



YorkCounts progress report out today

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Co-chairs of the YorkCounts Educational Opportunities Committee gave an update on the York Academy Regional Charter School at this morning's YorkCounts summit.

Right now, pre-enrollments include 123 students from city schools, 48 from York Suburban and 39 from Central York. A board of trustees for the charter school will meet for the first time on April 7 at Penn State-York.

The school will be in the historic Smyser-Royer building in the city's Northwest Triangle development project.

Also this morning, a New Jersey community organizer was the guest speaker at the meeting.

Lynn Cummings, a native of Pennsauken, N.J., saw white flight in her town and founded a group called Neighbors Empowering Pennsauken. Her work was the focus of a documentary called "The New Neighbors."

The summit, themed "One person can make a difference - imagine many," took place at the Pullo Family Performing Arts Center, Penn State

York.

The event honored the volunteers who have made YorkCounts' work possible over the past year and reviews progress on several major initiatives.

Bob Woods, YorkCounts board member and executive director of the United Way of York County, delivered the Stay In School report. He said funding has been raised to create a model of Communities That Care that will focus on keeping York County kids in school.

YorkCounts Public Safety Study Committee chairman Steve Hovis said nine municipalities and five police departments were represented on a board to study municipal police protection and the possibility of a county police department. Under consideration are the effectiveness and costs involved of stand alone, multi-municipal and countywide police forces, reconfiguration and potential elimination of some local departments.

The board is currently reviewing a proposal from the Police Executive Research Forum, a nonprofit group that will study who is in, who is out, costs involved, how to deal with pensions, look at staffs, budgets and facilities.

Check back later for more information.

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--- Release of the 2010 YorkCounts Annual Report

--- Updates on the Stay in School Report, the York Academy Regional Charter School and the Metro-York Public Safety Study

--- Introduction of Loren Kroh as YorkCounts' new board chairman

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