

Dear Parents, Students & Community Supporters:

As you all know, Wednesday was a court appearance for DWCS in state court in Baton Rouge in the lawsuit that the Union Parish School Board filed against State Superintendent Paul Pastorek, BESE, the Louisiana State Department of Education and DWCS this past fall.

The funding mechanism for Type 2 charter schools authorized after July 2008 changed following the 2008 legislative session. The funding change is what precipitated the lawsuit filed by UPSB against the above mentioned parties including DWCS. The legislature changed the funding mechanism so that Type 2's were included in the state MFP funding formula in an effort to eliminate the taxpayers paying twice for students educated in charters, but still being accounted for in the traditional local school district's MFP allocations.

Testimony given today by employees of the state department including Kenneth Campbell, Director of Charter Schools at the Louisiana Department of Education, indicated that the law and the intention of BESE were carried out in the July 2009 vote that authorized DWCS to open, thus changing the funding mechanism for DWCS.

Testimonies for the day ended roughly just before 5:00 pm. with DWCS Executive Director, Corie Williams being the last to take the stand. Judge Todd Hernandez chose not to hear closing arguments from attorneys and advised the participants that he would rule quickly but only after he had the opportunity to review the transcripts of those who appeared today in court.

Steve Dozier, Superintendent of Union Parish Schools, commented in an article for Thursday's News Star that he was optimistic that they (UPSB) had made their case and that Union Parish would be victorious in the legal efforts. We, however, do not share Dozier's sentiments nor his recollection of the day's events.

The students and staff of DWCS continue every day to improve and move forward the quality of the public education system in Union Parish. We are optimistic about that! We thank you all for your continued support of DWCS. We know that when you *provide excellence, promote excellence, and expect excellence*—that is what you get.