



## City school board not sold on regional charter school

**A proposal for the school with an International Baccalaureate program was presented Wednesday night.**

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For the Daily Record/Sunday News

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A proposal for a regional charter school in the city drew questions and criticism from the York City School Board on Wednesday.

Dennis P. Baughman, a former Northeastern superintendent and former York City teacher and administrator, presented a proposal for the York Academy Regional Charter School, which would serve York City, York Suburban and Central York school districts. The idea for the charter school was originally generated by a YorkCounts committee that Baughman co-chairs.

Part of the program's goal would be to encourage people and students to reside in the city, Baughman said.

The school would be located at West North Street, use a selected International Baccalaureate program and open in the 2011-2012 school year with kindergarten, first grade and second grade classes, he said.

Eventually, the curriculum would include

kindergarten through 12th grades and stress each student's creativity and individuality, he said.

Additionally, students would be proficient in English and another language, he said.

The school would not teach specific subjects such as math or social studies, but would incorporate concepts into lessons about people and how the world works, Baughman said.

Students from any of the three districts would be welcome at the school, and a lottery system would be used if there were more students wanting to attend the charter than openings, he said.

"It's designed for students of average ability," Baughman said. "This is a proven program that's been in existence for 40 years . . . We believe the academic quality of this program would be of interest to a number of parents."

School board member Gerry Turner said the district is already financially burdened from existing charter schools. Another charter would take more of the district's students and tax dollars, he said.

"As we shrink . . . then the amount of money (coming to the district) shrinks also," he said. "I'm just really concerned for the public . . . There's only so many dollars in the well."

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Turner also asked why the charter school would produce better students than the city district.

"Other than your faith and your hope . . . what are you gonna do different?" Turner said.

School board member Thomas Foust said he liked that the proposal would create a culturally and socioeconomically diverse student body.

But that would come at a price, he said.

"It could bankrupt this school district . . . No doubt about it," he said.

## WHAT'S NEXT

Dennis P. Baughman, who presented a proposal for the York Academy Regional Charter School, which would serve York City, York Suburban and Central York school districts, said the city school board will decide whether to vote on the proposal.

He said he plans to provide the city school district an application for the charter school on Nov. 13.

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