

## More info on Lehigh Valley Academy (16)

The Bethlehem Gadfly Charter Schools, Education, Gadfly's posts, Serious Issues March 19, 2019  
(16th in a series on Education and Charter Schools)

**Timely to our discussion is the showing of the “Backpack full of Cash” documentary this Thursday, March 21, 6:30pm – 8:00pm at NITSCHMANN MIDDLE SCHOOL, sponsored by Bethlehem Proud Parents – Free!**

This info from Sara Satullo and Karen Beck Pooley much appreciated:

### **Sara:**

IB is integrated into the curriculum, but not all students earn an IB degree. To do so, students must take exams akin to Advanced Placement tests. Not all do so. This is from the 2016 charter school renewal hearing for the school: “The school’s Class of 2016 included 50 graduates and 11 of the students were awarded a full IB-diploma, while a number earned some certificates but did not take all of the exams, Mauser [Susan Mauser, LVA CEO] said.”

### **Karen:**

[“Why Bethlehem school board approved charter school agreement.” Morning Call, November 29, 2016.](#)

in 2016, when the LVA charter was up for renewal, Karen writes that the Bethlehem School Board generated “a long list of concerns and several reasons for denying the charter outright” and sought to negotiate an amended charter, but LVA “rejected all of [their] requests and offered no realistic counterproposals.”

Karen indicates that our Board was hamstrung by experience with the state Charter Appeals Board. Gadfly has read elsewhere that the Charter School lobby is among the most powerful in the state.

Provisions rejected by LVA included ceasing to cover school lunches, aligning LVA and BASD calendars to reduce transportation costs, and holding monthly public Trustee meetings.

*Gadfly has an appointment with Dr. Roy next week on the questions Gadfly posed at the end of his last post.*