

YouTube

September 2, 2014

Stanton

[Walter D Palmer Leadership and Learning Charter School Press Conference](#)

YouTube

Junious

["09-02-2014](#)

"**Dr. Walter D Palmer** a long time activist, community organizer, entrepreneur, attorney and educator founded a charter school and due to his reputation in the Philadelphia community the school has grown exponentially every year. Now the Philadelphia School Reform Commission is attempting to shut the "

September 5, 2014

Philadelphia Tribune

"Palmer charter school hit with two snags"

Junious

Wilford Shamlin III

The School District of Philadelphia has scheduled an Oct. 15 hearing, the first step in a revocation process that could strip a North Philadelphia charter school of its authority to operate.

"We are moving forward with the revocation process," Fernando Gallard said Thursday on behalf of the school district, which lodged formal complaints against the **Walter D. Palmer Learning Partners Charter School**.

District officials cited six years of lagging academic outcomes for students and unorthodox book keeping practices in the complaints. The district also seeks reimbursement of fees for charter school enrollment, saying it was only entitled to funds based on enrollment limits set in its charter renewal in 2010.

The school's founder **Walter D. Palmer** said the school district has withheld enrollment fees for a third straight month in August, denying the charter school a total of \$900,000.

He said withholding funds was a financial blow.

"It will literally collapse the school in mid-year," said **Palmer**, who said the school district's move is an attempt to shutter a charter school. "It will be absolutely devastating to 1,300 students and families."

Gallard did not respond directly to **Palmer's** remarks, other than to say the district was trying to collect money it never should have paid in the first place.

"This is an effort from the district to get their money back and be reimbursed for the money that the charter school received that it should not have received," Gallard said. He said the district was aligned with the state Department of Education in seeking reimbursement of fees.

The beleaguered school had another shock this week when a 7-year-old girl was dropped off at the wrong bus stop Tuesday and remained missing for five hours.

Palmer said there are conflicting versions from the girl's relatives about what happened and the matter is still under police investigation. He said the girl missed her stop after falling asleep.

It's unclear how the girl eventually turned up at her grandmother's house in North Philadelphia.

Palmer said the girl's aunt found her unharmed and drove her to the house, which is near the charter school.

A district spokesperson said the district provides school bus transportation for privately managed charter schools but logistics are planned by the charter school.

Meanwhile, **Palmer** said he has hired Stacey Cruise, who runs the Legacy Educational Management Company, to oversee a new strategy for driving school improvements. She was introduced at a press conference this week on opening day for a new academic year for **Palmer** School.

"There was a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of supporters," **Palmer** said. "She brought a team of coaches, and we're happy. We're excited."

Palmer also said he was confident in Cruise's ability to inspire staff and students and help make the school "run better and take its performance to another level."

Administrators for the Palmer charter school are preparing to answer the complaints at a series of administrative hearings that will be scheduled over several months. A hearing officer will make a recommendation to the School Reform Commission, which oversees the city's public school system, based on testimony from both sides.

Palmer charter school is challenging the school district's ability to impose enrollment caps. The state Supreme Court recently refused to intervene, leaving a lower court to settle the issue.

Charter school advocates say caps limits growth and cuts profit but district officials say they must be able to predict enrollment increases and meet budget targets.

Sidebar

In this archived photo, Walter D. Palmer stands outside namesake charter school he founded. -
SUBMITTED PHOTO

September 29, 2014

Mr. T. Hinson

["Dr. Walter D. Palmer - 'We're Not Closing!'"](#)

YouTube

"**Dr. Walter D. Palmer**, founder of WDP-LLPCS, addresses and debunks the rumors of his charter school closing."

October 9, 2014

900AM-WURD

["Dr.](#)

[Walter D. Palmer on Closure if Charter High School"](#)

YouTube

"Overwhelming financial and legal troubles forced Philadelphia's **Walter D. Palmer** Leadership Learning Partners Charter School to close its high school on 10/27/14, a decision that abruptly displaced over 300 students. That evening, school founder **Dr. Walter D. Palmer** and school administrators held a meeting with families to discuss the circumstances that led to the closure as well as options for migrating the displaced high school students."

October 16, 2014

6ABC