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Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday Feb 2,2010

I. Preliminary

A. Call to order . The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm

B. Roll call:

Travis Gery

Kadedra Haynes

Mary Steffey via illuminate

Bonita Harmon arrived 6:45 pm

absent: James Parsons

II. Old Business

A. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

motion to approve the minutes by Kadedra Haynes

second by Mary Steffey

unanimous approval

III. New Business Report to the Board

see attached Board Report

A. Enrollment. Tim Krieder provided enrollment report

B. Finance: Sharon Williams gave the financial report

C. Personnel: Sharon Williams explained the teacher student ratio and how Para professionals are being utilized

motion was made by Bonita Harmon to approve the hiring of necessary employees

second by Kadedra Haynes

motion unanimously approved

D. Academic: Amy Rupp gave the report on academics on k-8 and explained the school improvement's plan updates (see board report) and Scranton results and online school progress and on line school progress.

Jane Swan gave the report on High School (see board Report)

Beverly Nelson gave the report on National Honor Society and their newly formed charter. (see board report) Agora is thrilled to now be a member of this organization Sharon Williams gave a report on Annual Yearly Progress. Ayp has targets in different subgroups and requires and this was explained in detail

E. Community Updates: Laura Zotola gave info about the upcoming community events and the upcoming pssa pep rallies. (see board report) She gave info on family fun days, meet and greets, coffee chats, pep rallies, bus stop, parent booster club, spirit week, agora days out and end of year celebrations. (looking at three celebrations across the state in Phila zoo, middle of state at Knobels and the Pittsburg zoo).

- E. Community Updates given by Laura Zotola see board report
 - F. Charter Renewal Status by Sharon Williams (see report) no new info
 - G. PDE updates report given by Sharon Williams see report
 - H. Parent Updates
 - I. Policy Recommendations: we will be looking at the handbook for the next meeting
Motion was made by Mary Steffey to approve conflict of interest policy
Second by Bonita Harmon
Unanimously passed
- IV. Public Comment:
- V. Adjournment:
motion to adjourn by Mary Steffey
second by Kadedra Haynes
Meeting adjourned at 8pm

minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Steffey
please use the recorded link on the top of the Board minutes to access the recording of the meeting

Mary Steffey

NOTICE OF AND AGENDA FOR AGORA CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

6:30 pm

ELLUMINATE LINK

<https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/launch/meeting.inlp?sid=559&password=M.7A7FF668828A638E3C0C41B3133923>

Members Present

Others Present

- I. Preliminary
 - A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at _____ pm
 - B. Roll Call

- II. Old Business
 - A. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

- III. New Business: Report to the Board
 - A. Enrollment
 - B. Finance
 - C. Personnel
 - D. Academic
 - E. Community Updates
 - F. Charter Renewal Status
 - G. PDE Updates
 - H. Parent Updates
 - I. Policy Recommendations

- IV. Public Comment (20 minutes)

- V. Adjournment



Board Report
February 2, 2010

Enrollment as of 1/25/10

Total School Enrollment: 5577 students

K-6: 2182 (-14)

7-8: 930 (-9)

9-12: 2465 (+ 242)

Total Regular Ed: 4551

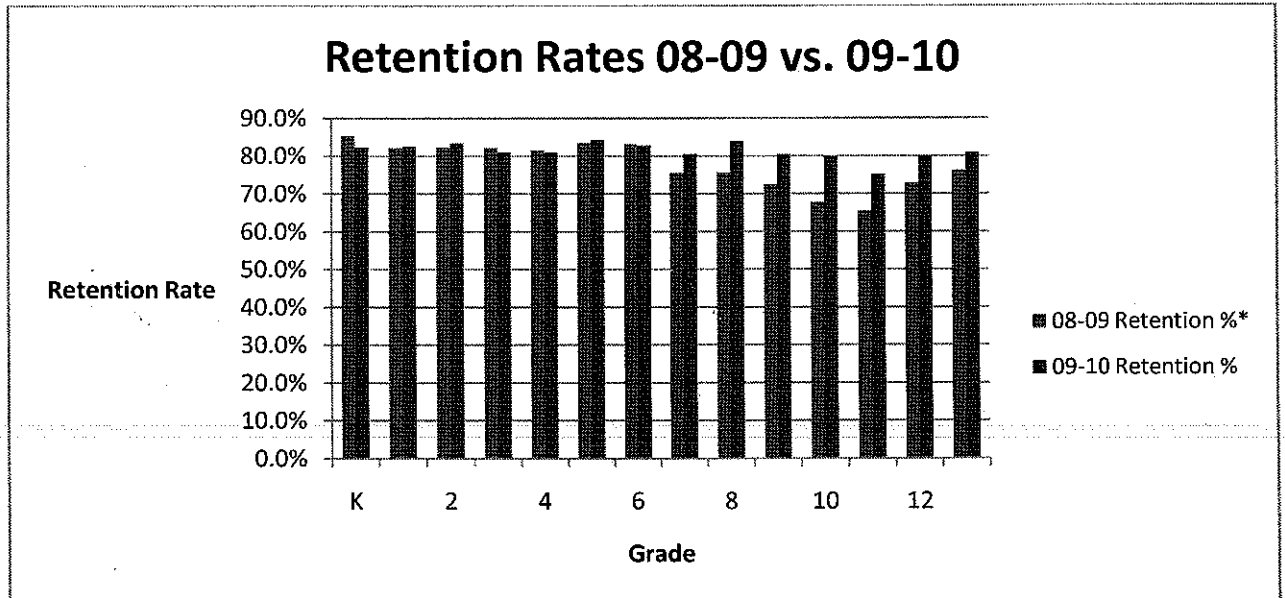
Total Special Education: 1026

Total Pending Students: 192

See Appendix A for Enrollment by Grade Level

Retention Rate/Withdrawal Data (As of 1/21/2010)

Retention rate over last year has *improved* by over 4%.



The top three greatest reasons for withdrawal remains

1. Transfers back to a public School
2. Truancy withdrawals
3. Transfers to other charter, private, or homeschooling

See Appendix B for Withdrawal/Retention Data



Attendance

Absentee Rate

	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sept
K-6	9%	10%	7%	6%	6%
7 & 8	16%	16%	13%	10%	8%
9-12	21%	25%	23%	17%	14%
Total	15%	17%	15%	11%	9%

Personnel

Total Academic Personnel: 243

Total Special Education Teachers: 50

Total Number of K-6 teachers and lead teachers: **50**

Student Teacher Ratio: 43:1 (Average Homeroom is 47:1)

Special Education Teachers: **13**

Total Number of 7th-8th Grade Teachers and Specialists: **34**

Student Teacher Ratio: 27:1 (Average Homeroom is 45:1; Average Content Teachers is 175:1)

Special Education Teachers: **11**

Total Number of High School Teachers, Advisors, Guidance Counselors (72 teachers, 12 Advisors, 9 Counselors): **93**

Student :Teacher Ratio: 34:1 (HR: 34:1; Avg Content Teacher is 180:1)

Student: Advisor Ratio: 205:1

Student: Counselor Ratio: 273:1

Student : High School Team: 26:1

Special Education Teachers: **24**

Para educators: **16**

Student: Total Academic Personnel 23:1

Finance

Revenues: School revenues through Dec 30th total \$25.3M dollars and are in-line with revised Oct 1 enrollment projections. Approximately 4.5 M came in through federal Title, IDEA , and School Improvement grant monies.



Expenditures: School expenditures through Dec 30th total \$24.9M with over 80% the share of dollars pouring directly into instruction through teacher salaries, academic programs, curriculum, materials and technology.

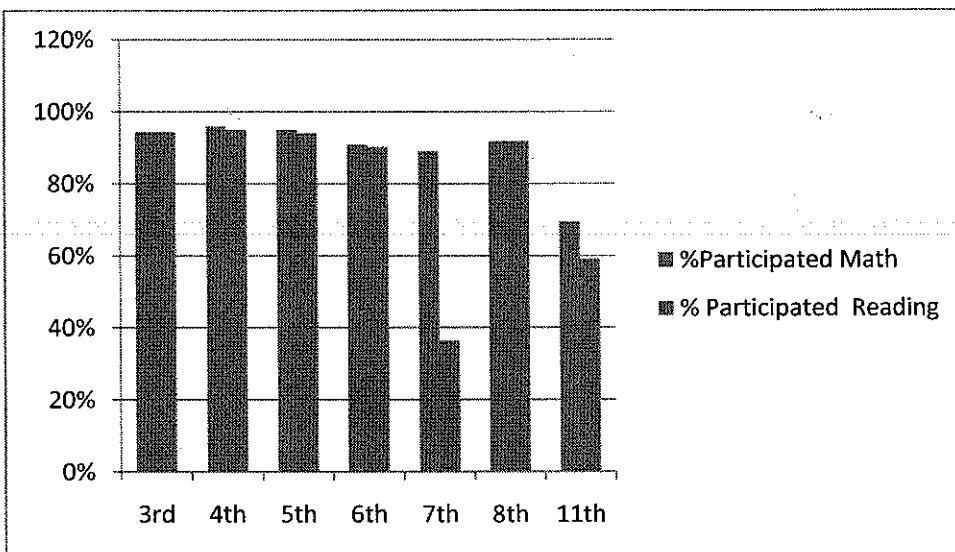
Net Fund Balance/Deficit: Currently in a slight surplus of \$396 K overcoming the slight \$550 K deficit reported last month.

Academics

School Improvement Plan Check points

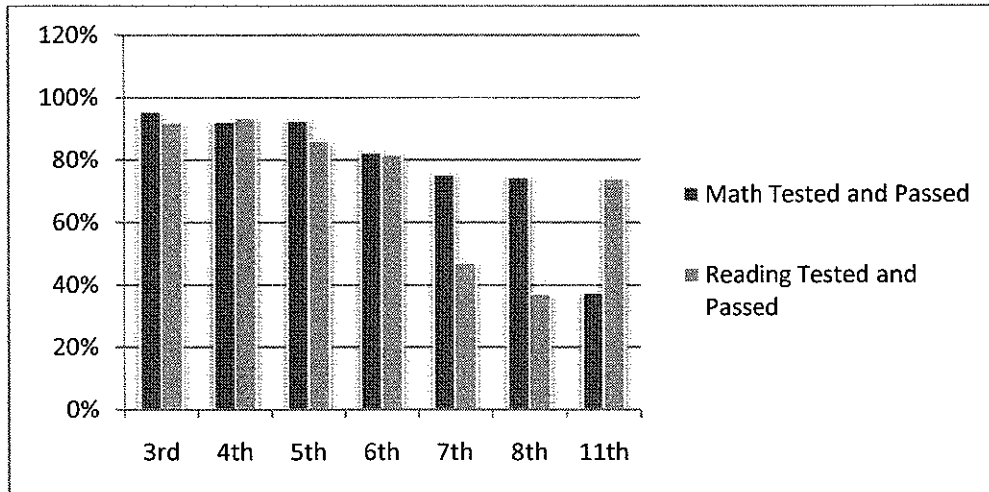
Since the school's AYP status is in Corrective Action it was mandated by the Department of Education to develop a School Improvement Plan that illustrates the strategies that Agora intends to use to address instructional strategies and a strategic plan to increase overall student achievement and achievement across all sub groups. As we discussed last month, each member of the academic team is hyper focused on helping all students to meet minimum grade level standards that can be demonstrated on this year's spring PSSA test. The academic team has been evaluating the progress toward meeting mastery and proficiency for standards through the Scantron Performance and specifically the weekly Scantron Achievement Series assessments. The charts below illustrate participation and performance levels of all students in grades 3rd-8th and 11th.

Percent of students participating in Scantron Achievement Series



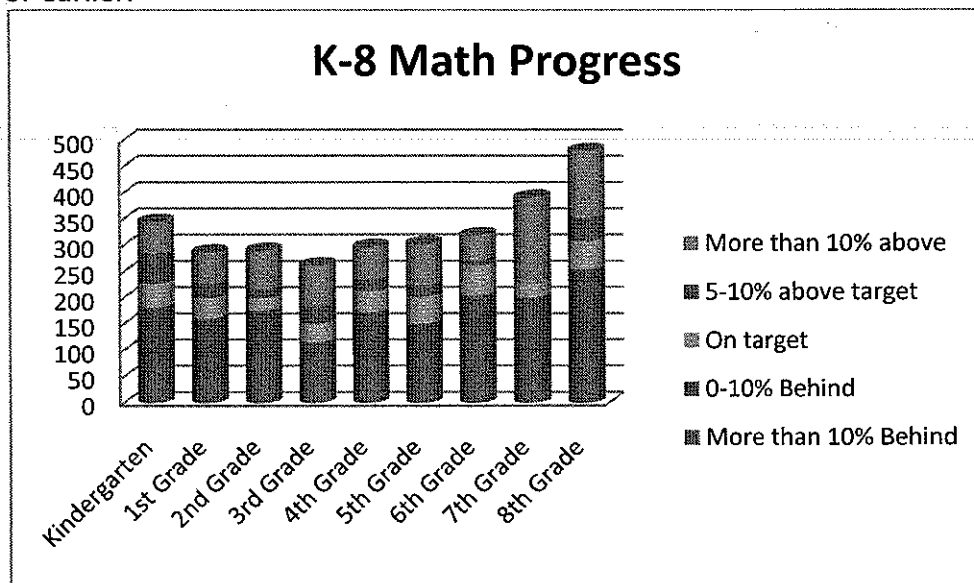


Percent of Students Passing Math and Reading Scantron Achievement Series Assessments



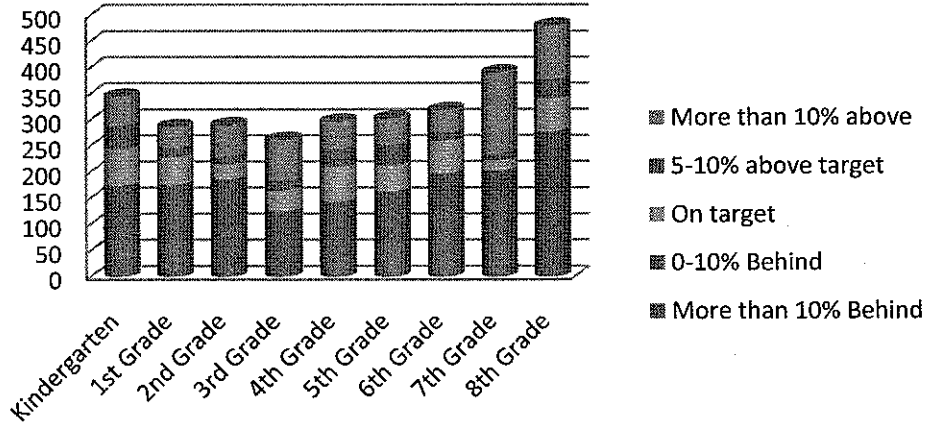
Grades 3-8 Online School Achievement

Students are expected to master 100% of all core lessons in the online school in order to be prepared for the next grade level, as the comprehensive rigor of the curriculum confidently prepares students to master grade level standards. Teachers regularly monitor student progress of online school (OLS) lesson completion. Below are charts illustrating lesson completion progress in Math and English as of 1/25/10 for students enrolled since October 1st or earlier.

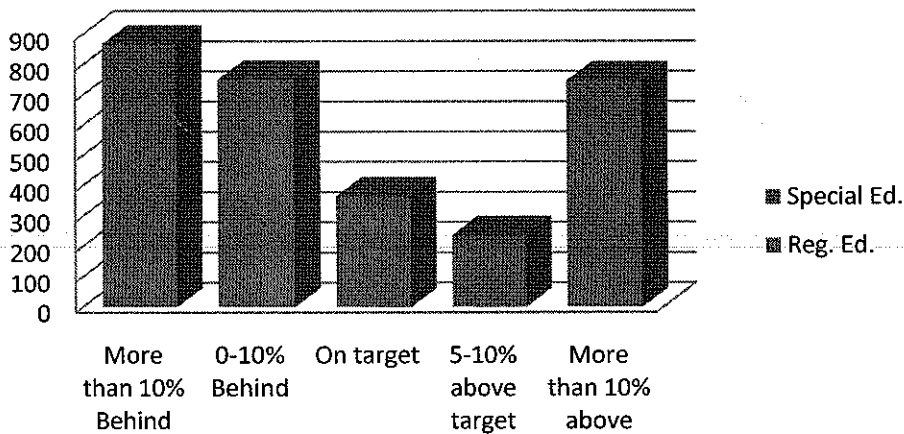


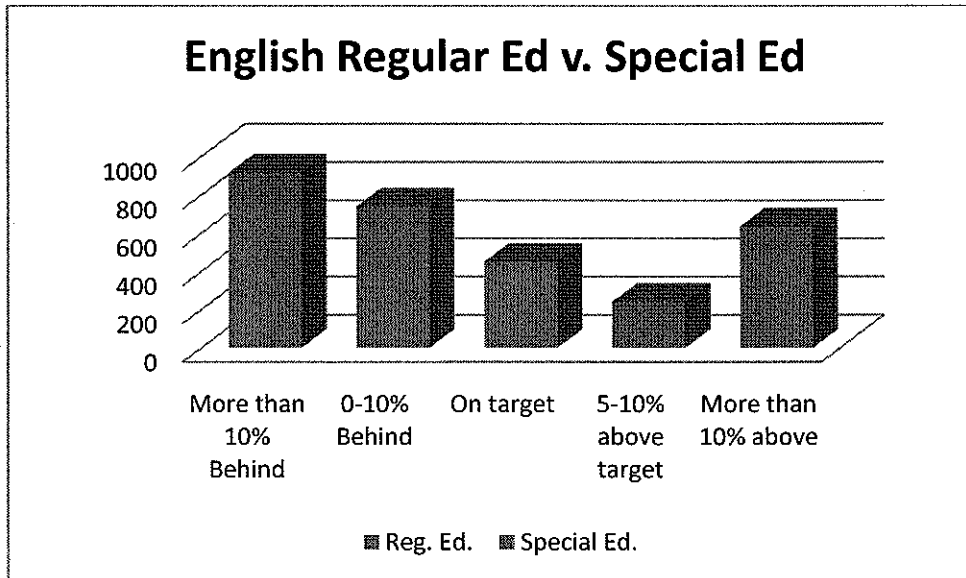


K-8 English Progress



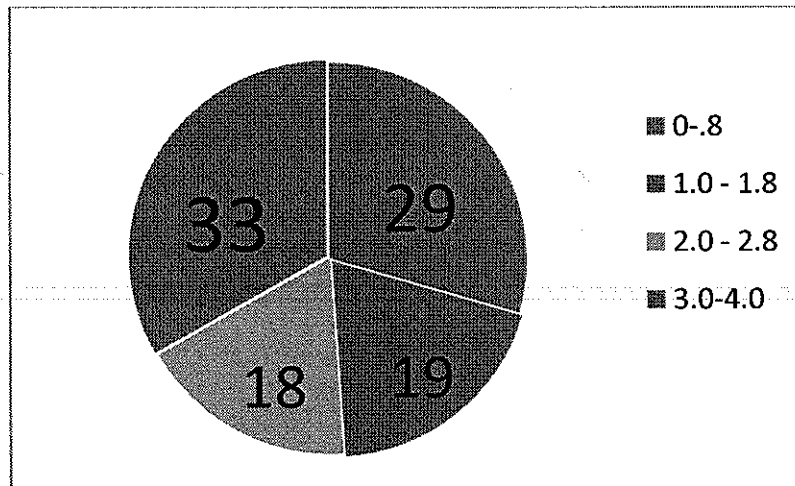
Math Regular Ed v Special Education





Progress reports and ILPs along with attendance updates were mailed to all students on February 1st.

Below is the breakdown of the grades at the MS level.



- At this time, 71% of the Middle School students are passing, with 33% of the students having a GPA of 3.0 or above. As progress reports are received, it is our hope that the



students will begin to turn in assignments and increase grades. Grades are cumulative at the Middle School level so students are able to bring up failing grades.

- Enrollment is down a bit as non compliant families were asked to consider whether or not Agora is the right fit. Many families decided to withdraw since the learning coach was not able to fulfill his/her duties as a learning coach.
- English groups will be adjusted to be sure all AYP students are taking English checkpoints weekly. A mid year test showed an average score of 83% in the Middle school. The test covered 8 of the 12 English standards.

High School Summary

- Semester 1 ended January 22, 2010
 - Grades due Feb 1, progress reports mailed by Feb 8
- Semester 2 began January 26, 2010
- On boarding plans for Semester 2:
 - Winter Education series
 - Letters to new and returning students via kmail, U.S. mail
 - Homeroom phone calls, school messenger
 - Orientation and Question and Answer sessions, day and evening for parents/learning coach

Plans for failing students

- Students who did not pass 3 or more courses will get 3-4 courses total, new academic plan
- Math: all 9th and 10th grade students 40% below placed in Math Foundations, meet 4 times weekly (9th: 177 and 10th: 122)
- Math: 11th and 12th grade students 40% or below placed in Personal Finance (11th: 78 and 12th: 66)
- English: 9th and 10th graders below 40%, recommended to RTI and English Foundations (9th: 240 and 10th: 139)
- Three English teachers focusing on Foundations 4 times weekly



PSSA Retake Plan

- PSSA retake in October
- 2. All seniors without proficiency documentation placed in PSSA Prep classes with remediation team for .5 credit. 3xs weekly for Math, 2xs weekly for English.
- 3. 40 students exited by satisfactory Scantron score.
- 4. Students will cycle through in 4 week sessions to complete proficiency requirement.
- 5. New students will go through similar work to complete proficiency requirement.

Agora National Honor Society

Agora High School has been awarded a charter by the National Honor Society. Our chapter is "AGORA".

This organization recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding scholarship, leadership, service and character. Once selected, they must continue to demonstrate these characteristics throughout their high school career.

The high school director, Jane Swan, has appointed a committee to organize Agora's chapter of NHS. Beverly Nelson is chapter advisor. The faculty council is composed of the following high school staff: Brandi Berwager, Amy Caldwell, Jennifer Grubert, Barbara Karp, Diane Kunitsky, Ladonna Martin, Jeffrey Miller and Mindy Rockower.

This team met January 20, 2010 to organize the newly acquired charter. They began to address the following 10 items necessary to fulfill our charter.

See Appendix C: CHAPTER REQUIREMENTS FOR NHS CHAPTER Requirements

Overview of Annual Yearly Progress (AYP)

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

- All students must be Proficient or higher in mathematics and reading/language arts by 2014.
- To ensure that districts/schools are on track to achieve this goal, states determine if districts/schools are making sufficient progress each year; i.e. *Adequate Yearly Progress*

AYP Targets

- Participation in the state math assessment
- Participation in the state reading assessment



- Performance on the state math assessment
- Performance on the state reading assessment
- Other academic indicators

Sub Groups N≥40

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black/African American non-Hispanic
- Latino/Hispanic
- White non-Hispanic
- Multi-Racial/Ethnic
- IEP (Special Education)
- ELL (English Language Learner)
- Economically Disadvantaged

Making AYP through performance: The 8+ ways to meet Performance targets

- Status
- Status with a confidence interval
- Two year calculation
- Two year calculation with a confidence interval
- Safe Harbor
- Safe Harbor with a confidence interval
- PPI
- Growth Model

Graduation Rate

80% threshold or growth from previous year

- Used only for schools that have a graduating class
- Rate for the district is determined by the graduation rate for all the schools in the district that have a graduating class

Agora's Progress since 2005-2006

2006-2007: 14/19 targets met or 74%

2007-2008: 20/23 targets met or 87%

2008-2009: 26/27 targets met or 96%

See Appendix D Agora Compared to other PA Cyber Schools



Community/Parent Updates

K12 Community Events:

Coffee Chats, Family Fun Centers, Skating, PA Farm Show, Pottery, Meet and Greets, etc.

Agora PSSA Prep Rally

Our testing season is fast approaching and we want to try to reduce test anxiety and nurture Agora community through having state wide events at every PSSA test site scheduled in the April 7th-May 7th testing window.

- March 25 or 26th
- Grades 3-6; 7-8 and 11
- Prep Rally Objective:
- Academic focused activities; calculator activity, bubbling activity, etc
- Lunch and entertainment provided

Online Clubs/Assemblies:

- Virtual Parent Bus Stop
- High School Assembly
- K-8 monthly club offerings
- HS Club offerings

High School Agora Days Out:

- Bi Monthly outings scheduled by teachers per region across the state
- Home teacher visits, ice skating, book store events, College visits, snow tubing, bowling, etc.

Agora Days Out K-8

Jump Rope for Heart Event in February at each site

Other/Miscellaneous:

- Spirit Week; February 1-5
- End of Year Celebrations in the planning stages



Charter Renewal Status

NO UPDATES AS OF 1/26/2010

Summary of the Cyber Charter School Renewal Timeline:

Date	Action
Between July 1 and October 1 of the final year of the charter.	Cyber charter renewal application must be received at PDE during this time period to operate in the following school year.
Approximately January 31	PDE conducts site visits
Approximately March 31	PDE will issue a decision on cyber renewal applications

Policy Recommendations

1. School Handbook
2. Conflict of Interest Policy

Upcoming Events

Academic Leadership Professional Development

February 3, 2010