



MN ASSOCIATION OF
CHARTER SCHOOLS

Unleashing education from convention

MN Association of Charter Schools Annual Report

2017-2018

Mission Statement

The MN Association of Charter Schools, as a membership organization, advocates for charter school policy issues, supports charter school innovation, quality and accountability, and facilitates cooperation in Minnesota's charter school community to assure excellence in education for our students.

Strategic Outcomes

- 1] To be the recognized public policy voice of Minnesota's charter school community
- 2] To be the acknowledged leader in facilitating initiatives to enhance the innovation, quality and accountability of charter school leaders and management.
- 3] To be the trusted agent for charter school information and for connecting people, organizations and resources to strengthen the charter school community

Strategic Outcome 1

To be the recognized public policy voice of Minnesota's charter school community

- **FOCUS 1.1 – To develop and strengthen the of the Advocacy Capacity (*knowledge, understanding and skills*) of Charter School Leaders.**
- **FOCUS 1.2 – To Broaden and Strengthen the Policy and Public Voice of the Association**

Day at the Capitol



Students from Academia Cesar Chavez with State Senator Patricia Torres Ray

2017-2018 Agenda Highlights

- Role and Responsibility of Authorizers
- School Mergers Policy
- Board Governance Clarifications
- School Transfer of Authorizers
- Transparency and Accountability of CMO/EMO Contracts

Peg Larsen – MACS Lobbyist



The Charter School Advocate

The Charter Schools Advocate

[View this email in your browser](#)



MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT RULES THAT WHAT AN "ADEQUATE EDUCATION IS?" WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE COURTS

In the **Cruz-Guzman vs Minnesota** case the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled 4-2 that *"We will not shy away from our proper role to provide remedies for violations of fundamental rights merely because education is a complex area. The judiciary is well equipped to assess whether constitutional requirements have been met and whether appellants' fundamental right to an adequate education has been violated. Although the Legislature plays a crucial role in education, it is ultimately the judiciary's responsibility to determine what constitution requires and whether the Legislature has fulfilled its constitutional duty."*

Based on that the Court ruled that the trial on whether the *"high degree of segregation and based on race and socio-economic status"* in Minneapolis and St. Paul schools can provide an "adequate education" will go forward. The trial is expected to start this fall.

While the Court stated that an **"adequate education" is a fundamental right**, the Court did not determine what that fundamental right to an "adequate education" means?

So, it seems that is what the trial in Hennepin District Court, then the Appeals Court and ultimately the MN Supreme Court will determine.

In his dissent to the decision, Justice Anderson stated, *"I am reminded of the principle of Chesterton's fence: before taking down a fence, it is wise to ponder why the fence was constructed in the first place. Here, we take down a fence constructed to avoid judicial entanglement with political questions. I fear we do not fully appreciate the consequences that will follow, not only for the other branches of government but for the judiciary as well."*

The full decision can be found [HERE](#)

AGENDA TO FULFILL THE PROMISE - EQUITABLE FUNDING

The Association's Government Affairs Committee met in late June and continued its work on defining the specific positions that will flesh out our **"Agenda to Fulfill the Promise"** which will outline the Association's legislative goals for the next biennium and beyond.

Strategic Outcome 2

To be the acknowledged leader in facilitating initiatives to enhance the innovation, quality and accountability of charter school leaders and management.

- **FOCUS 2.1 – To develop and strengthen the governance capacity** (*knowledge, understanding and skills*) of charter school leaders – including policy and procedures.
- **FOCUS 2.2 – To develop and strengthen the leadership and human resource management capacity** (knowledge, understanding and skills) of charter school leaders.

Board Training Classes

Course 100 – Welcome to the World of Charter School Governance

- 10 sessions, 139 attendees

Course 150 – The Charter School Board Chair

- 2 sessions, 31 attendees

Course 200 – Charter School Finances: A Public Trust

- 9 sessions, 72 attendees

Course 300 – Employment in Charter Schools

- 12 sessions, 136 attendees

New Director Cohort

Day long Intro Session: 9 attendees from 8 schools

3 follow up lunch and learn sessions:

- Finance
- Messaging
- Teacher Evaluation and Recruitment



New Resources

Minnesota Charter School Law Scavenger Hunt
FY 17 Authorizer Income and Expenditure Report
Revised Board Governance Modules
Nepotism Policy Primer and Sample Policy
Charter Leader Resource Guide

Awards

3rd Annual Innovation Awards



Academy for Sciences and Agriculture

Face to Face Academy

Prairie Creek Community School

Seven Hills Preparatory Academy

1st Annual Pioneer Awards



Karen Rusthoven

Wayne Jennings

Bill Wilson

Bob DeBoer

Milo Cutter

1st Annual Leadership Awards



Tracy Quarnstrom

TRIO Wolf Creek Distance Learning Center

Strategic Outcome 3

To be the trusted agent for charter school information and for connecting people, organizations and resources to strengthen the charter school community

- **FOCUS 3.1** – To develop and strengthen a sense of community by broadening the consciousness of charter school community members, and strengthen the connections among and between the charter school community stakeholders.
- **FOCUS 3.2** – **Broaden and strengthen the information gathering, research and communications capacity of the Association** to effectively communicate and disseminate information and research findings.

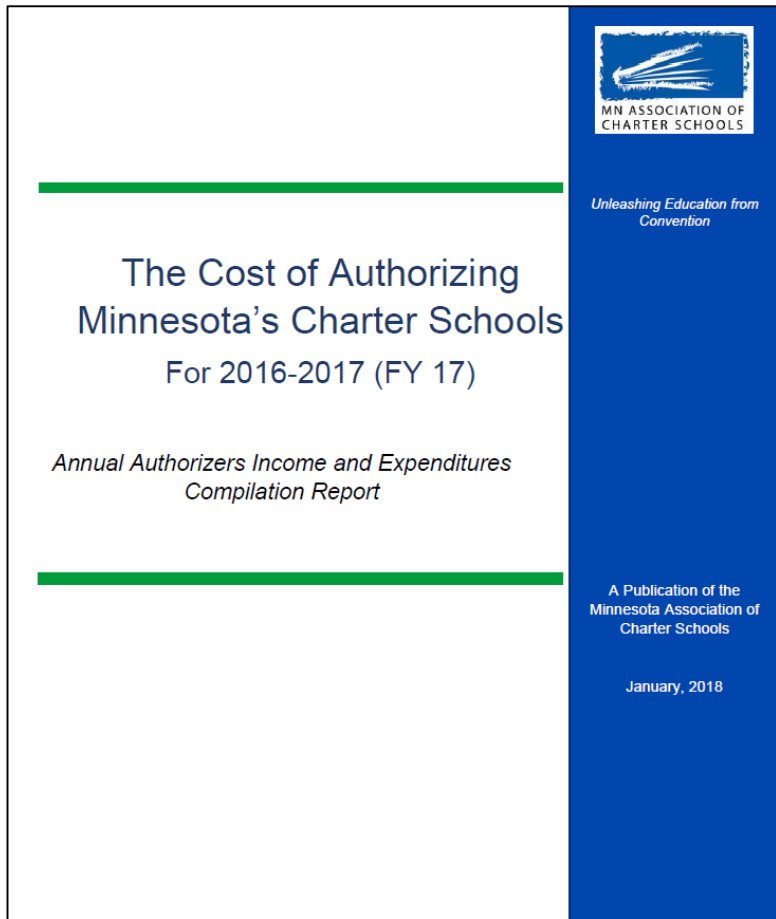
Regional Meetings

Fall 2017: *Duluth, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Rochester, St. Paul, Wilmar*
40 attendees

Winter 2018: *Duluth, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Rochester, St. Paul*
46 attendees

Spring 2018: *Duluth, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Rochester, St. Cloud, St. Paul*
35 attendees

Research and Publications



The cover features a white background with a blue vertical bar on the right. The title is centered in blue text. The logo of the MN Association of Charter Schools is in the top right corner of the white area. The tagline 'Unleashing Education from Convention' is in the blue bar. The publication information is also in the blue bar.

MN ASSOCIATION OF
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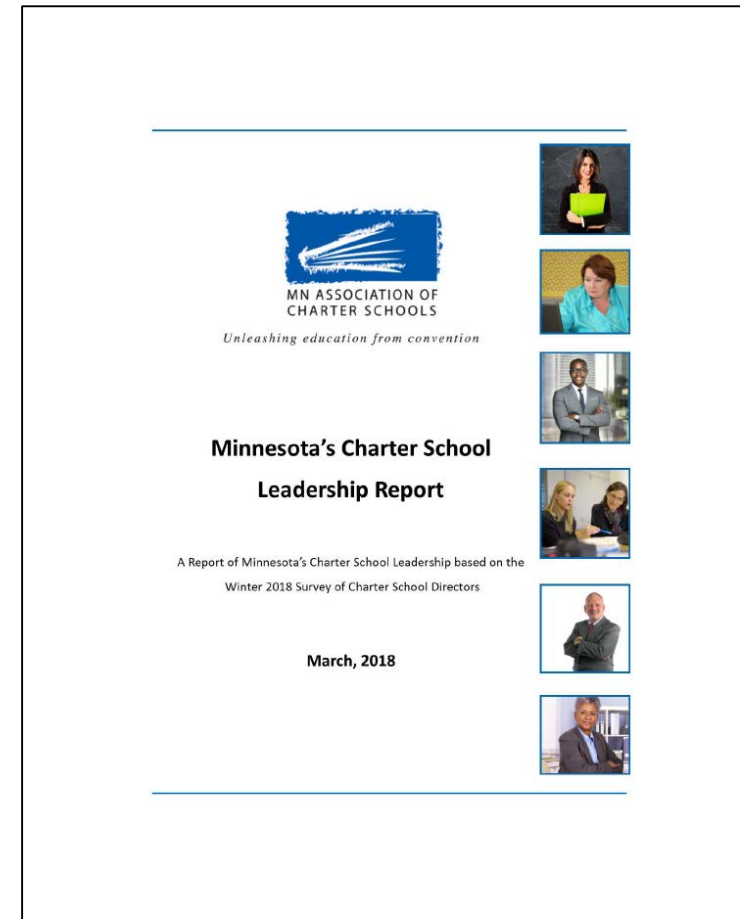
*Unleashing Education from
Convention*

**The Cost of Authorizing
Minnesota's Charter Schools**
For 2016-2017 (FY 17)

*Annual Authorizers Income and Expenditures
Compilation Report*

A Publication of the
Minnesota Association of
Charter Schools

January, 2018



The cover features a white background with a blue logo and tagline at the top. The title is centered in bold black text. Below the title is a subtitle. The date 'March, 2018' is centered at the bottom. On the right side, there is a vertical column of five small photographs showing various individuals.

MN ASSOCIATION OF
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Unleashing education from convention

**Minnesota's Charter School
Leadership Report**

A Report of Minnesota's Charter School Leadership based on the
Winter 2018 Survey of Charter School Directors

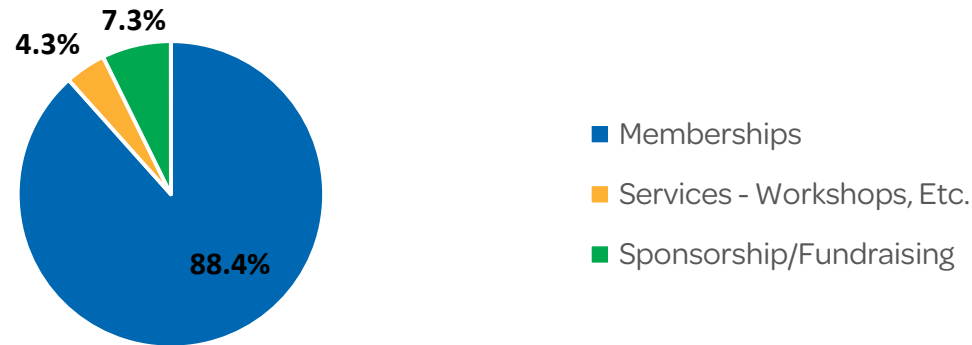
March, 2018

2017 – 2018 Financials

CASH	\$288,352.96
ACCOUNTS RECIEVABLE	\$0.00
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	\$3,278.82
TOTAL ASSETS	\$291,629.78
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$0.00
LONG TERM LIABILITIES	\$80,339.14
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$80,339.14
REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES	\$53,660.69
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$211,290.64
	\$291,629.78

2017 – 2018 Financials

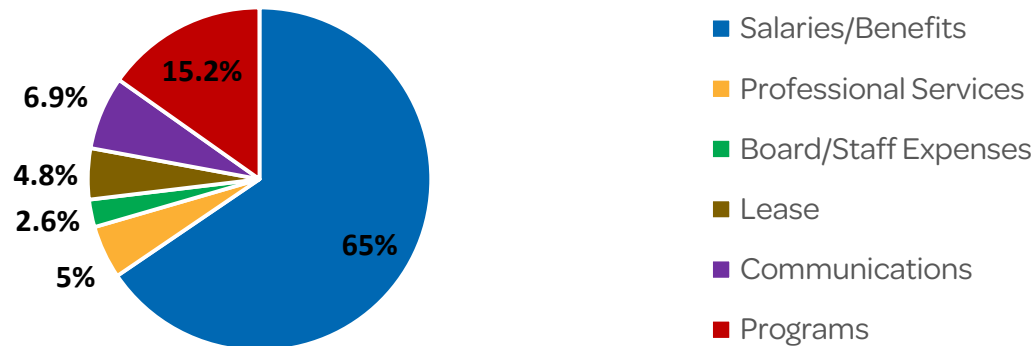
Income



Income

Memberships - \$382,581.89 (88.4%)
Services - Workshops, Etc. - \$18,664.60 (4.3%)
Sponsorships/Fundraising - \$31,665.99 (7.3%)
Total: \$432,934.34

Expenditures



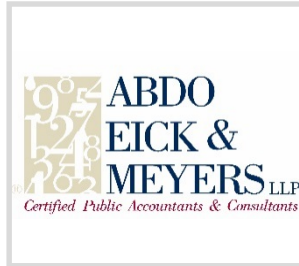
Expenditures

Salaries/Benefits - \$248,692.67 (65.5%)
Professional Services - \$19,502.78 (5.0%)
Board/Staff Expenses - \$9,985.19 (2.6%)
Lease - \$16,962.72 (4.8%)
Communications - \$26,197.54 (6.9%)
Programs - \$57,932.75 (15.2%)
Total: \$379,273.65

2017-2018 Member Schools

Academia Cesar Chavez	Crosslake Community School	Jennings Community School	Oshki Ogjimaag Charter School	St. Cloud Math & Science Academy
Academic Arts High School	DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science	La Crescent Montessori & STEM School	PACT Charter School	Stonebridge World School
Academy for Sciences & Agriculture	Discovery Woods	Lafayette Charter School	Paladin Career & Technical High School	Technical Academies of Minnesota
Achieve Language Academy	Duluth Edison Charter School	Lincoln International High School	Partnership Academy	TrekNorth Junior & Senior High School
Arcadia Charter School	Eagle Ridge Academy	Lionsgate Academy	Pillager Area Charter School	TRIO Wolf Creek Distance Learning Charter School
Art & Science Academy	East Range Academy of Technology & Science	LoveWorks Academy for Visual & Performing Arts	Prairie Creek Community School	Twin Cities Academy
Athlos Academy of St. Cloud	ECHO Charter School	Math & Science Academy	Ridgeway Community School	Twin Cities German Immersion School
Augsburg Fairview Academy	Edvisions Off Campus	Metro Deaf School	River's Edge Academy	Urban Academy Charter School
Aurora Charter School	El Colegio Charter School	Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy	Riverway Learning Community	Voyageurs Expeditionary High School
Avalon Charter School	Excell Academy for Higher Learning	Minnesota Excellence in Learning Academy	Rochester Beacon Academy	Watershed High School
Bdote Learning Center	Face to Face Academy	Minnesota Math & Science Academy	Rochester Math & Science Academy	Woodbury Leadership Academy
Beacon Academy	FIT Academy	Minnesota New Country School	Rochester STEM Academy	World Learner School of Chaska
BlueSky Online Charter School	Friendship Academy of the Arts	Minnesota Online High School	Rosa Parks Charter High School	Yinghua Academy
Bluffview Montessori School	Global Academy	Minnesota Transitions Charter School	Saint Paul City School	
Career Pathways	Great Expectations School	Natural Science Academy	Schoolcraft Learning Community	
Cedar Riverside Community School	Great River School	New Century Academy	Seven Hills Preparatory Academy	
Clarkfield Area Charter School	Harbor City International School	Noble Academy	Sojourner Truth Academy	
College Prep Elementary	High School for Recording Arts	Northeast College Prep	Southside Family Charter School	
Community of Peace Academy	Higher Ground Academy	Northwest Passage High School	Spectrum High School	
Cornerstone Montessori Elementary School	HOPE Community Academy	Nova Classical Academy	Spero Academy	

2017-2018 Corporate Sponsors



2017-2018 MACS Board



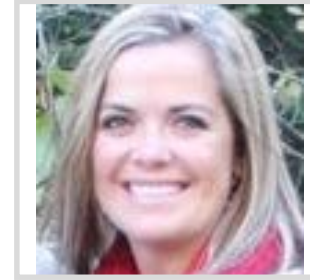
Nancy Dana
Executive Director
St. Paul City School



Darius Husain
Director
Face to Face Academy



Amy Larsen
Executive Director
BlueSky Online Charter School



Danielle Perich
Executive Director
DECS Raleigh Academy



Cara Quinn
Executive Director
Community of Peace Academy



Bryan Rossi
Director
Rochester STEM Academy



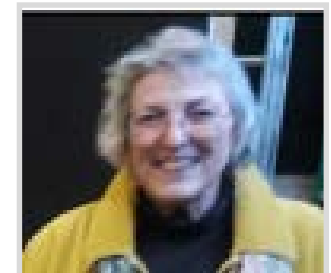
Dr. Charvez Russell
Executive Director
Friendship Academy of the
Arts



Jon Schroeder
Senior Fellow (Retired)
Education|Evolving



Beth Topoluk
Charter School Liaison
Friends of Education



Barb Wornson
Executive Director
Arcadia Charter School

Staff

- Eugene Piccolo, Executive Director
- Tom DeGree, Associate Director
- Jake Sorensen, Administrative Assistant

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