



***e*Briefing: Update on Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy**

April 3, 2007

CHARTER:

Yesterday, April 2, Megan Curtis, Dave and Nancy MacLaren, Gordon Soholt, Paul Rosell, Teresa Dowd, Cheryl Thompson, along with Lewis Center attorney Lisa Corr from *Spector, Middleton, Young and Minney*, and Rick Piercy, spent the day in the NSAA hearing at the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Office. The staff and Board have worked very hard on the incredibly detailed charter for NSAA, and under the talented leadership of our Director of Special Projects, Nancy, we were very successful yesterday.

The morning consisted of a workshop with the County Board and staff going over the laws pertaining to the County's requirement in order to demonstrate that the charter met the criteria to be a countywide charter. The workshop closed at 11:15 a.m. and a public hearing was held. Rick Piercy and Lisa Corr presented justifications to the board, and Dr. Linda Scott-Hendrick from University of California, Riverside quoted a letter from the University supporting our laboratory school concept and their partnership with us.

Judi Penman, President of the San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce and a member of the San Bernardino City School Board, spoke on our behalf. Mike Gallo, Erich Lewis, Athena Waite, Ted Dutton, Kathe Llywelyn and Lewis Center board member Andy Jaramillo, all attended and gave tremendous moral support to our efforts.

The Board voted that the Charter met the countywide criteria and then sent us to a workshop with the county staff and their attorney to hammer out areas of the concern. Most of the areas were simply word changes or additional detail. We moved through a number of issues that were resolved easily.

We asked that the County allow us to open the school a year later (by Sept. 30 of 2008) and were granted a five-year Charter, one year of preparation and four years of operation before renewal.

Now the real work begins as we look at facilities funding, the requirements of Prop. 1D, and all the other activities necessary to open the school. We are thankful of the extra time of one year. Thank you for your support and belief in our vision and mission.

Rick Piercy, President/CEO

ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

County board OKs math, science charter school – San Bernardino Sun
Charlotte Hsu, Staff Writer
Article Launched: 04/03/2007 12:00:00 AM PDT

SAN BERNARDINO - The city will have a new charter school in fall 2008. The county Board of Education approved the math- and science- focused Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy at a Monday meeting.

The academy will be near San Bernardino International Airport - the former Norton Air Force Base.

The school was proposed by the Lewis Center for Educational Research, which runs the 10-year-old Academy for Academic Excellence charter in Apple Valley.

http://www.sbsun.com/ci_5580729

County education board approves charter school – The Press-Enterprise

10:00 PM PDT on Monday, April 2, 2007

By **DARRELL R. SANTSCI**

Plans to open a space-science-oriented charter school somewhere near the former Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino were approved Monday by the San Bernardino County Board of Education.

The school would work with aerospace-related businesses at what is now San Bernardino International Airport and make use of a 34-meter radio telescope north of Barstow that helped NASA map landing sites on Mars.

It would be overseen by the county schools superintendent and operated by the Lewis Center for Educational Research, which runs a 1,300-student charter school in the Apple Valley Unified School District. The school is so popular that it has a 2,500-name waiting list, on which some parents place their children's names before they are born.

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_H_bcharter03.40614de.html

Interplay between charter, traditional schools often gray

By Charlotte Hsu, Staff Writer

Inland Valley Daily Bulletin Article Launched:04/02/2007 12:00:00 AM PDT

Fifteen years ago, many local educators felt Sacramento was a giant school board in the sky, dictating what districts hundreds of miles away could or couldn't do.

There were too many rules. There wasn't enough freedom.

Former state Sen. Gary Hart says that lack of flexibility was a major reason he authored legislation enacted in 1992 that would give rise to charter schools, a new type of public school in California.

http://www.sbsun.com/portal/search/ci_5573658?source=email&_loopback=1

If you have any comments or questions regarding the *eBriefing*, contact Cheryl Thompson at 760-946-5414 ext 202 or email at cthompson@lcer.org.

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