

March 16, 2016

Members of Steering and Rules-

I'm writing today to express my support for your committee's authority to contract with successful charter schools on a 5-year renewal basis.

Five-year terms are necessary for school stability and planning purposes, but do not in any way guarantee that unsuccessful schools are allowed to continue to operate, regardless of their ability to meet rigorous academic outcomes. In fact, the charter contracts with operators are quite clear in advising that the city has the right to revoke a contract based on performance at any time.

If a school is deemed to be of high-quality to serve our students in Milwaukee, it should be deemed good enough for five years. In the rare instances when charter schools have not performed up to the standards required of their contracts, they should not be renewed at all.

Milwaukee Charter School Advocates strongly supports your deliberate and thorough decisions when it comes to ensuring high-quality programs are offered to our city's students, and encourage you to renew quality charter schools on a five-year basis, with rigorous and regular monitoring and academic performance benchmarks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Roberts', written in a cursive style.

Sean Roberts
Executive Director
Milwaukee Charter School Advocates