

RESOLUTION 05-11-02

CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

WHEREAS, the General Assembly enacted the Charter School Act, 24 P.S. § 17-1717-A et Seq., which provides for the creation of charter schools in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, more than one hundred charter schools have been created, many without approval of the local school district wherein such charter schools are located; and

WHEREAS, residents of public school districts are free to attend charter schools located outside the boundaries of their own district of residence; and

WHEREAS, charter schools operate free from many traditional public school regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Charter School Law allows charter schools to operate under a funding formula that has nothing to do with the school's level of spending, but is passed, instead, on a chartering school district's budgeted expenditures; and

WHEREAS, under the Charter School Law, local school districts must pay a formula determined expenditure per pupil for its resident students who attend charter schools equal to the sending district's total expenditures per student (not budgeted expenditures) minus a pro rata share of the cost of certain programs not offered by charter schools; and

WHEREAS, because the payments local school districts are mandated to make to charter schools under the Charter School Law bear no relationship to charter school operating costs, a charter school may generate a large surplus, with no accountability to the sending public school district; and

WHEREAS, most of the public school funding of charter schools comes from local tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, charter schools create a net added expense for school districts; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County School District had no role in approving the charter schools attended by its resident students (except Tidioute Community Charter School), yet it is compelled to fund their programs with no corresponding oversight or accountability; and

WHEREAS, all public school districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been adversely affected by the charter school funding inequity, absence of oversight and lack of accountability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Resolution seeking funding equity, oversight and accountability with respect to all charter schools to which the Warren County School District must pay formula-driven fees for its attending resident students, shall be transmitted to the other 500 similarly affected public districts in Pennsylvania, with the request that they all appeal to both the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the General Assembly for funding equity, oversight and accountability relative to charter schools.

RESOLVED, this 14th day of November 2005.

ATTEST: (Seal)

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ruth A. Huck,
Board Secretary

Jacqueline L. Nuttall, President