

"Two Concepts of Citizenship" *Guidance and Education in High School*, No.156.,2003.3.,Aoki publishers, Tokyo, original in Japanese English Summary

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1 National Election in 2002

In the national election of 2002 Republican party won both in Minnesota and the whole USA. But it is not relevant to say that this result represents the win of conservatism. As Lisa Disch, a political theorist of University of Minnesota says, Minnesotans voted for the third party candidates more than before. The traditional opposition between Republican and Democrats has begun to break down. It is at this point that Charter School movement gets a kind of significance in the political context in USA. Oscar Schefers, a manager of City Academy Charter School (photo) in St. Paul says that Charter School movement is a kind of hybrid of the Republican's emphasis on local control and the Democrats' emphasis on public finance for public school.

Judy Farmer(photo), a member of Minneapolis Public School Bord says that the political context of Charter School reform in Minnesota had been made during the period of governor Rudy Perpich. According to Farmer, the specific difficulty of sponsoring Charter School lies in evaluating the educational accountability.

What kind of citizenship public school should educate becomes the crucial matter in this context.

2 From volunteer to the public

Harry Boyte(photo) puts forward the importance of the political citizenship as is distinguished from the citizenship as volunteer. Harry Boyte is a Co-Director of the Center for Democracy and Citizenship of Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs in University of Minnesota. He is also a colleague of Joe Nathan, author of *Charter Schools*, Jossey-Bass,1996.

In volunteer activity young people do not have much time to think the political meaning of their activity, and they are not given enough skill and competence of political action and political judgement which are the indispensable factor of citizenship. Community service and volunteer activity will depoliticize the young people and prevent them from being active citizens.

It is at this point that Harry Boyte's focusing on the political citizenship has a significant importance for the public education reform not only in US but also in Japan.

3 Teacher as political leader

Then how can we educate students for the political citizenship?

Harry Boyte and his associates are now trying to introduce a Public Achievement teaching program into public education system. In this program the role of teacher in public school is very important. In this situation teachers are not only a instructor of academic subjects but also

a kind of political leader who educate and train students to be a active citizens in public sphere.

In order to make teachers political leader, teachers in public school should be given a freedom and self-governance of their own school. And I think Charter School could be a useful tool for creating such a situation.

For example I want to focus on Avalon Charter School in St. Paul. Walter Enloe in Hamline University , who is also a co-researcher of Harry Boyte, committed the foundation of this school.

Avalon Charter school has two unique features. One is its governance system so called Edvision cooperative, a kind of self governance system which is managed by teachers themselves.

The other feature is so called Avalon Constitution which ruled the students' self governance system. According to the Constitution students in Avalon school compose Avalon Congress(photo) and make their own decision. Teachers compose an executive branch and have a veto power to the students' decision. So in this system students not only have their own decision making but also the power relationship between students and teachers could be visible. In this power relationship students could be trained as an active citizens.