



Summary of meeting with Souderton Charter School Collaborative Officials
July 28, 2016

On July 28, 2016, SASD officials and SCSC officials met to review the events precipitated by the SCSC expansion request in the spring of 2016.

In Attendance:

SASD: Scott Jelinski, Board President

Frank Gallagher, Superintendent

Christopher Hey, Assistant Superintendent

Bill Stone, Director of Business Affairs

Jeffrey Sultanik, Solicitor

SCSC: Carina Husband Urbach, Board President

Wendy Ormsby, Director of Organizational Development

Jennifer Arevalo, Director of Education, CEO

Michael Brooks, Solicitor

Discussion Items:

- 1. Review of the District's overall goal with respect to coexisting with the Souderton Charter School Collaborative moving forward; addressing the SCSC's intent to expand enrollment or obtain a new location in approximately two (2) school years.**
 - a. It was made clear that the District was very concerned about any expansion in enrollment or a new location that would permit a greater expansion in enrollment over what is currently approved.
 - b. The SCSC officials indicated that current enrollment is around 224 students and they were essentially "maxed out" at their current facility in Souderton.
 - c. The SCSC officials restated the organization's previously established desire to expand when practicable due to the high number of annual enrollment requests. Any expansion would likely be dictated by the size and nature of a facility that they can find. Thus far, they indicated that there is a dearth of adequate facilities available in the Indian Valley.
- 2. Review of items of concern illuminated by the District's evaluation of the SCSC's operations with respect to the withdrawn amendment for expansion.**

- a. The “same health care benefit” provision in the Charter School Law was discussed. The SCSC officials shared the health benefit options offered to SCSC employees.
 - b. The demographics and special education status of students enrolled at SCSC was discussed. SCSC officials maintained that they are not deliberately seeking out certain demographics of students and they are serving the students who enroll through the lottery process.
- 3. **Ongoing communication between the SCSC and the District.**
 - a. District and SCSC officials agreed to improve communication between that parties. SCSC officials agreed to share the following documentation on an ongoing basis:
 - i. Sharing agendas in advance.
 - ii. Sharing adopted minutes of meetings.
 - iii. Sharing monthly financial reports.
- 4. **Joint lobbying.**
 - a. Both SCSC and the District acknowledged the fact that the state funding system has put the parties clearly at odds.
- 5. **Moving forward and next steps in the process.**
 - a. All parties agreed that further communications are necessary to avoid some of the misperceptions that may have occurred as the result of clearly looking at data without further explanation by both parties. An example of this was SCSC’s perception that the District benefitted from the Ready to Learn grant as the result of having the charter school in the District.