

Arizona Trip Report

August 4-8, 2003

Meeting Notes

August 4, 2003, 12:30 – 2:00: Internet Education Exchange

Chris Smith offered the use of his office in Scottsdale. Met Marilyn Totonchi – very helpful. Explained that one of the things that iEdx does is serve as an information resource for parents all over the country to answer education questions. They receive about 80 questions per month from parents and have a staff of 4 interns, a publications director, and an editor to respond. They all were familiar with CER and used our website frequently to find information.

August 4, 4:00 - 6:00: Michael and Olga Block

Michael said that he really didn't know that much about the charter movement in the state. Observed that Margarette Rouch-Myer brought "professionalism" to the Arizona Charter Association. Olga observed that she is in the business of Charters, not of "saving people." Michael said that the charter movement in Arizona seems to him to be split along party lines. Their focus as Charter Operators is on making their charter school great, not serving the public good. Tempe Prep, arguably the best charter in AZ, keeps its distance from the charter movement. There is still a stigma to charters in the state. The Arizona republic is not so favorable to charters. Discussion of Stanford Nine scores and how they were reported by the press to leave out charters even though charters were a majority of the highest scoring schools in the state. Districts lost their ability to charter 3 years ago and the board of education condensed to the charter board. Mike and Olga don't like competition from other charters, so they don't naturally all work together well. About their school they said: Kids graduate when they have the proper number of credits; they have world class standards in math and science – their kids learn AP Calculus in 10th grade; their teachers are "Saxton Teachers"; students from every zip code are represented; they are "test happy" and do comprehensive testing; their magic is consistency; its hard to attract kids to stay in the schools. Association represents providers not parent.

August 5, 1:00-3:00; Mary Gifford

On the charter board in AZ. She started at the Goldwater Institute in Public Policy and Education where she collected and disseminated charter school information. The Charter School Association was created in 1994 in the basement of the Goldwater Institute. She said that the Charter School Association has grown, but has not gone to the next level. When CER wants to come into a state it is not seen as a positive reflection on the state. However, the rest of the country is not paying attention to Arizona enough.

Governor's Office – positive on charters. appointees to the board are currently outstanding. Governor is advised on all charter and education matters by:

1. **Paul Kohler** – Part-time Advisor to the Governor, works for West Ed, Loves charters, and is a reformer.
2. **Becky Hill** – Full-time Advisor on Education to the Governor, does not support charters, worked with Lisa Keegan. Her negativity on charters is being balanced by Pat Kohler.

Legislature - is Good

1. Eddie Farnsworth is solid on charters
2. Hoopenthaw is currently purchasing a charter school
3. Linda Grey – positive
4. Carla Phillips – Education Advisor to the House – has been actively trying to broaden circle of charter supporters (later told us that she sees the Home Schoolers Association more than the Charter Association); Good source of intelligence on Bills and Legislation.
5. Ken Bennett, president of the senate, is positive on charters. Mark Svenson is his policy advisor (revolutionary, not reformer)
6. Tom Hellon, chair of senate education committee, is not a supporter of Charters, but he is coming along indicating that someone is working on him. Mary said that it is Margarete, Onnie and Mary who bring these folks along on the issues.
7. Tom Dorn is the Association Lobbyist and Mary called him "extraordinary."

On the Charter Board – Mary said:

- It has no policies and procedures
- It authorizes, oversees, disciplines, and revokes charters, but has to go through the department of education to financially sanction charter schools.
- 8 members are appointed by the governor, 1 is appointed by the State Superintendent and currently it has a solid make-up

On the Charter School Association

- o Onnie is definitely a friend but got sideways with Margarete on support for a resolution on State Board accountability.
- o Susan Chan is president of the Charter School Association
- o Margarete's vision is for the Association to be more like a trade association.
- o Mary said that they "Do need strategic planning in AZ."
- o Association would not take a positive stand on distance learning
- o Make up is flawed; the board is dysfunctional and fractured, but the board had also
- o Susan Chan doesn't like Margaret
- o

Who should be part of any strategic planning in the state? Mary said:

1. Onnie – state board president
2. Margaret
3. Carol Sammons – Entrepreneur, back on the board of the Association, very businesslike, good at mentoring, would have fresh views
4. Tom Drexel – former president of the association during its most peaceful time, very respected across the state, has pulled together the Tucson charters which operate more cohesively than the rest of the state.
5. Laraza (perhaps)
6. Meg Delana Verdugo - on board of Association, with a possible connection to Laraza (left of middle)
7. Paul Kohler
8. Steve Twist – Viad Corp – Jeanne Likes him
9. Carla Phillips - See above
10. Michael Hunter – VP of Arizona Tax Research Association, reputation for taxwork for charters, hooked into business community, free thinker, deemed credible.
11. Mike Hayes – on board of Association, seen as decisive, works behind the scenes, sometime adversarial and offends women.
12. Steve Twist – Served on the state board, Goldwater Founder, currently a business person

13. Kimberly Mosher – on state board, owns a PR firm, Fantastic Ideas, being groomed to become president of the charter board
14. Tom Horn – considers himself a free-thinker, but has an ego, 26 years in education, charter supporter, but not deep, wants to be governor some day.
15. Cuyler Reid, secretary of the Association Board, good lady,. School in good shape, traditional, big, good test scores, gets along well with everyone, finds the compromise, tries very hard, trustworthy, would not get pulled into devisiveness.

Persons in Arizona to handle cautiously

1. Shaw – Conspiracy theorist – Keep out of meeting if possible, Former president of association, caused problem in previous Walton meeting, potentially an under performing school, Did not represent Arizona Well nationally, close friend of Margaret .
 2. Pat Bassett – JWJ Academy is a poor school.
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3. Pat Kusson – reporter for the Arizona Republic, doesn't like charters or her newsbeat
 4. Arizona Republic Editorial – has been very positive
 5. Arizona Tribune, CC Tod, lead education reporter, would make time for Jeanne
 6. Tucson papers – better on the news side than the Arizona Republic.

Overall Perceptions

1. Technical Assistance stuff is taking time away from Advocacy / PR, Grassroots work
2. When parents in a focus group were asked about charters, said that they thought 1/2 of all charter schools were closed; that is their perceptions of charter schools,
3. Planning and Zoning represents a barrier to entry for charter operators
4. All charters dislike NCLB
5. States labeling system is unfair
6. Too much Regulation on Charters

August 6, 2003: 9:00-11:00 Charter Operator Meeting – Phoenix

See list for attendance.

- Pat Kosum discussion; Greg Miller said that he had developed a sheet to counter her argument about accountability. [We should ask for a copy].
- Tom Horn has a committee of Charter Operators that he meets with once per month. Horn is trying to fix the problem with funding for charters; charter paperwork is begin lost which means that they can't get funding on time at the start of the school year (July). Department of Ed is not ready to accept paperwork until about the 1st or 15th of June.
- Operators said that there is no one stop shopping at the Department of Ed.
 - o This is the second year in a row that this is happening; there is no warning system that the department has lost paperwork. Some operators have had to submit paperwork 3-4 times in order to get the funding approved.

- The problem of loosing paperwork continually has been a problem since the beginning of the charter movement.
 - Federal Grants Program went through the state – shifted to direct funding (continuing grants) – Federal issues exist as a result of Indian Charters ability to “double-dip.”
- Mark Francis was president of the association in the beginning of the movement. State charter board is requiring an additional audit. Carol Sammons says that the charter operators are not being vocal enough about these audits. This concerns special ed programs and files.
- The charter operators must deal with both the state and the state charter board. Don't like the idea of having to report to both. They think that the charter board should be doing the accountability, not the department of ed.
- ~~Not been enough money provided for the regulating charter schools (LEAs). Sponsor has not done the very kind of checking into the Charters as they should, they're understaffed, so the department of ed is also doing checking.~~
- State reimburses for state auditing - -some charters don't know about this.
- JEANNE - Lack of cohesive communications in the state and across the country. There are number of organizations that work on their behalf. State Board thinks that they need to get AZ charters Under Control. Mulidimensional problem – State Board – Accountability Different state that they had before. CER has been recognizing that there is a void – Where are the most important states, what is the state of the movement, lets go where we can add value. Environment Check – we're not in a position to way we know your problems because we've been elsewhere, every state is different. Goldwater Study is not something that they can disagree with {Get Goldwater Study}. AZ is not a state that coheassis well – culture. More people root for that other team than root for the AZ Cardinals. Have had a tremendous amount of pioneers. Should be no political issues with charters, but there is. There will always be media problems. We've analyzed what we think makes for a state ideal for charters. There are resources now available
- ACSA does not seem any deeper or richer or deeper, still discussing policy or procedure, don't reach their membership. Carol Sammans and Cuyler Reid are on the board of the Arizona Charter School Association. Carol is frustrated that the Association is behind and we are running without platforms. Cuyler is more of a consensus builder.
- Brought Margaret in two years – 30 new members (30% increase in membership). Leaders in the association that have developed a relationship with Tom Horn's office.
- Charter 101 is an ACSA program that teaches charter operators how to answer negative questions and prepare their response.
- Greg Miller walked away from the Association because the they couldn't develop a strategy. Rather than defining who they were and why they were there, they were trying to define themselves against the BLOB in AZ.
- APBA – Association for Performance Based Accreditation – ACSA program to react to the BLOB requirements.

- Mrs. Lewis very child focused, told story about her daughter. Reason for lack of cohesion is money, so many obstacles in getting funding, causes transience and problems.
- **JEANNE Presented BLUEPRINT:** Very difficult to look at this from a higher level. Most people don't understand what it is that they charters do in operations. How would you create a group (without considering for resources) that is the best of the best. Don't all have to be on the same page to make it all work. Would like their take their input on CER's blueprint.
- Cuyler said that the blueprint is fantastic – they tried to write a grant, but it was denied. Would like to see a staff to do this, hard to get grants on a charter by charter level, parent group is not strong. They have known for a long time that they need this type (blueprint), but haven't been able to achieve.
- **JEANNE** - Funding community is looking for clear concise, long-term plan, not from one person or a small group for charters, but from the state as a whole. Funders see lots of same proposal on a very small scale. We went through this process of understanding what the funders want. Where do you want to be in ten years. If you're not ready to build a group that can support 1000 schools, then don't bother to apply. Membership has said (through surveys) that they like what they have but its not enough. CANEC has completely been re-done. Very tense, contentious set of meetings, have created the most incredible business plan, hired Caprise Young to run and build. (capacity building). NY on the other hand created a new plan and used the existing capacity. DC started by trying to work on their existing group but then decided to start over. Do need to reinvent themselves or evolve something new. (everyone agreed). AZ should be our national bellwether. 130 schools in the association. 400 other schools not a part of this.
- Mr. Miller says that the association needs to look more the early homebuilders association than what AZ has.
- Tom Dorn – policy advisor for the charter schools. Advised to hold the line. Push was to be represented on all boards and committees.
- What if you could fill the room with a core fo the charter movement plus the different principal players,
- Discussion of Association or not Association
- Authorizer
- JA perhaps the best charter schools in AZ comes together
- The questions is who do you bring to the table,
- All agree that they need to do something to do this.
- Could they use an upcoming fall conference to pull charter operators together (former charter operators conference). Perhaps a half day before. Association's next conference is October. Carol Ann is doing the scheduling of presentations. Legislative forum is on September 20. All charter operators and department of Ed and sponsors invited to come, moderated, terrific exchange of communications. The participants wrote up the problems that were discussed and sent toi the department of Ed and they acknowledged there are problems.

- Who should be involved:
 - o Linda Proctor Downing – Good Charter school, home grown
 - o Mike and Olga Block – Basis
 - o IedEx – Chris Smith, would be extremely important
 - o Would Dr. Mark Francis get back involved again (has so backed away from this, that he is not sure) - he needs a rallying point – highest professional standards, need to start acting like professional organizations, what are the dues to pay that the AZ home builders pay? – Every school should be paying according to their size. This represents commitment.
 - JA discussed wish list of what a great association looks like.
 - Dr. Mark Francis – List of Stanford 9 - Story in this that is not being told. Manhattan institute study very positive. Like-minded to Jeanne in terms of consensus. Patty's effort should not be under-credited.
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- Almost no resource left to do what needs to get done next.
 - Group here represented would like to be at the next table. They would like us to report back to them
 - How do we get the association board to vote to send a representative to the meeting. Need a teacher to set out what a responsible, professional meeting
 - New Opportunities for the associate to help them. Let's look at opportunities. This is a natural growing of the association.
 - Amazing that they are all here, said Mark. We have got to develop a top flight staff and group of people who are professional. Taken 7 years to get to this point where everything is starting to fit together. Patty and others have the ability to step back and take a hard look at this.
 - Would like to have some type of consensus from the board that they are willing to participate. Next meeting of the Board is August 21st or 28th. Susan Chan – how is Susan toward these issues. Susan is open (majority is open) to hearing these types of things. Board needs to figure this out for themselves.
 - Mr. Miller – says that the legislature is the 90 dwarfs, without this, we will see a downward spiral and the movement will die in the state. He thinks that without this, the schools will be re-assimilated into the districts in the next 10 years.
 - Battle is incrementalism – whittling away at the charter movement through regulation.
 - Mark said “Business plan needs to be organic and viable, the board needs to develop a business plan so that the executive director can do their job effectively.” Scary to step back and develop a business plan.
 - Mrs. Lewis said that charter schools started because business people could do it better. Doesn't think that this is about destroying the association.
 - Right to work law - limits the power of unions, two thirds needed to represent any group. This is a concept not a law for charter association, but it is a defacto kind of rule that

Arizonians use to apply. The association only has 1/3 of the charters - - doesn't have the kind of support for this.

- 3% growth rate on kids in charters over the last 5 years.

August 6, 2003: 11:00 meeting with Heidi Mitchell, Sharon Malone, and Cuyler Reid

No clear agenda. General follow-up discussion to meeting. Allen Shepard Regional Training Center – very helpful with charter school technology. Assist with IT infrastructure within schools. Their conference backs up to the Gala conference that means that they will not be able to attend unless they fly all day on October 30. Resource Center discussion, all charters spending individual time on stuff that should be handled within the association.

JA – national group says that AZ has a void in leadership.

Cuyler said - Initial association structure was driven by the Goldwater institute – Governance remains in issue with the association. Representation from N,S,E,W, but have gotten away from that. They have regional luncheon meetings, where at least one board member is present. One grant (that they hope will be funded) and another grantee coming in to help.

August 6, 2003: 1:30 Meeting with Margaret Rouch-Meier

Tony began by telling Margaret why CER came to AZ and why we didn't go through the Association to set up meetings with Charter Operators.

Margaret said:

- o Her charter opened in 1996, is one of 12 in Flagstaff, and has 1600 students – Northwind Prep Academy (9-12); just purchased a \$1.5 million building, ranked 7th in a recent article on performance.
- o She is a former Real-Estate agent, helped establish flagstaff's pre-school program, grassroots activist especially for music and arts programs. She said she owns a building restoration company and has some type of relationship with the Rose Law Firm, but did not elaborate. Says she is a friend of Si Figalot (Sp?) from NY
- o She initially opposed charters but, after seeing the light has been at the forefront of the charter revolution in AZ, Elected to the board in 1996 – 2001, Association Director going on 2 years. She is also known as a "Voucher Queen."
- o Association
 - o Has increased membership by 50% since she came on and wants to increase by another 50% this year. She says that she knows her operators.
 - o Does not have a Resource Center – the Department of Education does a fine job at that.
 - o Not for the Association to hand-hold or spoon feed charter operators.
 - o Creates vendor relationships for her operators and wants them to bring in a variety of choices
 - o Has 7 regional meeting groups to share, disseminate information.

- Resists standardization in the state; the state is truly a market-based state and they will resist standardized formulas.
- Wish list for the Association:
 - Professional Development Opportunities – wants the market to step up to the plate and operators need to come forward to tell Association where they feel the most help is needed. Margaret creates relationships with outside vendors to support operators. She wants to make them better shoppers as opposed to providing the service through the association. She would love CER's help in this regard.
 - Certified Operator Certification Program (so the operators can use as a marketing tool)
 - She works for operators, so anything else they need.
- Press – Mesa District – blames charters for their budget crisis and they have a huge media budget. The Mesa district has 85,000 students funded in charter schools, but statistics are bad. October 30th – Reports due to charter authorizer. There are 950,000 public school students.
- On National Education Groups – Margaret said that she doesn't like those from the outside (national) groups who don't know or understand Arizona. Association has a \$1.5 million commercial Load {could not be verified through Mary Gifford}. She resents those that think they have a silver bullet and can help. What she has seen happened is dependencies being created – charter operators are not dependent on the Association. She wants charter operators to take care of their own schools – shape up or go out of business.
- She wants the Association to remain Independent – She says that the operators do not want to see big hitters on the board.
- More research is needed about Arizona charter schools – she would love CER to help by providing more research .
- On Media – She said about the future negative story in the Arizona Republic “who cares.” She thinks the media is much more positive than negative, especially the editorial folks. She is proud that there are now graduating kids that have never stepped into a district school. 5 years from now is just going to explode as kids of charters begin to send their children to charter schools. Margaret said that she is ready to go national to tell the Arizona story and help other states to keep their momentum going.
- Business community doesn't know what to do with Charters yet – still busy supporting the public school system.

At the end of our meeting, she said that she expected to receive a copy of our report and wanted to know what the charter operators were saying. She also said that she planned on attending the Tempe meeting the next day (although she was not invited).

August 7, 2003 First Meeting of the State Board's Committee on Alternate Authorizers and Self Funding

Chartering among school districts has ceased. Last year, legislation passed which consolidated 90% of oversight to the state board of charter schools. The Board is funded by the general fund. Jeanne provided perspective of what is happening on a national scene. (See handwritten notes in Arizona Target state binder)

August 7, 2003 Charter Operator Meeting - Tempe

JEANNE starter the meeting: every state has challenges. Help is needed in figuring out how they can do things better.

Comments Heard at Meeting

- o Multiple Authorizers - Need lots of places to go to be sponsored - "Tin Gods" Under the state board, they are no doing so good. When to the charter board and was turned down, had to go through another avenue to get chartered. Patti Shaw - One suggestion is the make successful chart schools a charter authorizer. They have down in the trenches experiences.
- o Funding issues - All operators have funding issues. Don't get the same amount of money that the districts get and that does make a difference. No bussing for kids. Don't get reimbursed for transportation. That is an issue. Where is the bank that loans charter schools money. Or if attendance program was not working correctly.
- o Charter School Board - Need representation on the charter school board - don't think that he board represents charter schools.
- o Each charter school has great ideas, but no time to pursue it. Many startups in Arizona is what separates Arizona from others. Don't feel like anyone is paying attention.
- o Perception is that the state board is responsible for its charter schools, but they don't advocate for them. Nobody outside of the association advocates for them. State Board becomes the go to group. Board wants a line between charters and state board. There is no official agency advocates for charters.

What do you wish you had.

Sounding board, no cohesiveness.

Whose job to do technical assistance? There isn't any group to help. The first thing that one charter does is call the charter board. (not the association)

Charters schools are spending a great deal of time chasing down answers that all of them are dealing with, but no group is charged with.

Does the association do technical assistance - No, except for Charter 101. Authorizer (Peach Spring) has also served this purpose.

(Handed out Blueprint) Could it happen here in Arizona?

Carol brought up AZ home builders Association. - Maybe we need to think more like that. Goal driven. Common issues, have banded together for that function. They are reactionary.

Is there not an entity that whose job it is to know each of you intimately?

Media is not friendly. Whose job is it to make sure - all of charters job.

NEED THAT PERSON WITH CREDIBILITY WHO CAN WORK WITH THE MEDIA

Stories influence people and people influence legislation.

Advocacy -
Media -

Tribune

Stigma attached to charter schools. Dobson Story (Dobson came to charter school, charter provided students to graduate on time, press was interested in the story, but story never ran. Media is negative on charters.

We (AZ) have to have marketing, we have to have public relations.

Perception is that they are a fix it for kids who have problems in public schools. Some kids even leave after they are fixed to return to the public schools. At-risk students who come into schools drive down rating scores.

Jeanne paints the picture of what if you had an organization that

Carries your flag, advocates for you, media, like the home-parent associations.

Is it something that you all want to do? Create a group that does this.

Regional meetings – is one way that they do this.

Through the association, we could form an alliance – where vendors are evaluated -

But wouldn't be cool if

Standards & Quality – Help each other to fix the weakest charters. Should be doing this as a group.

Lisa Keegan –

CER participated in the formation of the law. She thought that it was just Lisa Keegan who wrote the law from gods mouth to Lisa Keegan's ears.

Take it to the next level. At least one organization thinks that they are vulnerable. There are risks. They need self sufficiency.

DC Example

Doesn't want to share curriculum, but Carol wants to unite on the larger, loftier issues. Some others may want to. Setting strategic plans for the future.

They are all competitors, but they need to come together to handle these higher issues.

Patty's Firm hired a lobbyist – that got the law passed recently (what law go passed recently). APPBA

Arizona should organize into a state-wide, school choice association, Mike Kayes said. Jeanne says that she is not sure that charters are strong enough to embrace less accepted ideas like choice.

"Attorney General Opinion says that Charters are exempt from the rest of title 15"

Regulatory Creep - Authorizers are focused on compliance rather than performance. They have no other information coming their way to defend charters. This includes Department of Education, and the Charter Board. Department of Ed people are very helpful. Over-regulation is also resulting from the need for the Department of Education PCSB money.

Come together - as a group - unified - there are foundations that want to support that effort if you show that you are united.

Those who might be at the table—

Chris Smith

Would like to see a consensus of support to move forward.

End of October Conference -

Timing is -

Association is not the appropriate, says not Mike Kaynes, other say because of conflict.

TUSCON MEETING - August 8, 2003

Donn Dericck - (Grades 5-8, 9-12) 99% Hispanic Students, biggest problem is Language, core curriculum is language & literacy skills. Basic Math and Responsible citizenship. Just purchased a Safeway building formerly used by University. Cierre Vista (9-12 at risk, overwhelmed by local high school, those who want smaller classes) students (250 kids), Douglas Campus (700 kids). Been in business since 96. Background: Classroom teacher in OK, former superintendent, started first charter in Kansas, retired from Kansas. Kansas has most restrictive laws, AZ has the least restrictive. Previously the Center for Academic Success was rocked by fraud. Don came in to take it over.

Mr. And Mrs. Kulsa – Kusla Montesory School. k-8, reopening first location, outgrew very quickly, huge waiting list, so they are reopening the first location, and accommodating the waiting list kids. Curriculum and Montesory. All teachers are certified Montesory teachers. Lot of work building a sense of community.

Terri Garzza with Tom Drexel – Co Directors of Persidio, k-8 charter extension.

Kathleen Bibby – Ace charter high school is 8-12, offering alternative education programs since 1987. Expansion of what they were already doing. Computer assisted curriculum, 1/2 is textbook, post secondary transitional aspect to school, at risk and retrieval. Principal is Sahra McDonnal

Peppe Barrow – 1997 started two schools, one with 130, the second with Luce = 230 students.

Carol Golmbieski, principal, Vale Charter High School, located in a technology center. 7th year of existence, all teachers are certified, typical high school, but offers alternative education. Alt Ed can earn their way back into the regular education, focus on college prep, computer technology, and school to work.

Jeanne covered: who we are, our mission, our connection to the state, take a page off of our law, delighted by AZ charter schools. AZ doing own thing (as perceived outside). Lull in the movement of charters, complacency. However, locally there are all sorts of challenges – We have a personal interest in helping you to become the best.

How do you look at your charter movement, how could you be doing better, what are you doing good enough.

Also doing telephone surveys, what are you getting help with, technical assistance, public relations, advocacy.

In summary- everyone wants to be cohesive better, putting heads together, need certain technical, governance, transportation issues solved, ways to cut the learning curve, advocacy representation at the state board, other day to day activities going on.

Are regional meetings helping? Are you all taking advantage of that? Everyone is willing to share their expertise, unique in the nation, more supportiveness, throughout the state.

Tom is the glue that hold everything together. They talk about ways to bring more charters schools to the table. Peppe says that cohesiveness is better in Tucson than in Phoenix.

Tom is the “president” of the region.

Is it communicated to people who are making policy? At a local level they have done a great deal of legislating. They meet as a group with the mayor, planning board,

Legislators in the Tucson area seem to be slightly negative, but they have the ear of the legislators in Phoenix.

Government Relations – Some were hearing for the first time that this authorizer problem was an issue, one of the staffers said that they'd like to more plugged in. Many freshman legislators that need to be educated.

Are things as good as they need to be. All in this room are committed to bettering themselves and making representation better.

JA Asked are more charter schools needed in AZ. Funds are a real problem. Chicken and egg process. Most folks who start charters have to learn lessons. Three local high school teachers in the state tried to form a charter, but Mike Ebner is working with them to overcome the hurdles.

There is no really good mechanism for helping new charters get through the charter application process, business plan writing, etc.

What do we have to put in place to support new charters, the database of people,

State Board doesn't have a formal process, but they

Tom says lets get to the bottom line. Blueprint passed out.

Direct correlation between states that having these elements and their success.

NY example – several groups came together,

CA example.....

But here there is no one-stop shopping. If there is one place to bring all charters together, is there one place that can do this.

Mrs. Kulsa said that some things just need to get figured out by the individual. Some things just fall back on the individual.

Tom is one of the reasons that everyone in Tucson is kept informed. Mike Ebner says that you need folks like Tom and Mary Gifford to keep things going in the state. 15 or 20 of the local schools actually come to meeting regularly, 45 or so usually show up.

JA doesn't like hearing that these schools don't attend meetings because they feel buried. Not enough hours in a day. They are understaffed, can't get their work done. Mrs. Kulsa is focused on her school, doesn't have time to understand the political issues.

Some of them are into the politics of education, locally, statewide, nationally. Not sure what the point is of the meeting. When there is a need to do politics, then Tom leads a group to Phoenix.

Uneven representation. Leadership thinks. Arizona is critical. Not every school feels as well represented. If you look at the legislative issues, funding issues, the future holds

Two purposes-

Talk to schools, to find out if the outside is right, AZ is a mess, not cohesive?
Where are we going, how can we help you to bring resources into the state, so that someone else is working on these biggest issues.

people are working on your behalf .

But no set of goals, no agenda,

Mike Ebner says that how are we tracking calls from schools, is there a way that we are tracking the number of calls,

There are a lot of things that AZ is doing right, but much of it is personality driven.

Peppe said that people calling an office in DC, shouldn't be calling DC for answers to local issues. Workshops from the department take new charter operators through the process of running a charter plus 101.

Peppe says that he recommends that the association be the one to go through in order to put the next meeting together. If we could serve as consultant to the charter school association they would be ok with that., they just don't want the charter school association undermined.

If our goal in being here is to listen to charters and report back to Washington, and to offer suggestions and criticism. He doesn't know how much to listen to us, because he doesn't understand how much we know.



Arizona Meeting Schedule

Monday, 8-4-03	Tuesday, 8-5-03	Wednesday, 8-6-03	Thursday, 8-7-03	Friday, 8-8-03
<p>9:18 Tony Arrives in Phoenix, AZ</p> <p>12:30 Go to Chris Smith's office for internet connection and calls</p> <p>2:00 -4:00 Drive to Tucson</p> <p>4:00 - 6:00 Meet with Michael and Olga Block</p> <p>6:00 - 8:00 Return to Phoenix from Tucson</p>	<p>9:30a Jeanne Arrives in Phoenix</p> <p>12:20p Kara Arrives in Phoenix (change)</p> <p>11:00 Chris Smith's office</p> <p>1:30 Meeting with Mary Gifford at Hyatt Lobby</p> <p>3:00 Meet Jeanne at her hotel</p>	<p>9:00a - 11:00 a Phoenix Meeting - Sundance Room at the Hyatt (122 North</p> <p>11:00 Meet Heidi Mitchell, Business Manager, Sharon Malone, Principal, Cuyler Reid, Board President</p> <p>1:30 Tony to meet Margaret Rouch-Meier at Intelli School, 3101 West Peoria Ave., Suite B310, Phoenix</p> <p>4:30 with Tom Horn, AZ Department of Education, 1530 West Jefferson, Phoenix.</p>	<p>7:00a Tony to pick up Jeanne in Scottsdale</p> <p>8:00a - 9:30 Arizona State Board for Charter School's Committee on Additional Authorizers and Self Funding meeting - Arizona State Capitol, Executive Towers, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1700 West Washington, Phoenix</p> <p>10:00a - 11:00 Legislative and Staff meeting (both Senate and House); 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1700 West Washington, Phoenix</p> <p>12:00p - 2:30 Mesa-Tempe Meeting. Fiesta and Terrace Room at the Hilton Phoenix East/Mesa, 1011 West Holms Ave., Mesa</p> <p>3:30p Kim Yi at the Senate Chambers, 1700 West Washington, Room 303.</p>	<p>8:00a Tony to pick up Jeanne in Scottsdale</p> <p>11:00a - 1:00 Tucson Meeting #1. Executive Conference Room, Windmill Suites at St. Philips Plaza, Tucson, 4250 North Campbell Ave.</p> <p>2:30 - 4:30 Tucson Meeting #2 cancelled.</p> <p>4:30 - 7:00 Return to Phoenix from Tucson</p> <p>9:30 p Tony departs from Phoenix</p>