



# Charter School Network Meeting

Mt. Pleasant, SC

August 29, 2007

**Midland Valley Preparatory School**

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**South Carolina Charter School**  
An Aiken County Title I School

08/29/2007

To All Participants:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks for your attendance at this meeting today. There is so much work to do in South Carolina to improve the Charter School movement. This can only be accomplished through communication and cooperation from existing charter school operators.

The purpose of this meeting is to consider the needs of current and future leaders of charter schools in an effort to create a networking organization. I have received a Dissemination Grant from the South Carolina Department of Education for this purpose. Your input today will guide the formation of this group so that it will be an effective tool for the operation support of both existing and newly forming charter schools.

I understand that there should be some outside perspective on our needs so I have been in contact with the Center for Education Reform to request their assistance. Jeanne Allen is here today to facilitate this meeting and offer her assistance in discussing what is needed in South Carolina with regard to this opportunity. We are fortunate to have her join us today for this purpose.

Another piece of my Dissemination Grant involves creating a handbook for charter operators. Kara Hornung from the Center for Education Reform has also joined us today. She and I will be spending some time on Thursday to work on what this handbook should look like. I need your input to determine what issues you faced when opening your school and what you continue to see as an operational challenge.

Please feel free to offer your thoughts and opinions throughout the meeting. It is this type of interaction that is most productive and needed to effect change. If there is anything you need throughout the afternoon, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Lilian Thomas-Wilson