



January 14, 2016

City Clerk
City Hall
200 E. Wells Street
Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

CITY OF MILWAUKEE
2016 JAN 19 P 1:29
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Dear Honorable Jim Owczarski:

I am resubmitting this formal Letter of Interest for the vacant Fletcher School, located at 9520 W. Allyn Street. We intend to open our new campus in Fall 2016.

Risen Savior Lutheran School, a private school in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, has been educating children in Milwaukee since 2002. The current enrollment of our K4 - 8th grade school is 249. We have a high demand for our school that can only be met by expanding. Conveniently, located a few blocks from our grade school, is Fletcher Elementary School, a vacant Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) building. We desire to purchase this building, so that we can give more Milwaukee children a better education.

As a private school in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, Risen Savior Lutheran School has experienced tremendous demand for our school, growing over 400% in the last decade. What makes Risen Savior unique is the diverse make-up of our students; Over the past few years roughly 45% of our student body has been Hispanic, about 45% African-American, and about 10% a combination of Nigerian, White, and Asian. Risen Savior students take the state mandated tests. In 2013-2014, Risen Savior students for the WKCE math exams performed better than the average student at Milwaukee Public Schools or in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program.

According to Wis. Stat. 119.61(3)(b), no later than 60 days after receiving the inventory of Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) buildings, the City Clerk must post public notice on their website, permitting education operators to submit letters of interest to purchase eligible school buildings.

As a private school, Risen Savior is an "education operator", as defined in Wis. Stat. 119.61(1)(a) and Fletcher is an "eligible school building."

An eligible school building is a "school building has been *unused* or satisfies any condition qualifying the building as an *underutilized* school building for a period of 12 consecutive months, including the 12 months preceding the effective date of July 14, 2015." (emphasis

added) Fletcher meets the definition of both an “unused” and/or an “underutilized” building in Wis. Stat. 119.61(1)(b). Fletcher has been closed since July 2010. MPS’ own inventory list, released in August 2015, identified it as not educating any students. We are confident that Fletcher has been unused for the last 12 months.

Fletcher also meets the definition of being underutilized. According to Wis. Stat. § 119.61(1)(c), an underutilized building meets any of the following:

1. Less than 40% of the capacity of the school building is used for instruction of pupils on a daily, school day basis and either:
 1. The building is not part of an active expansion plan or
 2. Pupil enrollment has declined in at least 2 of the 3 school years preceding the year where it has less than 40% capacity or
 3. The school has placed in one of the 2 lowest performance categories according to the school report cards for the year that it is less than 40% capacity and: 1) the building is located within 5 miles of another school building, 2) the other building serves the same grade levels, and 3) no more than 60% of that other school building is used for instruction.
2. The building is not staffed on a full-time basis by a principal or staff.
3. The number of hours of pupil instruction offered in the building in the previous year was less than 80% of the number of hours required under Wis. Stat. 121.02(1)(f)2.

Because Fletcher has not been used for educational purposes in the last 5 years, it easily meets one, if not all, of the tests of being underutilized.

As a result, we are submitting a letter of interest to purchase Fletcher. If no other education operator submits a letter of interest within 28 days of this date, then the Milwaukee Common Council has 60 days to “negotiate a reasonable purchase price” with us. *See* Wis. Stat. § 119.61(4)(c).

Please contact us as soon as possible and let us know how you intend to proceed.

Sincerely,



Robert Dusseau,

Principal

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