

Dear Parents,

During the 2007 legislative session, charter school principals, parents, and the New Mexico Coalition for Charter Schools worked with State Legislators to pass legislation allowing charter school students to share in a source of local tax payer funding called House Bill 33 (hb 33) funds. Passing this legislation took three years. HB 33 funds are used to help all public schools, including charter schools, to purchase, build and maintain their public school facilities. They are the local tax dollars that voters in Albuquerque approve every six years; you pay these funds as part of your yearly property tax bill. To date, no charter school has ever received hb 33 funds, although parents of charter school students (like you!) have paid these taxes for years.

Currently, the Albuquerque Public Schools hold more than \$50,000,000 (yes that is 50 million!) in reserves for building and improving public schools. In February 2010, the APS school board will be asking voters to approve an additional \$350,000,000 in hb 33 funds.

There are two issues for charter schools:

1. Although state law requires the APS district to include charter school facility requests in the upcoming hb 33 election, the APS Board has said they may not do so. This is contrary to the law and discriminates against charter school students!
2. The APS Board may ask the voters to approve two questions for hb 33 funds: one question for funds for traditional APS students and another question for funds for public charter school students. Posing two questions again discriminates against charter school students, based on where families choose to attend school!

We are asking parents to call their APS Board members and demand that APS include charter schools in the upcoming hb 33 election, as required by State Law. Please also ask the board members to include all students in just one question—to not separate charter school students from traditional school students.

Below please find the APS Board member's names and emails. Please contact them now, as in the next 10 days they will be making a decision about whether to include charter school students facility needs in the hb 3 election in 10 days. Call and email now!

Thank you for helping all APS public charter school students and the charter school movement! Your emails and phone calls will make the difference.

APS School Board Member Phone number (505) 880-3739

District 1: Dolores Griego - griego_do@aps.edu
District 2: Robert D. Lucero - lucero_r@aps.edu
District 3: Lorenzo L. Garcia - garcia_lore@aps.edu
District 4: Martin Esquivel - MEsquivel@Narvaezlawfirm.com
District 5: Paula Maes - paulamaes@nmba.org
District 6: David L. Robbins - robbins_d@aps.edu
District 7: David Eugene Peercy - peercy_d@aps.edu

