

## **CHARTER SCHOOL BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- Charter schools are part of a right wing movement to put public money into private hands and to turn education into “edubusiness”
- The main purpose of intentionally creating huge deficits is to make Charter schools more attractive and to eliminate the teachers’ union
- Both national and local research studies show:
  - Charter schools do not out-perform regular schools
  - A major study shows that our most successful public schools are in wealthier zip codes
- Blaming traditional public schools for low scores indicates the need for addressing poverty
- Research shows the education level of the family will be reflected in the child’s school work. American children from non-poverty households perform at the highest educational levels when compared to other countries
- Some charter schools require the completion of a 14 page complicated application form as a way to cherry pick or the “creaming” of students
  - Despite these practices, charter schools do not produce higher achievement levels

### **THE NEED FOR ACCOUNTABILITY**

- The School Reform Commission (SRC) was formed because the School District had a deficit. They still have a deficit
  - The deficit is intentionally created to give the School District a reason for cutting services from the school system
  - Major reductions deprive most of our regular schools of libraries, librarians, counselors, non- teaching assistance, art teachers, music teachers
  - The traditional school students still out- perform the charter schools
- The School District’s charter school office conceded that the charter expansion could cost \$139 million over five years
  - \$100 million more than they originally claimed
  - This is on top of a \$282 million deficit
- Charter schools retain fewer special education students
  - One actually announced that they would refuse to keep accepting multi-disabilities support classes
  - Some charter schools have a neighborhood admissions policy. Students from outside the district shall not be attributed to the charter school for accountability purposes
- State Auditor Jack Wagner released a special report stating that PA taxpayers could save \$365 million each year if it fixed the formulas for funding cyber and charter schools
- Charter schools over funded according to the Auditor General
  - Because of funding flaws as many as 45% of charter schools have surpluses
  - In Philadelphia as much as \$80 million surplus dollars had been accumulated
- Federal Investigations
  - There are, reported, at least 13 Philadelphia charter school’s under federal investigation
  - There are currently 3 or 4 charter school administrators either in jail or under house arrest
  - One individual was earning about \$500,000 from 3 charter schools
- Separate real estate corporations are formed by charter schools to purchase real estate and lease it back to charter schools. The charter schools pay rent even after purchase is paid. The corporation then can disburse the money without the knowledge of the charter school