



Schools and Communities United

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SchoolsAndCommunitiesUnited.org

February 2, 2016

President Michael Murphy
Milwaukee Common Council
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

President Murphy:

In a brief meeting that was almost held last week, a person no one seemed to know anything about would have been summarily approved to become a member of the Charter School Review Committee (CSRC). In comparison, yesterday's Steering and Rules Committee (S&R) meeting looked and felt more like democracy. Thank you for halting a perfunctory process and allowing meaningful questions submitted by citizens to be asked by the members of S&R.

We appreciate Ald. Zielinski, from the district where the candidate resides, for raising a number of our questions. We thank all the aldermen who raised questions, particularly Ald. Kovac, Hamilton, and Bohl, who saw fit to ask some that were on or closely related to those on the list we had submitted.

We – you and city taxpayers – gave candidate Ruben Burgos an opportunity to characterize himself before the public. We also gave our alderpersons an opportunity to find out some of his thinking and to firmly advise him on some of the issues he will encounter. Schools and Communities United has learned something about him from his testimony and will keep his responses in mind as we follow the work of the CSRC.

The CSRC appointment process can still be more democratic and open. We ask that for future appointments the public be duly notified of openings when they occur. When an S&R meeting is to be held, include in its notice that questions for the candidates may be submitted to S&R members and that citizens, too, will have an opportunity to question the candidates directly.

Sincerely,

Schools and Communities United

cc (by email): S&R Committee members; Aide S. Zarate; City Clerk; Asst. City Clerk L. Elmer