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BART Charter Public School Fundraises over \$1,000,000 for Building Campaign

ADAMS, MA – Berkshire Arts & Technology Charter Public School (BART) is pleased to announce that it has surpassed its original fundraising goal of \$1,000,000 to support the expansion and renovation of the school facility. Local foundations and businesses supporting the campaign include the Berkshire Bank Foundation, the Feigenbaum Foundation and MountainOne. The school up to now has had just one gathering space in the building – the size of a quarter of a basketball court – used for meals, fitness, performances and school assemblies.

The state does not provide capital support for building projects to charter schools, so the school needed to borrow or raise the \$4.6 million required for the project. “We are humbled by the outpouring of support we have received from the community. Raising this money allows us to complete our project without increasing our annual debt service payments. These donations will benefit the school for years to come,” said Executive Director Julia Bowen.

Despite BART’s fundraising success, the school still needs to raise additional funds to support project costs that were eliminated to keep expenses within the budget. “As with many other current building initiatives, bids came in higher than expected, and we had to cut items out of the budget. We were fiercely committed to staying on budget,” explained Bowen.

The school has deferred final flooring in the expanded spaces, as finished floors can be added in at a later date when funds become available. Additionally, the school will fundraise to purchase furniture, fixtures and equipment, such as lighting and sound equipment for the stage, exercise equipment for the new fitness rooms, and telescoping seating for the auditorium,

Anyone wishing for more information on the project should contact Leah Thompson at leah.thompson@bartcharter.org or (413) 743-7311 ext. 168.

BART is a nationally recognized, award-winning, tuition-free public middle and high school focused on preparing students for college. One hundred percent of BART’s graduates have passed a college course and have been accepted into college prior to graduation. BART does not discriminate in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its services, programs or activities, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, homelessness or age.