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Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday June 1, 2010

1. Preliminary:

A. call to order: the meeting was called to order at 6:33pm

B. members present: Travis Gery, Mary Steffey, Kadedra Haynes, Bonita Harmon arrived a few minutes later

II. Old Business

A. approval of last month's minutes. Correction to minutes to state approval of April minutes motion to approve the May minutes by Kadedra Haynes  
second by Mary Steffey  
unanimously approved

B. Court order was issued to pay the Lamb firm legal bills as remnant of settlement agreement with the prior board that pre dates all the current board members

Kevin Corcoran will confirm that it was paid

Mary Steffey made a motion to pay the bill

second by Kadedra Haynes

unanimously

III. New Business: (see board report)

A. Enrollment: Timothy Kreider gave the enrollment report

1. Current Enrollment Data:(see board report)

enrollment 4887

regular ed4008

special ed 879

withdrawals 2356

average length of enrollment for the withdrawn students is 377 days

rate of absence as compared to other cyber and other districts

we are at 90% attendance and most of the other cybers are at the upper 90%

B. Finance: (see board report)

Kevin Corcoran gave the financial report. We have a fund balance of ~ 569K

Audit update :delay due to auditors

PDE has accepted draft reports and status updates as sufficient

2009-2010 audit to begin

per pupil revenue to remain flat at \$8100/\$17000

title / idea grants to grow proportionately to enrollment (\$3.0 M)

60% of 2 year ARRA funding still available (\$1.5M)

total revenue (\$66.3M)

2% surplus (\$1.3M)

teacher compensation is increasing same rate as last year

teacher student ratio to remain constant and increase support staff such as para educator

2.5% increase for high quality

Budget approval:

Bonita Harmon made a motion to approve budget  
second by Mary Steffey  
unanimously approved

C. Personnel :Sharon Williams gave report (see board report)

new nurse started and new finance and new special ed director were hired  
new Agora hires-nurse/ special ed director and finance are k12 hires

There is ongoing recruiting for teachers, nurses, para-educators, community managers and social worker

D. Academic:

1. School improvement goal for 2010-2011 school year we need to address engagement, achievement, achievement and retention

consultant recommended by state to help analyze the data and

Travis will look at if the providing of this service is a k12 responsibility

Mary Steffey made motion to table this until Travis can do research on responsibility

Second by Kadedra Haynes

Unanimously approved

2. Elementary report by Allison Dracha

a. summer school program will be available for grade 3-6

six week program for children at risk of being retained with two absences

b. summer camp program for grades 3-6

June 21-July 2, July 6-16, July 19-30

this will be offered to all students for both reading and math

c. k-2 phonics camp will also be offered

3. Middle school report by Amy Rupp

902 students

564 passing ( passing rate is 62%)

summer school is for students who are failing 2 or 3 classes can pass up to 2 classes this summer and invitations sent to 200 children

successful completion may result in passing

summer camp for enrichment is also available for new and current enrollees

transition to and from middle school is being addressed through numerous initiatives

goals of para educators- we have seen a jump in engagement with student with this program

and higher retention rate with para educator

4. High School report by Jane Swan

passing rate is 62.25% up from 59 last month

planning for upcoming year -goals are as follows

increase student achievement to 85%

improve attendance to 75%

improve instructional practice

increase student retention to 75%

initiatives include freshman academy and orientation changes

RTII / special ed

synchronous learning is being looked at

E. Community

final day of agora days out are happening across the state  
end of year celebrations are scheduled for Phila Zoo and Knobels Amusement Park  
Graduation on June 17

F. Charter renewal status:

PDE did a home visit to a middle school math teacher to observe and we have provided the state with everything they have asked for. We hope to have official news soon.

G. Family that was out of the country was withdrawn due to consecutive truancy

H. Bylaw amendments were made to update our bylaws

motion to approve by laws with the change made to page 10 line j to be \$5000. instead of \$10,000 by Mary Steffey

seconded by Kadedra Haynes

unanimously carried

I. Fiscal control policy proposal

motion to table by Kadedra Haynes

second by Bonnie Harman

unanimously approved

Travis nominated Kadedra to serve as treasurer

second by Mary Steffey

unanimously approved

J. Salary table

motion to approve the salary by Mary Steffey

second by Bonita Harmon

unanimously approved

K. public comment opened at 7:51

L..Adjournment..

Mary Steffey made a motion to adjourn

adjourn at 7:52 pm

please use above elluminate link to listen to the recorded meeting and see the board report on the Board of Trustees page under who we are at the Agora website [www.agora.org](http://www.agora.org)

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Steffey

*Mary Steffey*



## June Board Report

### A. Enrollment (Data as of 5/21/2010)

- i. Enrollment : 4887 (-177)
- ii. Withdrawals : 2356 (192)
  - a. Avg Length of Enrollment: 377 days
- iii. Attendance
  - a. K-6: 5%
  - b. 7-8: 9 %
  - c. 9-12: 14%
  - d. Agora ranks comparable to the top five enrollment districts
  - e. Agora ranks in the bottom third of all cyber charter schools

*See Appendix for Detailed Enrollment Graphs*

### B. Finance

- i. Budget for 2010-2011 (Action)
- ii. See Financial packet attached (Action)

### C. Personnel (Action)

- i. School Nurse started on May 17, 2010 (Agora)
- ii. Director of Finance started on May 24, 2010 (K12)
- iii. Special Education Manager starting June 1, 2010 (K12)
- iv. On- going recruiting
  - a. Teachers
  - b. Nurses
  - c. Para educators
  - d. Community managers
  - e. Social Worker
  - f. School Psychologists
  - g. Attendance and Truancy Support personnel

### D. Academic

#### i. Elementary

##### a. Summer Virtual Camps

The purpose of the summer camps is to reinforce skills taught during the school year and provide an opportunity to get a jump start on skills for next year. Although optional, this is a great way to keep student's learning fresh over the summer months. Specific camp offerings and details will be provided following the close of the interest survey.

- Offered in two week intervals, 2 to 3 days per week and about an hour a session. Below are the weeks they are offered:
  - June 21 - July 2
  - July 6 – 16
  - July 19 – 30
- Camps for both reading and math topics
- Offered to all students in grades 3-6;
- K-2 will have a special phonics summer camp to include parent workshop component – this will be by special invitation that will be sent to parents in the first week of June.

Grade Level	Number of Students	Number of students interested.
Grade 3	274	40
Grade 4	299	36
Grade 5	326	32
Grade 6	342	28

**B. Elementary Summer School 2010**

- For students in grades 3-6
- Students need to attend daily, synchronous lessons from June 14<sup>th</sup> to July 30, 2010
- Students need to be active participants in all other requirements of the summer school program
- Two (2) or more absences will result in the removal from the program
- Students who attend summer school are required to commit to returning to Agora for the 2010-11 school year
- Attendance alone will not ensure passing of summer school coursework
- Students are offered summer school based on a need to increase performance in one or more subject areas.

Students were able to indicate interest by May 22, 2010

Grade level	Number of students offered summer school	Number of students that committed to summer school
Grade 3	5	3
Grade 4	15	7
Grade 5	13	6
Grade 6	24	3

ii. Middle School

- a. Summer school for MS students – those failing the year can take up to 2 courses to determine promotion to next level
- b. MS meeting – plans for next year are in the works
- c. Paraeducator program for 09-10 closing out – final evals this week. Some done Friday, some done June 11<sup>th</sup> will put in chart form

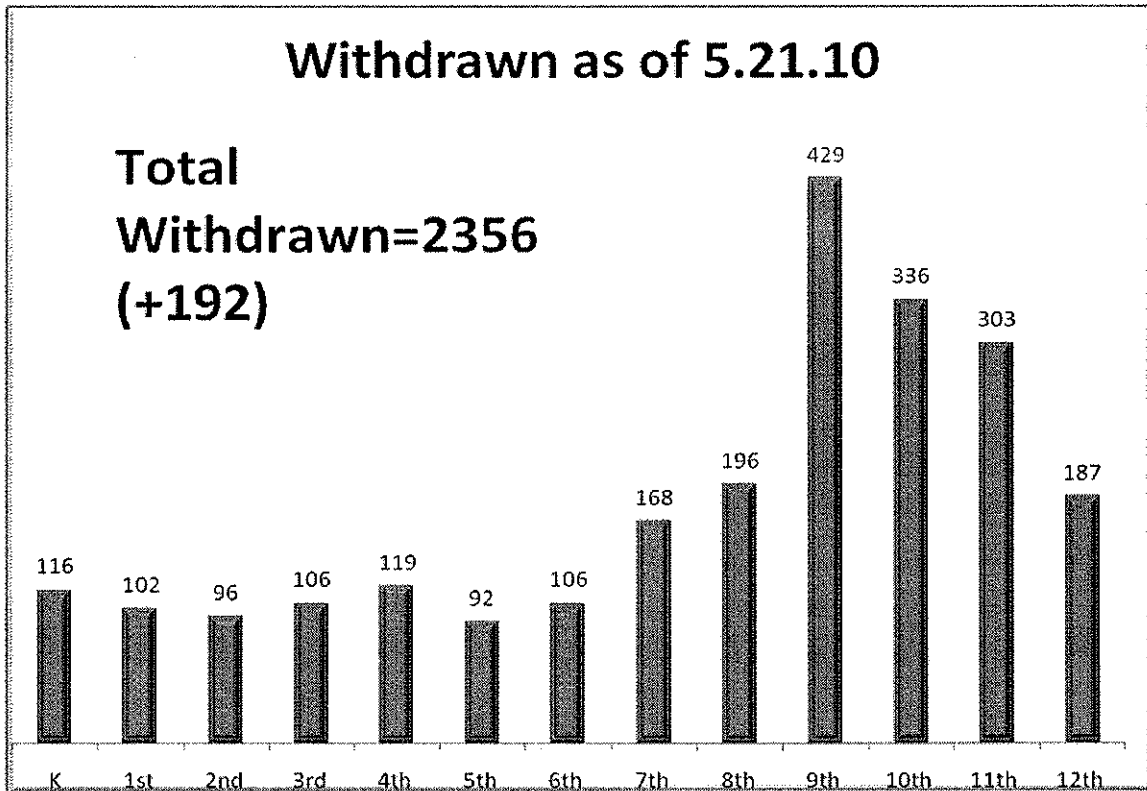
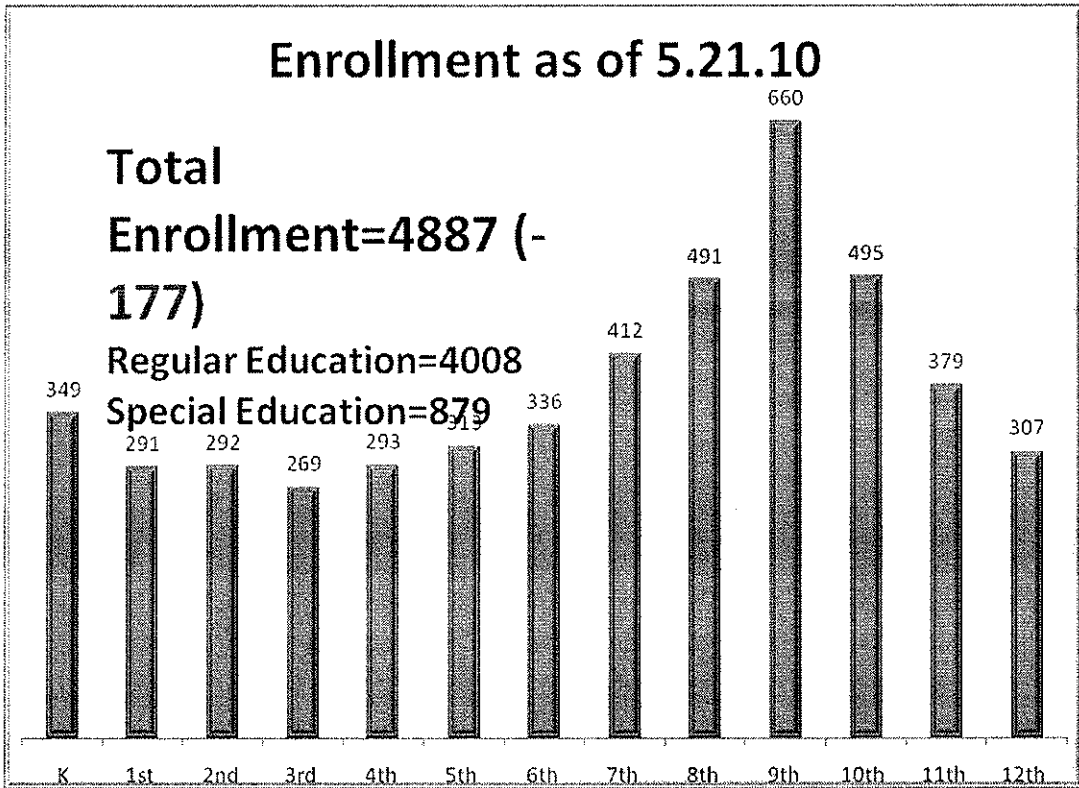
Row Labels	retention rate by grade with para	Retention rate by grade of students without a para
11th Grade	67%	56%
1st Grade	83%	75%
2nd Grade	93%	74%
3rd Grade	80%	73%
4th Grade	68%	74%
5th Grade	82%	78%
6th Grade	84%	75%
7th Grade	68%	73%
8th Grade	75%	73%
9th Grade	76%	63%
Kindergarten	86%	77%

- d. Transitions from elem to MS and MS to HS are happening.
- e. Summer education series for new families will happen weekly through July and August

iii. High School

- a. Passing Rate: 62.25(+3.24 points) Failure: 37.76% (- 3.33 points)
- b. Planning of 2010-2011 on 5/24/10
- c. Goals
  - i. Increase Student Achievement to 85%
  - ii. Improve Student Attendance to 75%
  - iii. Improve Instructional Practice
  - iv. Increase Student Retention to 75%

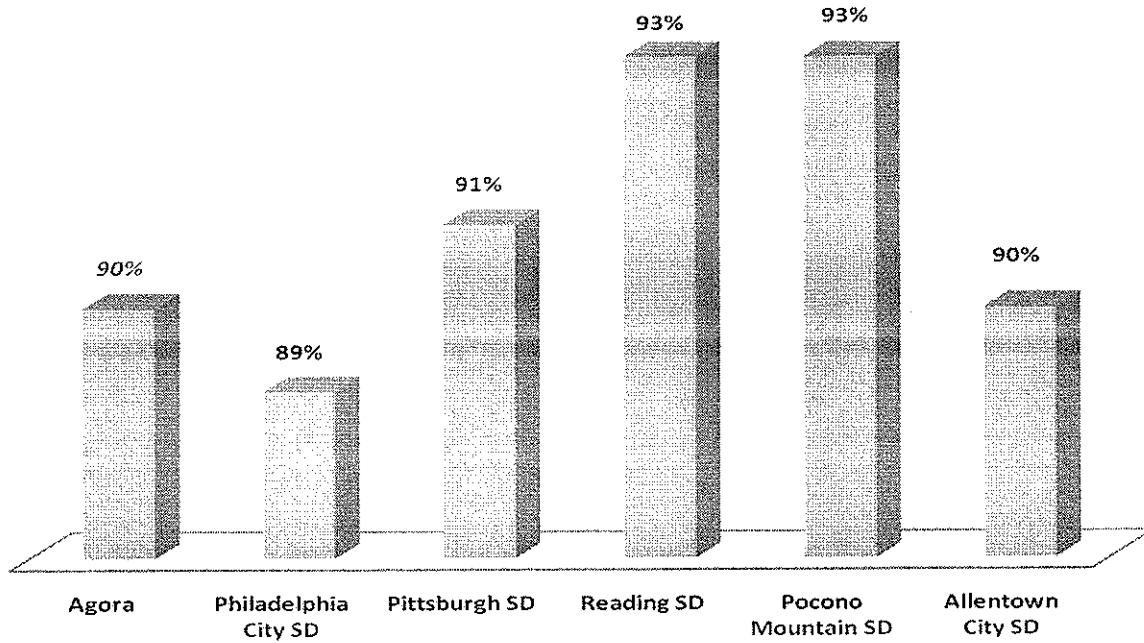
- E. Community and Parent Updates
  - i. Pittsburgh Zoo outing occurred on May 21, 2010: approx 800 attendees
  - ii. Capitol Day occurred on May 25, 2010: approx: 200 Agora teachers, students and families attended
  - iii. Additional End of Year Outings
    - a. June 8, 2010: Phila Zoo
    - b. June 10, 2010: Knoebels
- F. Charter Renewal Status/PDE Updates
  - i. Home visit to teacher to observe instruction on May 20, 2010
  - ii. Final pieces of documentation were submitted after follow up PDE requests on May 24, 2010
- G. Policy Recommendations (Action)
  - i. Amend the By Laws (Attached)
  - ii. Financial Policies (Attached)



# Withdrawal Demographics

STUDENTGENDER		ETHNICITY		FREE AND REDUCE MEALS
Female	1279	White	1519	Eligible
Male	1077	African-American	509	Not Eligible
		Multi-racial	149	
		Hispanic	139	
		American Indian	15	
		Asian	11	
		Undefined	11	
		Declined to State	3	

### Attendance Rates for Top 5 Resident Districts



### Attendance Rates for Cyber Charter Schools

