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Chamber of Commerce

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OCTOBER 8, 1987

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Pleasure to be here
- B. Provide you with an update
on the Mathematics and
Science Academy
- C. Know that you have been
keeping abreast through the
news media and local
individuals about our status
- D. But wanted to provide you
with a more complete context
- E. What happens to the Illinois
Mathematics and Science

Academy will affect our
entire State

F. But you know as well as I
that its future will have
the greatest impact on our
community .

G. Most of you know ~~that~~
Steve's better half, Connie
~~Hatcher also works at the~~
~~Academy as Assistant to the~~
~~Director~~

H. I asked Connie to find out
from Steve what he wanted
the focus of my remarks to
be today

I. Did he want me to give my
cheerleader speech or

J. My "We're up to our you know
what in Alligator speech -

K. Well, the response was - do
both

L. So I'll begin with the good
news and that is abundant

II. MISSION AND GOALS



A. Mission

The Illinois Mathematics and
Science Academy was created
to inspire and challenge
young boys and girls gifted
in mathematics and
scientific ability in a
manner which will maximize
the use of these talents for
the benefit of society.

- 4
1. Foster interdisciplinary approaches to thinking and learning
 2. Approach math and science as by products of human creativity

B. GOALS

- (1) ..To provide an educational, social and emotional climate in which students with exceptional aptitude in mathematics and science can develop their intellectual gifts and become committed to the search for humane solutions to our world's problems.

2

..To serve as a laboratory for the development, testing and dissemination of innovative techniques in mathematics, science and the humanities which can become a resource for secondary school teachers in Illinois and the nation.

- All this within the context:
Give back orientation - work service - community service

- We have not waivered from these directions even after a difficult and enormously challenging year, we have re-energized our commitment to

making this institution the
premier school of its kind in
the nation.

III. That commitment to excellence
and to developing an exemplary
program was the reason we added
a second class and was also the
reason our new students,
faculty, and administrators
came, and our charter students,
faculty and administrators
remained.

IV. As you know, following the July
session

A. Academy received the
same appropriation for
1987-88 that we have for
1986-87

B. Board faced with two decisions:

- 1. Honor theST invitation and contracts already extended to new student and faculty and therefore add a second class and run until the money runs out (January 31, 1988)
- 2. Board to renege on those invitation and contracts and only maintain one class and the faculty necessary to teach them; and run for the following year

C. Board contacted students,
parents, and faculty

Their input was clear

They wanted to take the risk
of six months at the academy
if we maintained the
commitment to an exemplary
program that we had promised

We added a second class in
order to preserve the
excellence, creditability

and integrity of the Academy
and to provide the time to
garner the support to
sustain it

D. Had we decided to renege on the student invitations and the faculty and staff contracts already extended and accepted, the slow erosion of the school would have followed and the likelihood of restoring confidence and securing future students and faculty would have been minimal

V. STUDENT PROFILE

We received 878 applications - 100 more than last year

VI. FACULTY DEMOGRAPHICS

VII. COURSE OFFERINGS

VIII.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ACHIEVEMENTS FOR

1986-1987

ANNUAL REPORT 25-26

IX.

A. Even more than the tangible recognition is the profound academic, social and emotional growth experienced by the students

B. Some for the very first time were able to risk to experiment, to challenge ~~and~~

*to dream to make friends, you
understory*

Became
C. *G*IMSA celebrated their uniqueness and potential

PART 2 - ALLIGATOR SPEECH

- A. Now for the ~~bad news~~ *allegedly*.
- B. Institution received sufficient money to ~~last~~ *spend* until January 31, 1988
- C. We are ^{therefore} seeking a supplemental of 3.2 million dollars
- D. Originally seeking 3.5 but will receive \$300,000 from Title II
- E. Legislative session 10/20 - 11/6
- F. Without ^{the} supplement we will close
- G. Developed sophisticated strategy to assist us
- H. Believe it is working - pressure is beginning to mount with legislative leadership

I. We believe Legislature does not want Academy to close, especially 40 million capitol commitment, however, there are no guarantees

J. Les Brann, President of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce has agreed to write a letter in support of the Academy to legislative leadership and Mr. Bob Beckwith from the Illinois Chamber will assist us in our lobbying efforts

K. On Wednesday, September 30, 1987, the Academy was invited to present testimony to a 16-member task force ~~called~~ the Citizen's Council on School Problems. The Council is composed of key legislators and lay representation from education.

B

They will be making a recommendation to support the Academy's supplement on October 13.

L. I want to close my remarks today with the remarks I gave to close my testimony to the Citizen's Council on Wednesday.

Right now, ^{we are} at the most vulnerable point in our brief history, I want to share with you the emotions that permeate the environment of the Academy; an overwhelming sense of responsibility and commitment to our students and this institution, its promise, and its potential; a tremendous sense of inadequacy in our ability to adequately convey to ~~you~~

the corporate sector and the public--the reasons why Illinois must sustain this institution, and a sense of bewilderment over the paradox of the Academy being visited by numerous states and foreign countries (who were sent to us by the State Department) as they begin to develop residential, publicly funded math and science schools while we fight to defend the one we so boldly began.

The children that will graduate in the year 2000 entered kindergarten this year. Within their lifetime they are going to learn and understand what we now believe is inconceivable and incomprehensible.

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There are always casualties in exploring new frontiers but in the words of Jack Anderson:

and include every person
"Every generation, needs a dream to inspire it and an adventure to enoble it".

The Academy will not only provide an exemplary academic program for our students but through our outreach efforts, will begin to serve students and teachers across our state both through on and off campus institutes and seminars.

What we learn and develop in curriculum and instruction will be shared. We are, however, sharing more than information and knowledge.

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When educators come here and interact with our staff and students, they leave with a greater sense of empowerment--a belief in their own potential and capacity. In this environment, we are hammering at the walls of inadequacy and eroded self esteem, and saying to teachers - you can do it too. We are rekindling excitement in teaching and learning. This institution will enhance our profession's esteem by reigniting not only the desire to make an educational difference but the belief that we can-- that we have the capacity to shape the future. Because whether we believe we can or we believe we can't, we are right.

The Academy is a symbol of potential and possibility, it is a concrete representation of our willingness to support and, indeed, subsidize intellectual curiosity.

When you can renew excitement and direct attention to excellence, you are making a superb investment in the future.

We have been criticized that the ~~X~~ Academy is too expensive. Without being factitious, I must ask, too expensive for what? Is space exploration too expensive, is the SSC too expensive? It is cost effective to invest \$⁴⁵~~6~~ billion to understand the mysteries of the universe? We believe it is.

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The Academy focuses attention on Illinois. It renews state pride, it provides an environment for gifted youngsters, gifted minorities and gifted young women to celebrate their talents and then to cultivate them for the public good.

It reinforces our state's commitment to educational excellence. It reaffirms our willingness to pay for what we value. It acknowledges the importance of the teaching profession. It rewards experimentation and risk, and demonstrates that we are aware, that the key to our future economic, scientific and technological growth lies with the development of our

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brightest minds. To put it very
simplistically, the Academy is simply
good business because it is good for
the economic and technological
development of Illinois. If we want
to attract the brightest and best to
Illinois education, Illinois
research, Illinois technology, and
Illinois business, we must cultivate
the climate that nurtures and sustains
the brightest and the best--or they
will simply go somewhere else.

The Spelling Book on Sunday

Eleanor Roosevelt said that :

"One's philosophy is not best
expressed in words: It is expressed
in the choices one makes".

We are faced with a critical choice
in Illinois. The Academy students,

120
parents, faculty and staff have
chosen to make a commitment to this
school at this time--the choice to
sustain it is now yours.

~~I am~~
Although the commitments were directed
toward the City of Concord Co. by
Sen. Bernard Rej (Dopson),
they are subject applicable to
you as well. If you have not
written or talked with the leg.
I certainly, now is the time.

The Assembly must be persuaded as
on the basis of the letter. You can
help.

Thank you -