



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Charter and/or Charter Agreement Amendment Application

Part I: General Information

All applicants must complete this section

SUBMITTED BY: Clara Botstein-Two Rivers Board Chair

SUBJECT: Charter Amendment for Middle School movement from 4th

Street to Young Charter Amendment Request for: (Mark all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Ceiling Increase | <input type="checkbox"/> Name Change – Campus or Facility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program Replication of Grades Served | <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Reconfiguration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade Level Expansion (Single Grade) | <input type="checkbox"/> LEA Status for Special Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade Level Expansion (Grade Band) | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Enrollment Preference |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Facility or New Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Governance Structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goals and Achievement Expectations | <input type="checkbox"/> (Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation or Management) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission or Education Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduation Requirements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum, Standards or Assessments | <input type="checkbox"/> Competency-Based Learning Application |

SUBMISSION DATE: December 13, 2019

SCHOOL BACKGROUND

Please address the following questions in their entirety. This information provides helpful background to the DC PCSB Board as it reviews these requests.

Overview of School Performance

1. Provide the following information about your Local Education Agency (LEA) by campus:

Campus name(s) and location(s):

Two Rivers 4th Street Elementary School: 1227 4th Street NE

Two Rivers Middle School: 1234 4th Street NE

Two Rivers Young: 820 26th Street NE

a) Year opened: 2004

b) Grade levels served (Currently and at maturation of charter agreement, if applicable): PS-8

c) Date that charter will be eligible for possible renewal: 2034

2. Please select the performance indicators below that describe the school's current performance*: (Mark all that apply)

☒ Currently rated Tier 1, or met at least 2/3 of targets on the most recent PK-only PMF or Alternative Accountability Framework.

☐ School is not currently under corrective action.

☒ Has historically met enrollment projections w/in 80% of target.

☒ School has been in operation for 3+ years.

☒ School is currently accredited. We are currently in process of re-accreditation. An AALE Board Vote will happen in February 2020.

*If the school has multiple campuses or varying PMFs, please describe the academic performance of each campus here: Two Rivers 4th Street has earned Tier 1 status with a PMF of 72.3%, Two Rivers Young has earned Tier 2 with a PMF score of 63.2%

For questions, please contact DC PCSB staff person Laterica (Teri) Quinn at (202) 328-2660.

PROPOSAL

Two Rivers Public Charter School submits to the DC Public Charter School Board this application to amend its charter agreement by changing the item(s) selected above. If approved, this amendment will be effective on_____, 20_____(leave blank if this has not been determined).

1. Please provide details on the selected amendment(s) above and describe the requested change(s), including the school's rationale for the proposed changes. Describe any planning that is already underway to prepare for the proposed amendment.

The amendment for the additional facility at a new location is regarding Two Rivers plans to move the Middle School which is currently located at 1234 4th St NE to a new location at 840 26th Street NE. In 2020 the oldest students at Young will enter 6th grade, and our current middle school facility at 4th Street will not have enough space for them. By 2022, our middle school will double in size to serve nearly 300 students. We desire to serve all of our students in One Continuous Journey, from Pre-School through 8th grade. The Two Rivers Board, with the support of staff, undertook a thorough data-gathering and decision-making process to identify this future location. They voted to site the school at Young.

Planning for a new Middle School began in 2017.

- October 2017, we collected feedback from key stakeholders. Listening sessions were held at the Middle School and Young for Staff. Two evening listening sessions were held for families (one at 4th Street, one at Young), and three focus groups of students were held at each campus. Surveys were also given to staff and families. For staff, an electronic survey was sent. For families, we shared an electronic survey through email, listservs, and the Trib. We also put computers in lobbies during conferences for families to take the survey. We asked for input from Ward 5 and 6 councilmembers, Deputy Mayor for Education, State Superintendent for Education, PCSB, Ed Forward DC (local funder), NOMA BID, and ANC commissioners.
- November 2017, we shared data on stakeholder preferences with the Board and built detailed financial models for top scenarios.
- December 2017, we reviewed and discussed financial models with the Board.
- January 2018, Staff presented recommendation to Board.
- February 2018, the board voted to pursue a preferred MS facility location and expansion plan and a decision was communicated with the community.

Following the board vote, contractors and architects have been confirmed. Funding has been sought and is approved. Weekly meetings are held with the contractors and architects. Staff have been updated through emails and in-person meetings. Families have been updated with progress through The Trib. Our 5th graders have been provided with a menu of events that they can attend to get to know the Middle School. This includes shadowing days, pen pals between the Young and 4th Street 5th graders, community meeting visits from our Middle School Principal, MS 2020 kickoff, and invitation to Middle School basketball games.

2. How will the proposed amendment(s) support or enhance the school's mission?

The mission of Two Rivers PCS is to nurture a diverse group of students to become lifelong, active participants in their own education, develop a sense of self and community, and become responsible and compassionate members of society.

The most important criterion is that our expanded middle school facility enables us to fulfill our mission.

- In order to fulfill our mission, we need a facility that:
 - Enables the success of our middle school model
 - Is aligned with the preferences of our most important stakeholders, including families, staff, students, and members of the community
 - Is financially feasible, including consideration of:
 - Current and expected revenue (e.g. per-pupil funding, IDEA, etc.)
 - Potential future revenue (e.g. capital campaign)
 - Preserves options for potential additional growth in the future, should the Board decide to pursue them

3. While considering this amendment request, DC PCSB staff may review the school's history of board actions, DC PCSB audits, community complaints, enrollment trends, and any relevant data used by DC PCSB to monitor equity in schools. Please describe any DC PCSB audits, notices of concern or other board actions issued against your school in the past 3 years. What was the outcome? Please explain what steps, if any, you've taken to address the concerns that prompted a DC PCSB audit, board action, or community complaint.

Two Rivers holds ourselves to a high standard with governance and compliance and is pleased to have a strong track record with the Public Charter School Board.

While there have been a few community complaints annually, Two Rivers works hard to address these appropriately and has regularly satisfied PCSB staff with our efforts to solve problems.

4. DC PCSB will review the school's Financial Audit Reviews (FAR) and current financials to determine the fiscal health of the organization. If applicable, describe how the proposed amendment will impact the school's finances. Explain any anticipated expenses for the proposed changes and how the school will finance them. *[EXCLUDES the following amendments: Governance, Goals, Mission, Curriculum, Name Changes and Graduation Requirements. If not applicable, write N/A.]*

Note: *If applicable, in addition to your narrative please attach a proposed 5-year Operating Budget.*

Two Rivers is in a strong financial position with sufficient cash and investment reserves and has had clean audit reports for all years of its existence. Two Rivers has budgeted in its 5-Year forecast for the debt service related to the facilities expansion at the Young campus using the terms negotiated with its new lenders. Staffing additions to accommodate the expanded student body at the middle school are also incorporated in the budget. Occupancy expenses related to the added square feet are also incorporated into the forecast. Two Rivers has sufficient cash reserves to weather any short-term operations disruptions.

5. How has the school informed its external stakeholders (e.g. local ANC commissioners, neighbors) and internal stakeholders (e.g. staff, parents) of the proposed amendment(s)? Please attach any written communication (e.g., meeting minutes). Describe any notable support for or opposition to the proposed amendment(s). If concerns have been brought to your attention, how do you plan to address them? *[EXCLUDES the following amendments: Governance, Goals, Mission, Curriculum, Graduation Requirements and Competency-Based Learning Credits. If not applicable, write N/A.]*

Two Rivers internal stakeholders were informed of the Board Vote to move the Middle School to the Young location through email and in-person communications. Staff were told

of the move through an in-person meeting during Professional Development. Staff were followed up with through an email from the Interim Executive Director. Families were first notified of the move through a constant contact eblast.

When considering where to locate the new Middle School, we asked for input from Ward 5 and 6 City Councilmembers, the Deputy Mayor for Education, the State Superintendent for Education, staff at the PCSB, staff at NOMA BID, and ANC commissioners. Key takeaways were that:

1. At the current Middle School location, NoMa development will continue; public parking will shrink
2. Future student growth is highest in Wards 1, 4, 6, & 8
3. Councilmember Allen suggested that we site at Young

Input from families, students, staff, and these stakeholders led the Board to decide to locate the new middle school building at our Young campus. Once that decision had been made, during the planning and design phase, the following meetings were held:

- On September 11, 2018 Director of External Relations Khizer Husain attended the ANC meeting and connected with the Commissioners
- On November 27, 2018, Naomi Klein from DDOT came to visit the school and observe dropoff, work on transportation, and safe routes to school.
- On January 22nd, 2019, a meeting was held with Barbara Mitchell and Ogochuckwu Agwai of Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie's office regarding transportation, parking, and safe routes to school.
- On January 25, 2019 a meeting was held with Dr. Josh Emmett, principal at Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School
- On May 2, 2019, Jonathan McNair and Barbara Mitchell, staffers from Councilmember McDuffie's office, came to visit Young and observed dropoff.
- On May 29, 2019, a follow-up meeting was held with staff from Councilmember McDuffie's office.
- On September 19th, 2019, LeighAnne Daly and Jerry Zaytes of Building Hope attended the ANC Zoning meeting on behalf of Two Rivers. They presented and answered questions.
- On October 1st, 2019, Middle School Principal Muronji Inman-McCraw attended the local ANC 5D meeting along with LeighAnne Daly and Jerry Zaytes of Building Hope. Ms Muronji talked about the school, the mission, the diverse student population, and what makes Two Rivers unique. She shared her background as a native Washingtonian and fielded questions from the Chair, Commissioners, and folks who live in the neighborhood around the school.
- On October 8th, 2019, Jerry and Natalie Mutchler, architects at Studio27 attended the ANC 5D meeting on behalf of Two Rivers. They presented and answered questions.
- On November 8, 2019, Khizer Husain invited Ms. Bobo and Mr. Walton from the Kingman Park Association to visit Two Rivers at Young.
- On November 12, 2019, Khizer Husain attended the ANC 5D meeting and engaged with and invited for a tour the president of the Carver-Langston Civic Association, Juanita Diggs, and former ANC Commissioner Kathy Henderson.
- On November 25, 2019, Gail Williams, Director of Operations, and Khizer Husain, Director of External Relations, met with Dr. Josh Emmett, principal at Phelps.
- On December 9, 2019, Gail Williams and Khizer Husain met with Principal Dr. Dwight Davis of Browne Education Campus.
- On December 10, 2019, Khizer Husain attended the ANC 5D meeting and engaged with and answered questions from Juanita Diggs, ANC Commissioner

Bernice Blacknell, and Malik Miller, Ward 5 Liaison in Mayor's Office of Community and Relations Services (MOCRS).

The most common concerns raised during our listening sessions and survey data collection were transportation and parking difficulties.

The most common decision for support raised during listening sessions and survey data collection were space, staff and students slightly prefer Young.

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1. At the current Middle School location, NoMa development will continue; public parking will shrink
 2. Future student growth is highest in Wards 1, 4, 6, & 8
 3. Councilmember Allen recommended that we site at Young
6. When did your school's board approve the proposed amendment(s)? Please attach minutes from the meeting and vote results.

February 12, 2019