

gr
9/13/ 1 p.m.

Curt:

Lynn Olson, who's the #1 reporter for the #1 education publication in the country, will be here Sept 21-22.

She covers the big 'strategy for improvement' story for Education Week. This trip she's asking about charter schools. She's interested generally in the public-school vs private-school question: Can you really do anything different without doing the 'voucher' thing?

Would you like to talk to her? Would Arne?

Who else should she see? (She'll be going to the one school that's open; the City Academy. And meeting with people involved with schools that'll open later.

I hear from California that Gov. Wilson has promised he'll sign the Hart charter bill.

As they hear about this, and become aware that bill is modelled on Minnesota law, CA journalists are starting to call out here. Your folks may get some calls.

The Mounds View charter proposal probably will be re-submitted on October 12. The teachers met the other day with Elmer Andersen. They're hopeful now of having four votes. This is a big one.

The MASA report is major. I stopped in Little Falls on the way down from the lake and talked to Kerry Jacobson, the sup't there who is co-chair of the committee. He admits: The system is at a dead end. "We can't handle it any more. You (the state) do it." But the state probably isn't going to levy the property taxes and bargain the teacher salaries. So the problem will just get worse. Within the existing arrangement there's no solution.

The work this summer to look at another arrangement, in which the teachers form a co-op through which they own the instructional program (and settle their own compensation) has gone well. The documents are done. Some of the charter-school groups are thinking about it. The co-op movement itself is getting interested. Clearly, this idea could be applied to district schools as well as charter schools. Let me know if you'd like to listen to any of this discussion.

Ted