

Good for teachers, city, this development is a must



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If you live in the city of Milwaukee and you care about education, call your alderman.

A city committee will take up plans April 15 to convert an empty school, Dover Street Elementary School in the Bay View neighborhood, into teacher housing.

How does teacher housing equate to good education?

Simple. Good teachers are one of the proven ingredients to reforming Milwaukee's often miserable education outcomes. The more good teachers we have, the better we are.

Over the past two years, the Teachtown MKE project has quickly risen to the cause of helping Milwaukee showcase itself as a



Dover Street Elementary School

city that appreciates its local educators by providing welcome packages and passes to local assets such as museums; creating crowdfunding programs for teacher projects; and helping teachers find local affordable housing.

The Dover project is a next – and in my mind – extremely critical step.

While there has been a significant amount of local support, especially from businesses in the area who would love hundreds of new, young professionals moving in, there is some resistance and the Milwaukee Common Council vote is not certain.

Developer Melissa Goins is a proven winner and her plans include converting the abandoned Dover school into housing and building two additional structures for a total of 90 residences, with discounts for teachers.

The project has pulled together support from Milwaukee Public Schools, the city of Milwaukee and the Greater Milwaukee Committee, along with development groups.

Teachers, however, would not be limited to MPS so the development would likely mix educators from many different types of schools into an environment that would provide support to a profession that has taken some licks in recent years, especially with Gov. Scott Walker's Act 10 legislation.

Projects like Dover exist throughout the country.

It's time for us to give a brick-and-mortar salute to teachers here as well.