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Senate

State of Minnesota

January 27, 1992

Dr. Charles Kyte, Superintendent
Northfield Public Schools
301 Union Street
Northfield, MN 55057

Dear Dr. Kyte:

I enjoyed meeting with you in Northfield several weeks ago! I appreciate your studied interest in the charter school legislation, and particularly your follow-up letter of January 17.

You certainly raised some provocative questions regarding funding. I will share those issues with others who are involved in the charter school legislation. Regarding the specific issue that you raised regarding funding for centralized administrative expenses of the school district, I will ask our Senate Counsel, Betsy Rice, to comment on that provision. It was my intent and understanding when the legislation was passed that the charter school would be responsible for all of the reporting process that the charter school was not otherwise exempted from under the legislation. The costs for the "coordination and synthesizing of reports" would appear to be minimal. However, this should not preclude the charter school from working with the school district if the charter school wanted to create economies of scale in either the reporting function or other function. The charter school could contract with the school district for services and receive the benefits of lower costs. The purchase of services could be a part of the negotiations of the original charter between the school district and the charter school.

I will ask Ms. Rice to send me her comments regarding this issue as well, and when I receive them, I will pass them on to you.

Regarding the high school student you mentioned, I will be very happy to do what I can to help her find a good internship for the summer of 1992. As you know, the legislature will not be in session at that time, so the best experience for her will be to align herself with a particular political party or national campaign. If she is DFL, I would be happy to arrange an interview for her with Todd Otis, Chair of the DFL, about possible internship positions available this summer and fall. Similarly,

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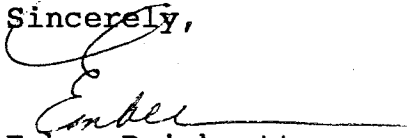
if she is interested in a Democratic presidential campaign, I happen to co-chair the Governor Clinton for President campaign in Minnesota. If he becomes the Democratic nominee, perhaps I could arrange an internship for her in our state. You should know that a professor from St. Olaf has already written me about a possible presidential candidate forum on February 25 at St. Olaf College. We are trying to get Governor Clinton to attend the forum, but if not, there will definitely be a "surrogate," and I may well be that person. If so, I would be happy to meet with this student and talk with her further about her interest.

Finally, you mentioned that she is interested in women's rights issues. I certainly welcome that involvement! May I suggest that she contact the Minnesota Women's Consortium located at 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103 (228-0338) about her interest. They have an excellent network with numerous women's organizations throughout the state and they would know of internships in organizations such as the Abortion Rights Council, etc. Should your student choose to live in the Twin Cities over the summer, I would be happy to welcome her as a young member of my own reelection steering committee which would give her a "grass roots" sense of the political process. Otherwise, I could certainly steer her to legislative campaigns in the Northfield area.

Perhaps the way to start is to have the student send me a copy of her resume and a letter as to her specific interest. Then I can direct her to the appropriate people to contact. It is too early to determine whether any of these internships would be paid; but I do know that the DFL hires people for telephoning during the summer for voter survey purposes.

Best to you! I look forward to working with you further on the charter school application in Northfield.

Sincerely,



Ember Reichgott
Majority Whip

cc: Betsy Rice