

Classroom Activities: <http://www.ageofjustice.org/classroom-activities.html>

Kickstarter video: <http://www.ageofjustice.org/extras.html>

August 14, 2014

cybergrace7

["2014](#)

[08 08 Dr. Walt Palmer speaking at MOVE 9 Event"](#)

YouTube

"Dr. Walter Palmer speaks to an overflow crowd of supporters on the MOVE 9 on 36th Anniversary of their political imprisonment. Dr. Palmer testifies to the events of August 8, 1978 of which he was an close up eyewitness and main mediator, and which 36 years later the MOVE 9 members remain unjustly incarcerated.

August 19, 2014

Philadelphia Tribune

"Walter Palmer school denied \$300,000 reimbursement fees"

By Wilford Shamlin, III

A cloud of uncertainty hung over Philadelphia's second-largest charter school after the academic year ended in June, with questions about chronically low student performance raised by the school district.

Administrators are now preparing to welcome back more than 1,300 students to **Walter D. Palmer Learning Partners Charter School**, which operates a K-4 school at 6th and Poplar streets and a middle school and high school campus on Harbison Avenue in Northeast Philadelphia.

A spokesperson for the School District of Philadelphia said on Monday the revocation hearing was postponed at the request of the charter school, and a new date has not been finalized. The district is seeking to recover \$1.3 million in payments made to the charter school for student enrollment that exceeded the maximum limit agreed upon during its charter renewal process.

The revocation hearing was originally scheduled in June but has been postponed at the request of the charter school for the second time. A new hearing date has not yet been finalized, Raven Hill said on behalf of the school district.

In a phone interview last week, school founder **Walter Palmer** contended the school district and state are withholding reimbursement payments for student enrollment exceeding the cap agreed upon in the charter's renewal, based on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's refusal to decide on validity of enrollment caps.

Palmer contended stopping payments is an attempt to shutter the school since it is losing \$300,000 each month while waiting for a decision from lower courts. He argued his charter school is entitled to continued reimbursement payments until the issue has been decided.

Palmer said his students live in low-income households, and many have a longer learning curve, often falling short of benchmarks within a given academic year, because they must first work through behavioral and emotional issues.

In the meantime, **Palmer** said he has begun making internal changes he hopes puts an end to the process to strip the school's charter.

His school has launched a new public relations campaign to maintain a positive public image to counter recent news headlines. In an Aug. 13 letter obtained by the Tribune, **Palmer** thanked more than 4,000 people who signed an online petition of support for keeping the school open.

He also blasted the school district encouraging parents of enrolled students to transfer their child to another public school or charter school during robo-call and mass mailing campaigns.

According to a statement released on Monday, Hill said, "

{div}invoiced and was paid for students not actually attending the school," according to the statement.

Palmer has denied the allegation, saying his staff never submitted false enrollment figures but was working with new software, which required an acclimation period.

He said he has also sought the help of an expert in finance to help with the school's financial administration, and the school has netted substantial savings and hired a consultant to revamp the school curriculum.

The school district and charter school have been entangled in court over legality of imposing year-to-year increases in enrollment on privately run charter schools. Advocates said enrollment

caps not only restrict growth but place an unfair financial burden on the charter schools which received a reimbursement fee for each enrolled student.

The school district announced suspension for the charter school in April after the school sued the school district, challenging its authority to impose enrollment caps.

Under advise of its general counsel Michael Davis, the school district withdrew the suspension and decided to move forward with the revocation process only. That meant the school district could no longer legally withhold nearly \$700,000 in monthly reimbursement payments due to the school for student enrollment.

However in the wake of the court ruling, the school district said it would not pay the school for enrollment above the maximum outlined by its charter renewal.

The charter school applied for reimbursement from the state, as allowed under current law, but a DOE spokesperson said it has stopped reimbursement payments until the issue has been resolved in court. That monthly amount totals \$300,000, Palmer said.

That monthly total continues to add up, putting the school under greater financial strain as more time passes, Palmer added.

Sidebar

Walter D. Palmer stands outside his namesake school at sixth and Poplar streets.

Sidebar

Students at Walter D. Palmer Learning Partners Charter School gather outside their school for a rally in May.