

May 28, 2015

Dear Honorable Members of the City Plan Commission:

Since launching in 2010, Schools That Can Milwaukee has been dedicated to ensuring every child in our city has access to a high-quality school. For that reason, we are proud to write this letter of support for Augustine Prep School.

Schools That Can Milwaukee (STCM) was founded on the belief that every child in our city deserves an excellent education so they can flourish as citizens. However, for most kids growing up in Milwaukee and urban areas across the country, educational opportunities are essentially pre-determined based on race, family income, and ZIP code. These inequalities limit life choices, professional options, and income growth, while weakening families and communities.

A small number of schools in Milwaukee are waging a successful battle against these statistics and closing the achievement gap for their students. Our organization works to create more of these schools, and we sincerely believe Augustine Prep will be one of them. The vision and mission for Augustine Prep are strong, and align well with STCM's focus on holistic school quality. This foundation will set up Augustine Prep for success from its inception. The school will launch as part of the STCM network, its staff receiving job coaching and monthly professional development with a city-wide collective of more than 200 school leaders from 39 traditional district, Choice, and charter schools. Not only will Augustine Prep benefit from the support and assistance of this collaboration of other school leaders, but other schools in our city will be able learn from Augustine's launch efforts.

Augustine Prep is a creation of the Ramirez Family Foundation, which has very close ties to our organization. Gus and Becky Ramirez are the parents of STCM Co-Founder and Executive Director Abby Andrietsch. As an organization, we have benefited greatly from the generous financial support of the Ramirez Family and the experience and wisdom of Gus Ramirez, who sits on our board of directors. We are excited to take another bold step to positively impact children in our city, and we look forward to supporting this effort in every way possible.

STCM believes Milwaukee needs a tipping point, a critical number of high-quality schools in every sector to serve as examples of what is possible for students, parents, teachers, school leaders, community members, and lawmakers. Founded with a vision of 20,000 students in high-quality Milwaukee schools by 2020, STCM is growing from three founding schools to more than 50 excellent urban schools. Augustine Prep is already set up to be an important part of this city-wide strategy.

Sincerely,



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