

# Ted Kolderie

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Dear Pat:

I was at the Mounds View board meeting until about 11:15 Monday night. I thought you might like to see these notes of their discussion.

The charter idea -- in which the school becomes a separate legal entity -- forces a board to face the implications of site-management cold turkey . . . in a way it does not have to do when it continues to own the school.

As you'll see from these notes this board is standing on the edge of the diving board, its knees knocking.

Interestingly, the teachers are really motivated to 'go' on it. This means the teachers in the Learning Center, who voted 32-2 to ask for 'charter' status. And it also means the MVEA, as you'll see from the notes. The superintendent was really surprised I think not to have the union oppose it.

My conclusion is you're doing some good . . . or that this charter idea is providing a vehicle for teachers to implement the idea you're talking about.

At this point it looks almost as if the teachers may be ahead of the superintendents and boards.

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The board in Detroit voted yesterday to approve the plan drawn up by McGriff and the Andersen Consulting group to empower/charter all their schools, over a period of time.

You might want to look at the summary document. If so, ask the general superintendent, Deborah McGriff for a copy. She's at 313/494-1075.

Walt Jones, the business manager, says they do not at the moment intend for the schools to have a legal existence, but that they're open to that.

The school will have the option to buy services either from the district office or elsewhere in town. Central-office units will have to earn their revenues. Something like Edmonton.

