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Release

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Education Activists to Air Radio Ads

The Alliance for Philadelphia Public Schools (APPS) will begin running ads on local radio stations this week in an effort to inform the public of the pro-Corbett agenda of the Philadelphia Schools Advocacy Partnership. The Partnership, a lobbying arm of the Philadelphia School Partnership, has been running its own ads supporting the recent actions of the School Reform Commission, in particular its cancellation of its contract with the teachers union at a meeting called with little public notice earlier this month.

“We believe that Philadelphians should know, when it hears the Partnership’s ads supporting the anti-democratic actions of the SRC, that these same people support the Governor’s refusal to adequately fund our schools. Leaders of the Partnership went so far as to lobby the Governor last year to withhold \$45 million from our students—at a time when the district wasn’t sure we had enough to open schools on time”, said Karel Kilimnik, a co-founder of the Alliance and frequent speaker at SRC meetings.

The radio ads, which will air on WURD-AM and KYW NewsRadio, will be paid for by small contributions from

the approximately one hundred twenty members of the Alliance. “Because the Advocacy Partnership has chosen to remain secretive about its funders, we don’t know who is paying for their ads. Members of the Alliance, who testify at SRC meetings and attend public meetings around school district issues, are well known to the community ”, said Kilimnik.

The Alliance is a grass-roots organization of parents, school professionals and community members which has fought against the privatization of public schools, the permanent closure of neighborhood schools, and for more transparency from the SRC.

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