



20 December, 2016

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RE: Support of Escuela Verde's five-year contract renewal

To the members of the Steering and Rules Committee:

On behalf of the Urban Ecology Center, please accept this correspondence as our letter of support for Escuela Verde, located at 3628 W. Pierce Street, Milwaukee WI 53215. We trust that the City of Milwaukee's Charter School Review Committee (CSRC) has vetted the school effectively and ask that you support their recommendation to renew Escuela Verde's five-year renewal charter contract at the Steering & Rules committee meeting on Friday, January 6th, 2017 at 1:30.

As the Branch Manager of the Urban Ecology Center's Menomonee Valley Branch at 3700 W Pierce St., directly adjacent to the school's building, I can say with confidence that Escuela Verde adds immense value to the neighborhood. Their high school built around project-based learning includes many ways to provide quality education and engagement for students, among them fruitful partnerships with the Urban Ecology Center to incorporate environmental education. As the manager of an Environmental Community Center, I am strongly in favor of any effort to increase access to environmental education for children in the community. And as a neighbor of the property, I see this as a tremendous addition to our neighborhood. Both staff and students at Escuela Verde work hard to be positively engaged in their surrounding neighborhood and work actively to make positive changes in their community. I cannot imagine a better neighbor for us, or a better environment for students!

Thank you for your time and attention, and please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Glenna Holstein
Branch Manager, Menomonee Valley
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URBAN ECOLOGY CENTER