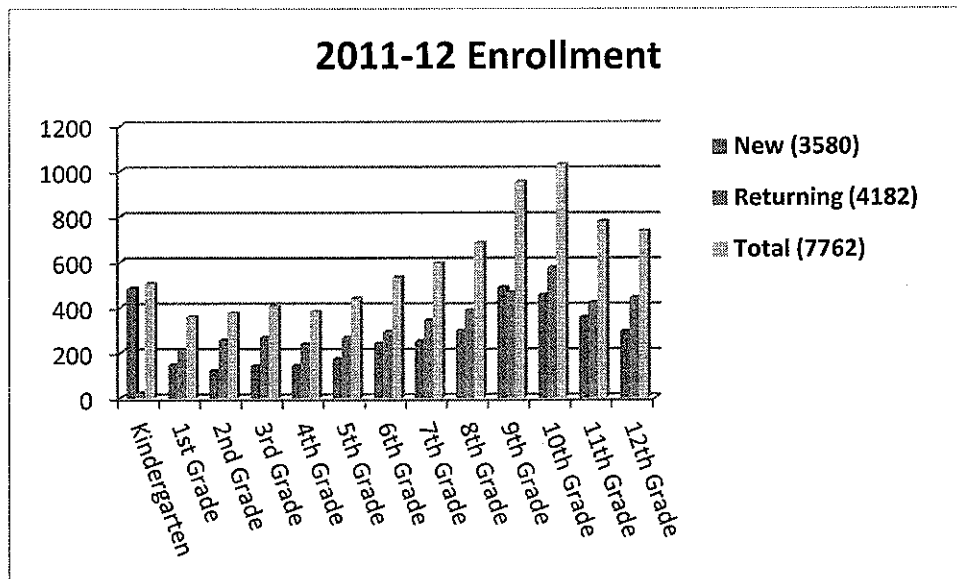


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## Enrollment

Enrollment has grown to 7762, and we expect it to continue to grow toward 8000 by the end of September. This number represents a 35% increase over last year's enrollment at this time. The 7762 includes a mix of 3580 new students and 4182 that are returning. We ended last year with enrollment of 6284. 360 of those students graduated. Of the remaining 5924, 70.6% have returned for the 11-12 school year.



	2011-2012 Approved		
	New (3580)	Returning (4182)	Total (7762)
Kindergarten	483	22	505
1st Grade	146	213	359
2nd Grade	120	255	375
3rd Grade	140	267	407
4th Grade	143	237	380
5th Grade	172	267	439
6th Grade	240	291	531
7th Grade	251	342	593
8th Grade	296	386	682
9th Grade	487	464	951
10th Grade	453	575	1028
11th Grade	356	421	777
12th Grade	293	442	735
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3580</b>	<b>4182</b>	<b>7762</b>

*18.5% of the students are students with IEPs*

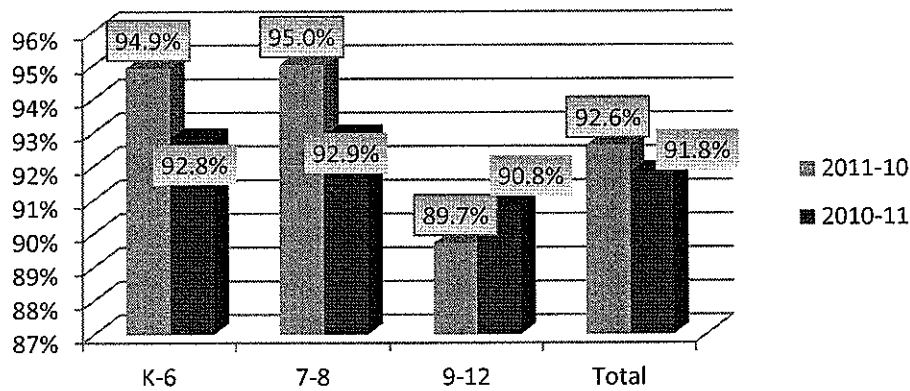
**Ethnicity of Students**

African-American	26%
American Indian	0.01%
Asian	0.01%
Declined to State	0.01%
Hispanic	0.07
Multi-racial	0.03%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	(12 students)
Pacific Islander	(1 student)
Undefined	0.01%
White	60%

**Attendance**

With minimal data at this point in the school year, attendance is tracking similarly to last year at this time, with an overall attendance rate of 92.6%. Last year's final overall attendance rate was 90%.

**Attendance Rates  
 year to year**



	2011-10	2010-11	Percent change
K-6	94.9%	92.8%	2.1%
7-8	95.0%	92.9%	2.1%
9-12	89.7%	90.8%	-1.1%
Total	92.6%	91.8%	0.8%

## Personnel

The following changes to staff occurred since the last board meeting: (Personnel Report Attached)

### Hired - 62:

- Elementary Special Ed-9
- Certified School Nurse-1
- Character Coach-1
- Classroom Coach-5
- Family Coach Mentor-1
- Family Teacher Coach-22
- Freshmen Academy Special Ed-5
- High School Science-2
- High School Special Ed-2
- High School English -2
- High School Spanish-LTS
- Middle School Special Ed-3
- Middle School Science-1
- Reading Specialist-4
- School Psychologist-2
- Truancy Outreach Prevention Coordinator-1

### Resignations- 15:

- School Psychologist-1
- Certified School Nurse-1
- Elementary Teacher-2
- HS English-2
- HS Art-1
- HS Business-1
- HS History-1
- HS Science-1
- HS Special Education-1
- MS History-1
- MS Special ED-2
- School Nurse-1
- Truancy Prevention Coordinator -1

### Transfers- 0:

Total Agora Employees	
September 2011	370

Employee Type	
Teachers	178
Advisors/Guidance	17
Support Staff	175

Teacher Breakdown	
Elementary	41
Middle School	24
High School	55
Special Education	58

## Finance

Financials will come under separate cover. Meeting with Jim is scheduled for Friday at 10:30 am.

## Academics

### Scantron Testing

### Performance

#### *New Students to Agora for the 2011-2012 School Year*

Math			
Grade	%Advanced	%On Target	%At Risk
Grade 3	28%	49%	23%
Grade 4	21%	55%	24%
Grade 5	9%	60%	32%
Grade 6	4%	65%	31%
Grade 7	6%	60%	34%
Grade 8	4%	58%	38%
Grade 9	4%	65%	31%
Grade 10	1%	74%	25%
Grade 11	5%	79%	16%
Grade 12	9%	70%	21%
<b>Schoolwide</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>27%</b>

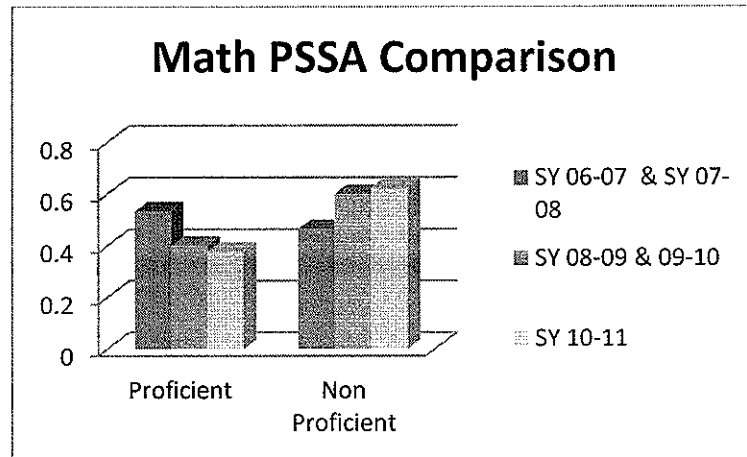
Reading			
Grade	%Advanced	%On Target	%At Risk
Grade 3	26%	59%	15%
Grade 4	16%	66%	18%
Grade 5	13%	65%	22%
Grade 6	6%	69%	26%
Grade 7	10%	69%	21%
Grade 8	8%	67%	25%
Grade 9	7%	73%	20%
Grade 10	4%	75%	21%
Grade 11	11%	77%	12%
Grade 12	13%	77%	10%
<b>Schoolwide</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>19%</b>

#### *Returning Students to Agora for the 2011-2012 School Year*

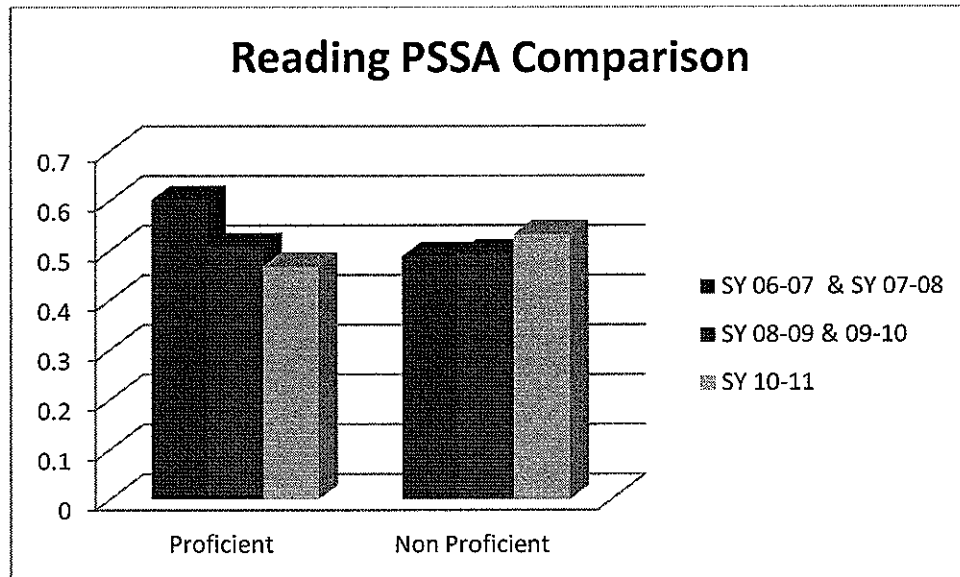
Math			
Grade	%Advanced	%On Target	%At Risk
Grade 3	45%	47%	9%
Grade 4	32%	53%	15%
Grade 5	22%	55%	24%
Grade 6	14%	59%	27%
Grade 7	6%	62%	32%
Grade 8	8%	63%	29%
Grade 9	8%	56%	36%
Grade 10	3%	70%	27%
Grade 11	7%	74%	19%
Grade 12	12%	73%	16%
<b>Schoolwide</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>24%</b>

Reading			
Grade	%Advanced	%On Target	%At Risk
Grade 3	42%	52%	6%
Grade 4	34%	52%	13%
Grade 5	30%	51%	19%
Grade 6	19%	59%	22%
Grade 7	24%	56%	20%
Grade 8	17%	63%	20%
Grade 9	16%	56%	27%
Grade 10	12%	65%	23%
Grade 11	22%	62%	16%
Grade 12	21%	66%	13%
<b>Schoolwide</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>19%</b>

**PSSA Updated Summary**



Math PSSA Comparison	Proficient	Non Proficient
SY 06-07 & SY 07-08	53%	46%
SY 08-09 & 09-10	40%	60%
SY 10-11	38%	62%



Reading PSSA Comparison	Proficient	Non Proficient
SY 06-07 & SY 07-08	60%	49%
SY 08-09 & 09-10	51%	49%
SY 10-11	47%	53%

## High School Summary

- Synchronous instruction is available for all courses (Recordings also available for all)
- Asynchronous instruction is also acceptable.
- Large population of credit deficient students who are now in credit recovery courses to close the deficiency gaps
- National Math Lab pilot beginning at the end of September for struggling students in grades 5-11<sup>th</sup>
- Course Distribution Overview

○ Course Level	○ Number of Students	○ Percentage
○ AP	○ 81	○ .63%
○ Honors	○ 155	○ 1.21%
○ Comprehensive	○ 2460	○ 19.21%
○ Core	○ 3162	○ 24.69%
○ Electives	○ 4058	○ 22.56%

## Middle School Summary

- All teachers teach 4 classes a day
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade teachers who have a credit recovery block are responsible for teaching mini lessons and helping the students remain on track
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade teachers who have remediation/tutoring time are working one on one with students in their classrooms during this time
- 8-9 each morning is reserved for team meetings, content area meetings and department meetings
- Friday schedules involve shorter lessons (4 in all) that serve as a review and take up ½ day. This leaves ½ day for grading, planning and ADOs if applicable.
- Co-teachers from the special ed and specialists' departments are listed within the teams – (initials in 7-8 schedule match the initials of the co-teachers)

## Elementary School Summary

The K-2 teachers follow one of the two schedules.

1. Schedule 1 (General Instruction Schedule)
  - a. Three 45 minute math sessions M-Th
  - b. Three 45 minute phonics (K and 1<sup>st</sup> grades)/reading (2nd grade) sessions M-Th
  - c. Three 45 minute History or Science sessions on Friday
  - d. Daily 30 minute remediation sessions on M-Th and two 45 minute remediation sessions on Friday
2. Schedule 2 (Tier 3 Co-Teaching with Specialists and Special Ed teachers)
  - a. Two 45 minute math sessions with 30 minute remediation immediately following each on M-Th
  - b. Two 45 minute phonics (K and 1<sup>st</sup> grades)/reading (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) with 30 minute remediation immediately following each M-Th
  - c. Two 45 minute History or Science sessions on Friday
  - d. Two 45 minute additional remediation sessions on Friday

## 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers

1. Four days a week teachers and co-teachers are providing synchronous lessons in grade level Reading and Math either 2 or 3 sessions of each per day.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Sharon Williams  
10/25/2011



2. Remediation/enrichment activities are provided at the end of lessons and in sessions separate from the classroom sessions.
3. Friday is devoted to 2-3 Science or History lessons
4. Collaboration time and remediation and planning time are also built into each day

### Learning Center

1. 136 students officially enrolled and attending Learning center daily
2. Spend a half day completing Math and Reading with online teacher with learning center coach support.
3. All students follow code of student conduct and dress code.

### Clubs and Activities/ Community Outreach

BETHLEHEM	• MONDAY, SEPT. 12
JOHNSTOWN	• TUESDAY, SEPT. 13
KING OF PRUSSIA	• TUESDAY, SEPT. 13
READING	• WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 14
ERIE	• WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 14
PHILADELPHIA	• WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 14
WILKES-BARRE	• THURSDAY, SEPT. 15
ALTOONA	• MONDAY, SEPT. 19
PITTSBURGH	• TUESDAY, SEPT. 20
WILLIAMSPORT	• WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 21
MECHANICSBURG	• THURSDAY, SEPT. 22
PHILADELPHIA LC	• THURSDAY, SEPT. 22
LANCASTER	• FRIDAY, SEPT. 23

### Upcoming Events

- State Wide ADO events conducted by Family Teacher Coaches
- State Wide efforts for Photo ID s at ADO events.

### Policy Consideration

- See Attached Handbook
- Timing of payout of bonuses
- \$2000 Stipend consideration for teachers with National Board Certification