

7/23

Minnesota Charter Schools Network (Proposed)
Newsletter - July 8, 1992

Greetings to all persons interested in forming a state-wide organization to effect a change in current charter school legislation and encourage the increase of charter schools. The first organizational meeting of this group was held at the Humphrey Institute, July 8, 1992, at 4:00 p.m. Joe Nathan could not be present, so the meeting was opened by Doug Thomas.

Present were: Joel Brude (Excelsior), Leona Carlson (S. St. Paul), Dan Daly (Chaska), Dave and Lorraine Gaulke (Emily), David Jerusalem (St. Paul), Ellen Polansky (Northfield), Dick Raich and Tim Robinson (Meadowlands), Betty Radcliffe (Humphrey Inst), Joan Riedl (St. Cloud), Doug Thomas (Henderson)

A proposed agenda was handed out, and after considerable brainstorming, the following decisions were made:

1. The group will incorporate as a nonprofit under the name Minnesota Charter Schools Network, Inc. Cost will be \$70 to file.
2. Co-Chairs are Ellen Polansky and Joel Brude. Temporary Secretary/Publisher is Lorraine Gaulke. Dave Gaulke is temporary Treasurer searching for a free checking account.
3. A network will be formed of at least 1,000 people in Minnesota which will facilitate communication about charter schools. Membership can be contributing at \$10 or supporting only at no cost. Methods will be established to educate the public (speaker pool for community meetings), boards of education, and legislators (provide timely information for informed decision-making as they frame policy). Words like advocate and lobby must not be used because they are activities which are illegal in a nonprofit organization. Suggestion was made to work with the Small Schools Network. We need a viable fundraising system.
4. Next meeting for those who really want to work with the smaller steering group is Thursday, July 23, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Humphrey Institute. Call Betty before July 20 if you will attend, 612-626-1834. Agenda and assignments are:
 - a. Approve a mission statement. Ellen will draft for approval.
 - b. Formalize with incorporation and board positions. Lorraine will bring draft of articles of incorporation for nonprofit.
 - c. Approve newsletter format/letterhead design/brochure format. Lorraine will bring samples. Joan will provide graphics ideas.
 - d. Establish regional reps to this committee. Dan will define regions. He and Leona will make contacts.
 - e. Finalize a meeting schedule.
 - f. Brainstorm membership networking.
5. The next meeting of the full organization will be on Thursday, August 6, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Discussion about incorporation, newsletter, and plans to grow to 1000 members. *at the Humphrey Center.*
6. Another meeting is planned for August 20--no agenda yet.

Lorraine Gaulke