

AMERICAN PUBLIC EDUCATION INC
Form 10-Q
May 06, 2010

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

b QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2010

or

O TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from to

Commission File Number: - 001-33810

AMERICAN PUBLIC EDUCATION, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 01-0724376
(State or other jurisdiction of
Incorporation or organization) (I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

111 West Congress Street
Charles Town, West Virginia 25414
(Address, including zip code, of principal executive offices)
(304) 724-3700
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definition of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).
Yes No

The total number of shares of common stock outstanding as of May 3, 2010 was 18,379,242.

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PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

AMERICAN PUBLIC EDUCATION, INC.
Consolidated Balance Sheets
(In thousands)

	As of March 31, 2010 (Unaudited)	As of December 31, 2009
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 85,534	\$ 74,866
Accounts receivable, net of allowance of \$1,178 in 2010 and \$896 in 2009	7,769	8,664
Prepaid expenses	3,324	2,990
Income tax receivable	-	863
Deferred income taxes	1,289	999
 Total current assets	 97,916	 88,382
Property and equipment, net	28,385	25,294
Other assets, net	1,414	2,077
Total assets	\$ 127,715	\$ 115,753
 LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 4,487	\$ 6,756
Accrued liabilities	8,421	8,003
Income tax payable	-	-
Income taxes payable	4,679	-
Deferred revenue and student deposits	14,513	14,204
 Total current liabilities	 32,100	 28,963
Deferred income taxes	4,825	4,772
Total liabilities	36,925	33,735
 Commitments and contingencies (Note 2)		
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, \$.01 par value;		
Authorized shares - 10,000; no shares issued or outstanding	-	-
Common stock, \$.01 par value;		
Authorized shares - 100,000; 18,364 issued and outstanding in 2010; 18,276 issued and outstanding in 2009	184	183
Additional paid-in capital	137,503	136,380
Accumulated deficit	(46,897)	(54,545)

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Total stockholders' equity	90,790	82,018
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 127,715	\$ 115,753

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

AMERICAN PUBLIC EDUCATION, INC.
Consolidated Statements of Income
(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
	(Unaudited)	
Revenues	\$ 47,311	\$ 33,161
Costs and expenses:		
Instructional costs and services	18,025	12,743
Selling and promotional	7,109	4,331
General and administrative	7,632	6,056
Depreciation and amortization	1,408	1,297
Total costs and expenses	34,174	24,427
Income from operations before interest income and income taxes	13,137	8,734
Interest income, net	22	11
Income before income taxes	13,159	8,745
Income tax expense	5,511	3,507
Net income	\$ 7,648	\$ 5,238
Net Income per common share:		
Basic	\$ 0.42	\$ 0.29
Diluted	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.28
Weighted average number of common shares:		
Basic	18,322,090	18,055,009
Diluted	18,979,621	18,888,600

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

AMERICAN PUBLIC EDUCATION, INC.
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(In thousands)

Three Months Ended March 31
2010 2009
(Unaudited)

Operating activities			
Net income	\$ 7,648	\$ 5,238	
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities			
Provision for bad debt	282	160	
Depreciation and amortization	1,408	1,297	
Stock-based compensation	755	535	
Stock issued for director compensation	44	41	
Deferred income taxes	(237)	(172)	
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable	613	(1,990)	
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(328)	(128)	
Income tax receivable	863	1,306	
Accounts payable	(2,269)	(1,011)	
Accrued liabilities	418	(1,827)	
Income taxes payable	4,679	1,617	
Deferred revenue and student deposits	309	1,197	
Net cash provided by operating activities	14,185	6,263	
Investing activities			
Capital expenditures	(3,711)	(1,754)	
Capitalized program development costs and other assets	(131)	(157)	
Net cash used in investing activities	(3,842)	(1,911)	
Financing activities			
Cash paid for repurchase of common stock	(65)	(1)	
Cash received from issuance of common stock, net of issuance costs	337	209	
Excess tax benefit from stock based compensation	53	694	
Net cash provided by financing activities	325	902	
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	10,668	5,254	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	74,866	47,714	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 85,534	\$ 52,968	
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information			

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Income taxes paid	\$	153	\$	63
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements

AMERICAN PUBLIC EDUCATION, INC.
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

1. Nature of the Business

American Public Education, Inc. (“APEI”) together with its subsidiary (the “Company”) is a provider of exclusively online postsecondary education directed primarily at the needs of the military and public service communities that operates in one reportable segment. APEI has one subsidiary, American Public University System, Inc. (the “University System”), a West Virginia corporation, which is a regionally accredited post secondary online university that includes American Military University and American Public University.

The University System achieved regional accreditation in May 2006 with The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and became eligible for federal student aid programs under Title IV for classes beginning in November 2006.

2. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited interim consolidated financial statements of the Company have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (“GAAP”). All intercompany transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. The financial statements do not include all of the information and footnotes required by GAAP for complete financial statement presentations. In the opinion of management, these statements include all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring adjustments) considered necessary to present a fair statement of our consolidated results of operations, financial position and cash flows. Operating results for any interim period are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ended December 31, 2010. This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q should be read in conjunction with the Company’s consolidated financial statements and footnotes in its audited financial statements included in its Annual Report, on Form 10-K, for the year ended December 31, 2009.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In February 2010, the FASB issued ASC Topic 855, which removes the requirement for an SEC filer to disclose the date through which subsequent events have been evaluated and became effective for our interim and annual reporting periods beginning January 1, 2010. The adoption of ASC Topic 855 is not expected to have a material impact on the Company’s financial statements.

In January 2010, the FASB issued ASC Topic 820, which requires the disclosure of transfers between the observable input categories and activity in the unobservable input category for fair value measurements. The guidance also requires disclosures about the inputs and valuation techniques used to measure fair value and became effective for our interim and annual reporting periods beginning January 1, 2010. The adoption of ASC Topic 820 is not expected to have a material impact on the Company’s financial statements.

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In June 2009, the FASB issued ASC Topic 860, which eliminates the concept of a qualifying special-purpose entity, creates more stringent conditions for reporting a transfer of a portion of a financial asset as a sale, clarifies other sale-accounting criteria, and changes the initial measurement of a transferor's interest in transferred financial assets. FASB ASC Topic 860 will be effective for transfers of financial assets in fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2009, and in interim periods within those fiscal years with earlier adoption prohibited. We adopted FASB ASC Topic 860 on January 1, 2010. The adoption of ASC Topic 860 is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's financial statements.

Commitments and Contingencies

The Company accrues for costs associated with contingencies including, but not limited to, regulatory compliance and legal matters when such costs are probable and can be reasonably estimated. Liabilities established to provide for contingencies are adjusted as further information develops, circumstances change, or contingencies are resolved. The Company bases these accruals on management's estimate of such costs, which may vary from the ultimate cost and expenses, associated with any such contingency.

From time to time the Company may be involved in litigation in the normal course of its business. The Company is not aware of any pending or threatened litigation matters that, in the opinion of management, will have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, operations, financial condition or cash flows.

Concentration

Approximately 53% of the Company's revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2010, were derived from students who received tuition assistance from tuition assistance programs sponsored by the United States Department of Defense compared to approximately 59% of the Company's revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2009. For the three months ended March 31, 2010, 20%, or approximately 12,800, of our net course registrations were from students using financial aid under the Title IV programs compared to 16%, or approximately 7,500, of our net course registrations for the three months ended March 31, 2009. A reduction in either of these programs could have a significant impact on the Company's operations.

3. Net Income Per Common Share

Basic net income per common share is based on the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period. Diluted net income per common share also increases the shares used in the per share calculation by the dilutive effects of options and restricted stock. Stock options and restricted stock are not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share when their effect is anti-dilutive. There were no anti-dilutive stock options or restricted stock excluded from the calculation for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009.

4. Income Taxes

The Company is subject to U.S. Federal income taxes as well as income taxes of multiple state jurisdictions. For Federal and state tax purposes, tax years 2006-2009 remain open to examination.

The actual combined effective tax rate for the three months ended March 31, 2010 was 41.9%. The quarterly effective tax rate is higher than the estimated annual effective tax rate of 40.2% and is primarily due to an adjustment for state taxes recorded in the quarter ended March 31, 2010.

5. Stock Based Compensation

On August 3, 2007, the Board of Directors adopted the American Public Education, Inc. 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the "new equity plan"), and APEI's stockholders approved the new equity plan on November 6, 2007. The new equity plan was effective as of August 3, 2007. As of March 31, 2010 there were 409,432 shares available for grant under the plan. Awards under the new equity plan may be stock options, which may be either incentive stock options or nonqualified stock options; stock appreciation rights; restricted stock; restricted stock units; dividend equivalent rights; performance shares; performance units; cash-based awards; other stock-based awards, including unrestricted shares; or any combination of the foregoing.

Stock-based compensation expense related to restricted stock grants is expensed over the vesting period using the straight-line method for Company employees and the graded-vesting method for members of the Board of Directors and is measured using APEI's stock price on the date of grant. The fair value of each option award is estimated at the date of grant using a Black-Scholes option-pricing model that uses the assumptions noted in the following table. We calculate the expected term of stock option awards using the "simplified method" in accordance with Staff Accounting Bulletins (SAB) No. 107 and 110 because we lack sufficient historical data and are unable to make reasonable expectations regarding the future. We also estimate forfeitures of share-based awards at the time of grant and revise such estimates in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from original projections. We make assumptions with respect to expected stock price volatility based on the average historical volatility of peers with similar attributes. In addition, we determine the risk free interest rate by selecting the U.S. Treasury five-year constant maturity, quoted on an investment basis in effect at the time of grant for that business day.

	March 31, 2010		March 31, 2009	
Expected volatility	26.46	%	27.17	%
Expected dividends	0.00	%	0.00	%
Expected term, in years	4.5		4.5	
Risk-free interest rate	2.65	%	1.00	%
Weighted-average fair value of options granted during the year	\$ 9.37		\$ 9.09	

Options granted through March 31, 2010 vest ratably over periods of three to five years and expire in seven to ten years from the date of grant. Option activity is summarized as follows (unaudited):

	Number of Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Contractual Life (Yrs)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (In thousands)
Outstanding, December 31, 2009	1,125,804	\$ 10.42		
Options granted	180,600	\$ 34.80		
Awards exercised	(83,669)	\$ 4.02		
 Outstanding, March 31, 2010	 1,222,735	 \$ 14.46	 5.88	 \$ 39,304
 Exercisable, March 31, 2010	 750,774	 \$ 8.60	 5.77	 \$ 28,528

The following table summarizes information regarding stock option exercises (unaudited):

	March 31, 2010 (In thousands)	March 31, 2009
Proceeds from stock options exercised	\$ 337	\$ 223
Intrinsic value of stock options exercised	\$ 3,108	\$ 2,950
Tax benefit from exercises	\$ 146	\$ 717

The table below summarizes the restricted stock activity for the three months ended March 31, 2010 (unaudited):

	Number of Shares	Weighted-Average Grant Price and Fair Value
Non vested, December 31, 2009	49,339	\$ 29.61
Shares granted	34,610	\$ 34.80
Vested shares	(5,424)	\$ 37.19
Non vested, March 31, 2010	78,525	\$ 31.37

Stock based compensation cost charged against income during the three month period ended March 31, 2010 and March 31, 2009 is as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2010		2009 (Unaudited) (In thousands)	
Instructional costs and services	\$ 176		\$ 109	
Marketing and promotional	59		37	
General and administrative	520		389	
Stock-based compensation expense in operating income	755		535	
Tax benefit	(280)		(189)	
Stock-based compensation expense, net of tax	\$ 475		\$ 346	

As of March 31, 2010, there was \$4.5 million of total unrecognized compensation cost, representing \$2.6 million of unrecognized compensation cost associated with share-based compensation arrangements, and \$1.9 million of unrecognized compensation cost associated with non-vested restricted stock. The total remaining cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 1.10 years.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion of our historical results of operations and our liquidity and capital resources should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes that appear elsewhere in this report.

Forward-Looking Statements

Some of the statements contained in this Form 10-Q that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"). We intend such forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in Section 21E of the Exchange Act. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date this Form 10-Q is filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). We may, in some cases, use words such as "project," "believe," "anticipate," "plan," "expect," "estimate," "intend," "would," "could," "potentially," "will," or "may," or other words that convey uncertainty of future events or outcomes to identify

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these forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements are based on our beliefs, assumptions and expectations of our future performance, taking into account information currently available to us. These beliefs, assumptions and expectations can change as a result of many possible events or factors, not all of which are known to us or are within our control. If a change occurs, our business, financial condition and results of operations may vary materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. There are a number of important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the results anticipated by these forward-looking statements. These important factors include those that we discuss in this section of our Form 10-Q, in the "Risk Factors" section of our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 (the "Annual Report") and in our various filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You should read these factors and the other cautionary statements made in this Form 10-Q in combination with the more detailed description of our business in our Annual Report as being applicable to all related forward-looking statements wherever they appear in this quarterly report. If one or more of these factors materialize, or if any underlying assumptions prove incorrect, our actual results, performance or achievements may vary materially from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.

Overview

Background

American Public Education, Inc. is a provider of online postsecondary education directed primarily at the needs of the military and public service communities. We operate through the American Public University System, a regionally accredited online university that includes American Military University, or AMU, and American Public University, or APU.

We were founded as American Military University, Inc. in 1991 and began offering graduate courses in January 1993. Following initial national accreditation by the Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council, or DETC, in 1995, American Military University began offering undergraduate programs primarily directed to members of the armed forces. Over time, American Military University diversified its educational offerings in response to demand by military students for post-military career preparation. With its expanded program offerings, American Military University extended its outreach to the greater public service community, primarily police, fire, emergency management personnel and national security professionals. In 2002, we reorganized into a holding company structure, with American Public Education, Inc. serving as the holding company of American Public University System, Inc., which operates the American Public University System, which includes AMU and APU. Our university system achieved regional accreditation in May 2006 with The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and became eligible for federal student aid programs under Title IV for classes beginning in November 2006.

The university system offers terms beginning on the first Monday of each month in either eight- or sixteen-week formats. Semesters and academic years are established to manage requirements for participation in Title IV programs and to assist students who are utilizing Title IV programs in meeting eligibility requirements.

Summary

Net course registrations for the three month period ended March 31, 2010 increased 39% from the three month period ended March 31, 2009. Our revenue increased to \$47.3 million from \$33.2 million, or by 43%, for the three month period ended March 31, 2010 from the three month period ended March 31, 2009. Operating margins increased to 27.8% from 26.3% for the three month period ended March 31, 2010 compared to the three month period ended March 31, 2009.

Our results of operations normally fluctuate as a result of variations in our business, principally due to changes in enrollment, and we expect that going forward as our overall growth rate declines we will see a more pronounced seasonal fluctuation in new enrollments. While our number of enrolled students has grown in each sequential quarter over the past three years, we believe that any growth in the number of enrolled students will tend to be slower in the first half of each year and any growth in the number of enrolled students will be proportionally greatest in the fourth quarter of each year. Because a significant portion of our general and administrative expenses do not vary proportionately with fluctuations in revenues, we expect to see seasonal fluctuations in our results of operations.

Critical Accounting Policies

Critical accounting policies are disclosed in our consolidated financial statements and footnotes in the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 included in our Annual Report, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009. There have been no significant changes in our critical accounting policies from those disclosed in the Annual Report.

The following table sets forth statements of operations data as a percentage of revenues for each of the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2010	2009
Revenues	100.0 %	100.0 %
Costs and expenses:		
Instructional costs and services	38.1	38.4
Selling and promotional	15.0	13.1
General and administrative	16.1	18.3
Depreciation and amortization	3.0	3.9
Total costs and expenses	72.2	73.7
Income from operations before interest income and income taxes	27.8	26.3
Interest income, net	0.0	0.1
Income from operations before income taxes	27.8	26.4
Income tax expense	11.6	10.6
Net Income	16.2 %	15.8 %

Three Months Ended March 31, 2010 Compared to Three Months Ended March 31, 2009

Revenues. Our revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2010 were \$47.3 million, an increase of \$14.1 million, or 43%, compared to \$33.2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009. The increase was primarily a result of an increase in the number of net course registrations from new civilian students.

Costs and Expenses. Costs and expenses for the three months ended March 31, 2010 were \$34.2 million, an increase of \$9.8 million, or 40%, compared to \$24.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009. Costs and expenses as a percentage of revenues decreased to 72.2% for the three months ended March 31, 2010 from 73.7% for the three months ended March 31, 2009. This percentage decrease resulted from the factors described below.

Instructional costs and services expenses. Our instructional costs and services expenses for the three months ended March 31, 2010 were \$18.0 million, representing an increase of 41% from \$12.7 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009. This increase was directly related to an increase in the number of classes offered due to the increase in net course registrations. Instructional costs and services expenses as a percentage of revenues were 38.1% for the three months ended March 31, 2010, compared to 38.4% for the three months ended March 31, 2009.

Selling and promotional expenses. Our selling and promotional expenses for the three months ended March 31, 2010 were \$7.1 million, representing an increase of 64% from \$4.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009. This increase was primarily due to an increase in civilian outreach, online advertising, and media advertising expenses. Selling and promotional expenses as a percentage of revenues increased to 15.0% for the three months ended March 31, 2010 from 13.1% for the three months ended March 31, 2009. This increase reflects additional marketing to expand awareness of the APU brand to the civilian market.

General and administrative expenses. Our general and administrative expenses for the three months ended March 31, 2010 were \$7.6 million representing an increase of 26% from \$6.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009. The increase in expense was a result of an increase in expenditures for stock-based compensation, recruiting, financial aid processing fees, and an increase in expenditures for technology, staffing, and facilities required to support a larger student body. General and administrative expenses as a percentage of revenues decreased to 16.1% for the three months ended March 31, 2010 from 18.3% for the three months ended March 31, 2009. The decrease was primarily due to efficiencies realized through a higher volume of students and the number of staff and related expenses increasing at a slower rate than enrollment.

Depreciation and amortization. Depreciation and amortization expenses were \$1.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010, compared with \$1.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009. This represents an increase of 9%. This increase resulted from greater capital expenditures and higher depreciation and amortization on a larger fixed asset base and from the amortization of a software license related to our learning management system.

Stock-based compensation expenses. Stock-based compensation expenses included in instructional costs and services, selling and promotional, and general and administrative expense for the three months ended March 31, 2010 were \$755,000 in the aggregate, representing an increase of 41% from \$535,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2009. The increase in stock-based compensation for the three months ended March 31, 2010 is primarily attributable to stock options and restricted stock granted during the three months ended March 31, 2010 and continued vesting of prior grants.

Interest income, net. Our interest income, net increased by \$11,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2010 to \$22,000 from \$11,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2009, representing an increase of 100%. This increase was principally due to a 61% increase in cash on hand, or \$32.6 million, compared to the same period last year.

Income tax expense. We recognized income tax expense for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009 of \$5.5 million and \$3.5 million, respectively, or effective tax rates of 41.9% and 40.1%, respectively. The quarterly effective tax rate is higher than the estimated annual effective tax rate of 40.2% and is primarily due to an adjustment for state taxes recorded in the quarter ended March 31, 2010.

Net income. Our net income was \$7.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010, compared to net income of \$5.2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009, an increase of \$2.4 million, or 46%. This increase was related to the factors discussed above.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Liquidity

The Company financed operating activities and capital expenditures during the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009 primarily through cash provided by operating income and proceeds received from the exercise of stock options. Cash and cash equivalents were \$85.5 million and \$53.0 million at March 31, 2010 and March 31, 2009, respectively, representing an increase of \$32.6 million, or 61%.

We derive a significant portion of our revenues from tuition assistance programs from the Department of Defense, or DoD. Generally, these funds are received within 60 days of the start of the classes to which they relate. A growing source of revenue is derived from our participation in Title IV programs, for which disbursements are governed by federal regulations. We have typically received disbursements under Title IV programs within 30 days of the start of the applicable class. These factors, together with the number of classes starting each month, affect our operational cash flow.

Our costs and expenses have increased with the increase in student enrollment, and we expect to fund these expenses through cash generated from operations. Based on our current level of operations and anticipated growth, we believe that our cash flow from operations and other sources of liquidity, including cash and cash equivalents, will provide adequate funds for ongoing operations and planned capital expenditures for the foreseeable future.

Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$14.2 million and \$6.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively. As revenue and profits have grown, cash has increased. Cash and cash equivalents were \$85.5 million and \$74.9 million at March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, respectively.

Investing Activities

Net cash used in investing activities was \$3.8 million and \$1.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively. The increase is a result of an increase in capital expenditures as a result of the acquisition of existing structures, new construction projects due to our ongoing evaluation of space needs, and our continued investment in systems. We expect these factors, and potentially others, to cause capital expenditures to continue to increase in future periods, including in the near term as a result of our ongoing construction of a facility in Charles Town, West Virginia and our investment in a new learning management system.

Financing Activities

Net cash provided by financing activities for the three months ended March 31, 2010 was \$325,000 from cash received from the issuance of common stock as a result of stock option exercises and the excess tax benefit from stock based compensation. Net cash provided by financing activities for the three months ended March 31, 2009 was \$902,000 from cash received from the issuance of common stock as a result of stock option exercises and the excess tax benefit from stock based compensation.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

We are subject to risk from adverse changes in interest rates, primarily relating to our investing of excess funds in cash equivalents bearing variable interest rates, which are tied to various market indices. Our future investment income will vary due to changes in interest rates. At March 31, 2010, a 10% increase or decrease in interest rates would not have a material impact on our future earnings or cash flows related to investments in cash equivalents. We have no derivative financial instruments as of March 31, 2010.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

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Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we have evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of March 31, 2010 as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Based upon the evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the Company’s disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of March 31, 2010.

Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commissions rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the evaluation required by Rule 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) of the Exchange Act that occurred during the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II – OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

We currently have no material legal proceedings pending.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

An investment in our stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks set forth in the Risk Factors section of our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 , and all of the other information set forth in this Form 10-Q and our Form 10-K before deciding to invest in our common stock.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

None.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None.

Item 4. [Removed and Reserved]

Item 5. Other Information

None.

Item 6. Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Exhibit Description
31.01	Certification of Chief Executive officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.02	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.01	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
EX-101.INS **	XBRL Instance Document
EX-101.SCH **	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
EX-101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
**	
EX-101.DEF **	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
EX-101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
**	
EX-101.PRE **	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

AMERICAN PUBLIC
EDUCATION, INC.

/s/ Wallace E. Boston, Jr.
Wallace E. Boston, Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

May 6, 2010

/s/ Harry T. Wilkins
Harry T. Wilkins
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial
Officer
(Principal Financial and Principal Accounting
Officer)

May 6, 2010