

## District Sponsored Charter School Update

As mentioned in last week's front page Wickenburg Sun article we are continuing to work with the Arizona Legislator and the Governor's Office regarding how district sponsored charter schools will be handled in next year's budget and thereafter. Proposals have been offered almost daily and at this point we still do not have a resolution, although I write this article understanding that by the time it is read an agreement may have been achieved.

Currently it looks as though district sponsored charter schools, which were approved a year ago, will only be allowed to operate one more year (2014-2015) at which point they will be required to revert back to traditional district schools. It is curious that although the statute allowing governing boards to approve district sponsored charters has been in place since 1995, that only those schools which were started in the past year would be impacted. In other words, district sponsored charters which were started between 1995 -2012 would be allowed to continue to operate, but those started a year ago, 2013 and beyond, would be discontinued. Normally legislative actions are prospective in nature, meaning the new law only applies moving forward. In this case an arbitrary date going back to 2013 would be put in place, which is likely to face statewide legal action.

During the course of working on this issue we have received great support from both Representative Darin Mitchell, who represents our district, and Speaker of the House Andy Tobin. Both individuals have been very engaged and supportive in bringing this issue to positive conclusion and I thank them for their efforts.

Once this issue comes to final conclusion, whether that is next week or a month from now, I will be sure to provide an update. I appreciate the hard work our community has put into supporting our schools during this situation and thank all of those who have contacted our legislators. It is important to understand the dramatic impact the legislature can have on Wickenburg and its schools and to become engaged in enhancing and protecting our community.