



***e*Briefing: Update on Norton Space and Aeronautics Academy
November 6, 2006**

<http://www.lewiscenter.org/lcer/norton/>

FACILITIES:

At the August Founder's Group meeting, guest Jo Ann Kopplin, Director of Facilities for the California Charter School Association who is also an architect, toured the facilities selected for the charter school. Her recommendation is to use the second floor of the Galaxy building for offices, parent classes and small group tutoring. The first floor can be used for classrooms. Portables will need to be leased to have the space needed for classes.

After the November 15th Founder's Group meeting, Jo Ann Kopplin and Ed Cunningham, President of LCC3 Construction Services will meet with Lewis Center staff to identify specific facility needs, expenses, and to set a timeline.

CHARTER:

Nancy MacLaren, Lewis Center's Director of Administration, is heading up the charter petition. We are hopeful that the Founder's Group will have a copy of the draft charter petition to review at the November 15th meeting. The petition will be submitted to the San Bernardino County School Board later this month.



Photo of Some of the Founder's Group at October Meeting.

Founder's Meetings have been productive with all parties bringing their expertise to planning the school. Founder's Group members Dr. Linda Scott-Hendricks and Dr. Athena Waite from the University of California Riverside have brought vast wisdom and knowledge to the planning process and to the educational programs. The Norton Neighborhood's Healthy Cities program is housed only a few yards from the proposed charter school. This Loma Linda sponsored group is interested in becoming active in the charter school program, assisting in the important field of health issues.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

["Future Shock" Author Envisions Increase in Charter Schools](#)

Futurist Alvin Toffler, famous for forecasting lifestyle and economic trends, predicts a future with more charter schools, more home schooling, and new types of schools. "We're going to see a revolution in education that will come despite pressures by vested interests -- whether it's the teachers' union, the local politicians or the parents groups that have locked the educational system into its old, industrial form and won't let it change. The result is, we have a system designed to prepare young people for industrial age jobs." His new book, "Revolutionary Wealth," co-authored with his wife Heidi, focuses on the move from an industrial,

manufacturing-based economy to a knowledge-based one that will significantly alter education, family life and work environments.

Source: Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, (10/18/2006)

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/business/s_475473.html

Taken from **CER Newswire (Center for Education Reform) Vol. 8, No. 45**
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CHARTER SCHOOLS. The general public still knows very little about charter schools. Rick Hess, American Enterprise Institute scholar, reminded charter advocates of this fact in his recent *Gadfly* article. "Fifteen years on, what most Americans 'know' about charters is factually incorrect - egregiously incorrect, even... In politics, they call this failing to get your message out," said Hess. He points out that the traditional PDK/Gallup Poll offered alarmingly low knowledge stats about charters. But these findings were not new to close observers. "Americans need an education on charter schools" warned a CER/polling co study released May 2005.

But even though there's only a one in five chance of Americans knowing that a charter school is a public school, once the idea is explained to them, 78 percent say they'd support these "new" public schools - called charter schools - that would be held accountable for student results and would be required to meet the same academic standards/testing requirements as other public schools, but would not cost tax payers additional money. Make sure you know the facts - and that others do: share this link to Charter School Facts with your friends and family.

All Aboard The Charters? – The National Review Online, By Chester E. Finn Jr., president of the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation and a Senior Fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution
<http://nrd.nationalreview.com/article/?q=NGY0NmZmNzVmMm15MDc5ODVIZmYxYTBmOTFmMDdmYmY>

Charter schools have taught us much. Since Minnesota enacted America's first charter law in 1991, 39 states have followed suit and eager school reformers have created some 4,000 of these independent public schools. About 3,600 are still operating today, enrolling approximately a million kids, 2 percent of all U.S. elementary and secondary pupils. More than a dozen cities — including Detroit, Cleveland, and Milwaukee — now have charter sectors that serve at least one in every six children. These numbers rise annually — and would balloon if the market were able to operate freely, unconstrained by legislative compromises, funding and facilities shortfalls, and local pushback from the school establishment and its political allies.

The first lesson is that the demand for alternative school options for children is intense — and plenty of people and organizations are eager to meet it wherever policy and politics allow them to. In Dayton, Ohio, today, more than a quarter of all kids attend charter schools; in New Orleans (a special case, to be sure) it's seven out of ten children. Many schools across the nation have waiting lists.

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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