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### **Central York supports YorkCounts' proposed charter school**

York, September 29, 2009 – The Central York School District Board of Directors on Monday, September 28, expressed the school district's support for joining York City and York Suburban school districts as partners in the York Academy Regional Charter School, YorkCounts' proposed K-12 regional charter school in York City.

Once approved by the state Department of Education, the new school will offer an International Baccalaureate curriculum, a world-class academic program that emphasizes foreign languages, understanding of other cultures and solving problems collectively interwoven into regular core subjects. It would be the only K-12 IB school in Central Pennsylvania.

Central York School Board members held a special public meeting Monday to learn more about the school from Dennis Baughman and Sue Krebs, volunteer co-chairs of the YorkCounts' Metro-York Educational Opportunities Subcommittee. As a partner, the Central York School Board is agreeing to accept the application for the proposed York Academy Regional Charter School from the YorkCounts' Metro-York Educational Opportunities Subcommittee.

“The district has long been committed to encouraging programs and initiatives that benefit the greater good of the community in which we teach, live and work,” School Board President Eric Wolfgang said. “By partnering with the York Academy Regional Charter School, we will support a community-wide endeavor to help better the educational future of our community's students, while offering our district families another option to explore when determining the best educational opportunities for their children.”

The regional IB charter school concept emerged in response to a 2007 Metro-York recommendation that called for attacking the root problem in the York City School District: the concentration of poverty in the city. In his 2002 visit to York, David Rusk made establishing a charter school one of his key recommendations. The IB school will be comprised of a mix of city and county students.

“The York City School District has an 86 percent poverty rate,” said Sue Krebs, co-chair of the YorkCounts education group. “It’s not possible to remediate yourself out of poverty levels above 40 percent, and that’s what the city school district is facing. We hope by mixing in two other districts, there will be a healthier socio-economic mix.”

YorkCounts welcomes Central York’s interest in the IB charter school, and Krebs said this represents a remarkable achievement for the YorkCounts effort.

“Our counsel has told us we’re making history here,” Krebs said. “A charter process is almost always a hostile process. The fact that not one but two school districts have agreed to receive the application is unprecedented in this state.”

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YorkCounts is a community-based coalition working to assess, sustain and enhance York County's quality of life – building alliances, introducing partners, spotlighting issues and facilitating conversations on education, economic development, health and safety and diversity. Partners include Better York, the United Way of York County, WellSpan Health, York College of Pennsylvania, the York County Chamber of Commerce, the York County Commissioners, the York County Community Foundation and the York County Economic Development Corp. Learn more at **[yorkcounts.org](http://yorkcounts.org)**.

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