



# Schools and Communities United

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January 30, 2015

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

President Murphy:

You received oral and written testimony from our coalition, Schools and Communities United, to the Steering and Rules Committee on January 15. Based on the facts and concerns we presented, we believe the following actions are necessary:

- I. The City must rectify its broken oversight system for charter schools, including its chartering, school monitoring, and charter renewal processes. Two key changes needed are as follows:
  - A. Reform the process that the Children's Research Center (CRC) uses to provide recommendations to the Charter School Review Committee (CSRC). Create a new group composed of a broadly representative set of experts and advocates to design the reform of that process.
  - B. Tighten charter school performance standards that are used by the CSRC and the CRC. Ensure that the standards are closely adhered to.
- II. Until a careful analysis of charter school oversight has been completed and the system has been rectified, there should be a moratorium on the chartering of any new schools, including those that might be proposed under the umbrella policy.
- III. The charters of North Point Lighthouse Academy, Milwaukee Math and Science Academy, Milwaukee Collegiate Academy, and King's Academy – the four schools for which we cited evidence of severe irregularities and failures over time – should be revoked.

Again, we thank you for the time and consideration you and your colleagues are giving in this matter. We request a meeting with you and other members of the Steering and Rules Committee to discuss our proposal.

Sincerely yours,

*Ingrid Henry*

*Jenni Hofschulte*

Co-Chairs, Schools and Communities United

cc: Steering and Rules Committee Members

