



Schools and Communities United

5027 W. North Ave, Milwaukee WI 53208 | (414) 305-2206 | SchoolsAndCommunitiesUnited.org

MEMO

TO: Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton &
The Members of the Steering and Rules Committee

FROM: Schools and Communities United

DATE: May 31, 2016

RE: **The MPS Impact Statement to be discussed this Thursday, June 2**

According to Ordinance 330-15-4 (attached), when a school is considered for a new charter, the Charter School Review Committee (CSRC) must produce a document explaining the impact the school can be expected to have upon the “resources available to students” served by MPS. The ordinance was authored by Ald. Nik Kovac and passed in 2015. By requiring this **MPS impact statement**, the Common Council acknowledged that any new charter school is likely to have a negative financial impact on MPS and consequently on the City.

The very first MPS impact statement (attached) will be presented at the next Steering and Rules meeting. The CSRC will frame the statement as evidence that you should grant a charter to the Next Door Foundation. **However, this financial impact statement is deficient in both its content and its form. It creates a low bar for all future statements. Before you accept this financial statement, we suggest it be analyzed by the City’s Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) for accuracy and for inclusion of all relevant information.**

This financial impact statement was produced by CSRC administrator Jarett Fields of the Institute for the Transformation of Learning (ITL) at Marquette University. At the CSRC meeting of April 14, Mr. Fields stated that he had conferred with staff at both MPS and DPI, implying that the document has their approval. However, we have confirmed that it was not verified by DPI. MPS staff in the office of the Board of School Directors had no knowledge of the statement until we presented it to them, and they consider it inadequate.

An inadequate report is not in the best interest of the children or the taxpayers of Milwaukee. An MPS impact statement should provide you sufficient information to have confidence that chartering the school will not be a step toward fiscal failure at MPS and the City.

Sincerely yours,

Jenni Hofschulte Ingrid F. Walker-Henry

Co-Chairs

Cc: Aids. Coggs, Murphy, Zielinski, Stamper, Bohl, Borkowski, Donovan,
Ald. Kovac, City Clerk Jim Owczarski, Asst. City Clerk Linda Elmer

Attachments: MPS Impact Statement for Next Door Charter School; Ordinance 330-15