

Dear Board Members;

As we end our first year we want to thank you for your support for the Community Public Charter School. Our students and their families have clearly benefited from and appreciated your commitment and ours to the success of this endeavor. Our mission has been to create a community where our students are well-informed and persuasive- to read well, to write and speak effectively and to handle numbers and calculations with competence and confidence. We aim to nurture the best habits of a democratic society and help our students become smart, caring, strong, resilient, imaginative and thoughtful citizens. We believe our arts-infused program engages our resistant learners and helps them demonstrate their competency in ways that are not traditionally available to them.

In addition to the statistical data provided in the attached report we want to share some of our observations from this year:

- It takes a special teacher to be highly effective with our students. The more complex the learning, the more children need genuine adult company, and the more trusted adults must become. Our students need to trust that they will be valued no matter what issues, struggles or failures they present to us. Adults must find student contributions meaningful and interesting. Teachers who excel in other places may not be a good match in our school. People are not like interchangeable parts.
- Students need a variety of ways to become good at something. We adopted the “one size fits none” philosophy and looked to match students with ways to find their way around any new domain of knowledge. This applied to teaching reading or math also where different approaches were used for both direct instruction and reinforcement.

- Engagement and pleasure helps focus a student's mind, keeps them persevering, and encourages repeated practice. Latching on to students idiosyncratic passions also helps connect them to the tasks at hand and helps in creating positive relationships.
- Passive learning of the curriculum discourages exploration and imagination.
- Teachers need an adult culture that matches the one we are trying to create for students.
- The ancient Greeks were correct when they said that democratic governance was the province of the leisured class. It takes time to be thoughtful and democratic. In a start-up year, we hardly had time to attend to the most necessary of tasks, and the larger issues and governance questions stay on the plan book.
- In this economic culture we need to do more to get our name recognized in the broader community to be successful in our fund raising efforts.
- Living in a school within a school structure has been challenging. Time needs to be devoted to building relationships among staff of the two programs.
- Perhaps the most challenging year for many of the adults who worked at CPCS this year it was also the most rewarding.

Again, we thank you for your support for students who struggle and need so much to become productive and happy members of society.

Warmly,

Bobbi Snow and Sandy Richardson