

Conversation from the parent questions answer session during the 2016 Fall State of the Academy

What is the difference of charter schools from conventional schools?

- Own school board consisting of parents and teachers.
- Increased accountability (annual report, State of the Academy, etc.)
- Funding similar but Charter slightly less.
- Own focus (Classical) vs. State mandates.

How are charter schools funded?

- About 90% State
- 7% from Federal
- 3% from Miscellaneous (grants, etc.)
 - PTO: events, join, volunteer
 - Development department
- 20-25%% less funding than conventional schools (referendums are the biggest difference)

Please explain Phase Two Construction Plans.

- School of Rhetoric will relocate upstairs
- Auditorium
- Activities Field
- Walking track may not happen
- Outer parking lot on North side of building
- Progress – on track!
 - Met with architects and project manager already
 - Initial plans and edits in progress
 - Three month project, starting over winter break
 - Food service is ready, but not high priority
 - The 9-12 space will be ready for the start of school next year, but auditorium may not be reading until October 2017

Does ERA track students attending post-secondary?

- National Clearing House provides best statistics
- Communicate with alumni
- Partnering with college consultant to build a better relationship with Ivy League schools
- Juniors and seniors attend College Fair
- Goal: 90% students committed to post-secondary
- MN probability that students attend college in closest proximity
- Guidance counselor:
 - Communications with 9-12 graders

- Meet individually with juniors to narrow post-secondary choices

Please explain transportation progress.

- Currently we have two routes: overcrowded and long commutes
- Additional bus driver in progress that will be dedicated to the Gray Bus
- Plans for comprehensive review of bus routes for 2017-2018

Please explain any ERA plans/progress on trans-gender issues.

- We monitor statutes and follow our guidelines
- ERA doesn't discriminate but also provides welcoming atmosphere
- Private restrooms available
- ERA's practice is to meet with student and family to discuss and understand how to create a successful academic environment.
- No Board policy yet as statutes are still under review.