

**March 9, 2009
Board of Directors' Meeting
Socrates Academy
6:30 PM**

Principal's Report

- 1. Striving for Excellence Goals: Teachers of Greek**
 - To provide critical thinking and challenging work according to the Socratic method, and
 - To create a learning environment providing educational activities where the students develop their knowledge by "thinking and doing". (Information)

- 2. In the USA, elementary foreign-language instruction is on the decline. Elementary schools, according to an article March 4, 2009 in Education Week are cutting back on dual language programs and the cutbacks are likely to continue due to the recession. The decline of these programs in the US will cause American education to fall further behind other nations in producing bilingual citizens. Even Chinese and Arabic, which were recently on an increase, may be lessened. Private schools are ahead of public schools in providing these dual language programs. Principal's Comment: As the Socrates Academy Family, we are grateful for our partnership with the country of Greece and the Greek Education Ministry for the dual language program at the Academy. Our scholars gain much from this language program as well as increased math instruction in Greek. Thanks to our Founders for their vision of our charter. (Share article from *Education Week*, March, 2009) (Information)**

- 3. Request from directors of several charters who are lobbying in Raleigh for mobilizing families and friends to support charter school initiatives if introduced in this session of the North Carolina Legislature. Issues that may materialize:**
 - a. Increase the cap on charter schools by 5 new charters per year.
 - b. Allow counties to fund charter schools beyond the average daily membership (ADM).
 - c. Share lottery funds with charter schools, and
 - d. Allow twin siblings to enroll at the same time if one twin's name is selected.

Look for more information as time passes. (Information)

- 4. Successful job fair at UNCC on February 27, 2009. Our booth was shown on Channel 14 evening news. On March 28, 2009, the Academy will host the Charter School Job Fair. 32 Charter schools have been invited to attend. To date, 14 schools have committed. Very good quality of candidates have presented their resumes. Hiring Plan Request to go to the Executive Committee by March 20. Academy Interview Team begins work April 13 – 17, 2009. (Information)**

5. **On February 24, 2009, Socrates Academy received our compliance rating for services to Exceptional Children determined by the auditors of the State Board of Education and the Compliance Team from the Division of Exceptional Children, DPI. The data from 2006-2007 was used to determine our compliance. Our determination was Meets Requirements, meaning we have set high expectations for services to children with disabilities and have delivered high quality services. We had no compliance issues based on financial audit findings and timely submission of data. (Share report from Deputy Superintendent and Director of Exceptional Children Programs) (Information)**
6. **Plato's The Apology of Socrates will be performed by Emmy Award winner, Yannis Simonides at 8:15 pm April 23 and 24, 2009 on the campus of UNC-CH at the Paul Green Theater. Could we post this flyer and press release on our website and add to The Socrates Connection, our school newsletter in March? (Information and Request)**

Assistant Principal's Report

1. **Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) results were given to teachers and mailed to parents last week. Overall the results were favorable. Teachers will analyze the results to use in planning daily instruction and for vertical planning.**

In analyzing lists of school districts in NC, 115 traditional districts, ie, CMS, Union Co., Cabarrus, etc, and 97 charter schools as districts, totaling 212, Socrates Academy ranked 10th in the state in math and 4th in the state in reading. In reading rankings, only three other charters were higher in reading than the Academy. Those charters were Quest Academy and Magellan Charter in Raleigh, Metrolina Charter in Charlotte. Based on 2007-08 developmental scale score on third grade EOGs. Source is "Green Book", DPI Website, www.ncpublicschools.org. (Information)

2. **Sewage smell in the building is being addressed by Mr. Couchell and a local plumber. An email was sent to parents informing them of this situation. (Information)**
3. **Tutoring and Enrichment classes are going well. American teachers started February 23 and Greek teachers began classes today, afternoons for Americans and mornings for Greek. Letters notified parents that in four to six weeks we will assess the progress of students and some students may be added or exited as needed. (Information)**
4. **We had a Health Inspection in February. Our score was 94%=A. (Information)**