



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Charter and/or Charter Agreement Amendment Application

Part I: General Information

All applicants must complete this section

SUBMITTED BY: Edie Ashton – Meridian Public Charter School

SUBJECT: Charter Amendment Request for: (Mark all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Ceiling Increase | <input type="checkbox"/> Name Change – Campus or Facility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program Replication of Grades Served | <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Reconfiguration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade Level Expansion (Single Grade) | <input type="checkbox"/> LEA Status for Special Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade Level Expansion (Grade Band) | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Enrollment Preference |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Facility or New Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Governance Structure
(Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation or Management) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goals and Achievement Expectations | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduation Requirements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission or Education Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Competency-Based Learning Application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum, Standards or Assessments | |

SUBMISSION DATE: 12/13/2019

SCHOOL BACKGROUND

Please address the following questions in their entirety. This information provides helpful background to the DC PCSB Board as it reviews these requests.

Overview of School Performance

1. Provide the following information about your Local Education Agency (LEA) by campus:
 - a) Campus name(s) and location(s): **Meridian PCS (PreK3 - 6) - 2120 13th St NW**
Meridian PCS (7-8) - 3029 14th St NW
 - b) Year opened: **1999**
 - c) Grade levels served (Currently and at maturation of charter agreement, if applicable): **PreK3 - 8**
 - d) Date that charter will be eligible for possible renewal: **December 2028**

2. Please select the performance indicators below that describe the school’s current performance*: (Mark all that apply)

- Currently rated Tier 1, or met at least 2/3 of targets on the most recent PK-only PMF or Alternative Accountability Framework.
- School is not currently under corrective action.
- Has historically met enrollment projections w/in 80% of target.
- School has been in operation for 3+ years.
- School is currently accredited. **May 1, 2021**

*If the school has multiple campuses or varying PMFs, please describe the academic performance of each campus here: **Enter text.**

Disclaimer: While processing this application, DC PCSB staff may contact you later to request additional information for the Board’s consideration. By submitting this application, you agree to cooperate with DC PCSB staff to ensure your application is processed in a timely manner. For questions, please contact DC PCSB staff person Laterica (Teri) Quinn at (202) 328-2660.

PROPOSAL

Meridian Public Charter School submits to the DC Public Charter School Board this application to amend its charter agreement by changing the item(s) selected above. If approved, this amendment will be effective on July, 2020 (*leave blank if this has not been determined*).

1. Please provide details on the selected amendment(s) above and describe the requested change(s), including the school's rationale for the proposed changes. Describe any planning that is already underway to prepare for the proposed amendment.

In fall 2015, Meridian expanded its middle school program (grades 7 and 8) to an incubator space located at 3029 14th St NW. The location was always meant to be temporary, and as we come to the end of our lease term, we actively began exploring options for a permanent space for our middle school in the Spring of 2019. Since many of our families have students in both campuses and Meridian has always been based in Ward 1, it was important for us to find a space geographically close to our elementary school campus at 2120 13th St NW.

2. How will the proposed amendment(s) support or enhance the school's mission?

For the past twenty years, Meridian has been a constant presence in the Ward 1 community, and our school's vision is built on continuing to serve the community we've partnered with for those twenty years. Given the difficulty in finding suitable school sites in Ward 1, securing a permanent building so close to our lower campus both supports our continued goal of staying in the community for the long-term future but also allows us to expand to offer a high-quality education to students in our community. The new building also offers a "middle school experience," complete with a gymnasium, a feature that many of our parents and teachers have expressed as a wish for a permanent location.

3. While considering this amendment request, DC PCSB staff may review the school's history of board actions, DC PCSB audits, community complaints, enrollment trends, and any relevant data used by DC PCSB to monitor equity in schools. Please describe any DC PCSB audits, notices of concern or other board actions issued against your school in the past 3 years. What was the outcome? Please explain what steps, if any, you've taken to address the concerns that prompted a DC PCSB audit, board action, or community complaint.

In the last three years, Meridian PCS has not had any DC PCSB audits or board actions taken against it. While PCSB received community complaints about Meridian in the past three years, many of the situations were resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant and many resulted in improved policies and practices at Meridian. One example is a standing meeting that our Out of School Time manager holds with our after care providers to proactively address issues and improve communication, which has resulted in higher parent satisfaction. As of December 2019, Meridian has not received any community complaints for the current school year.

4. DC PCSB will review the school's Financial Audit Reviews (FAR) and current financials to determine the fiscal health of the organization. If applicable, describe how the proposed

amendment will impact the school's finances. Explain any anticipated expenses for the proposed changes and how the school will finance them. *[EXCLUDES the following amendments: Governance, Goals, Mission, Curriculum, Name Changes and Graduation Requirements. If not applicable, write N/A.]*

Note: *If applicable, in addition to your narrative please attach a proposed [5-year Operating Budget](#).*

Meridian anticipates that this amendment and change in location will have a positive impact on the school's financials. Assuming this amendment is approved, Meridian will be able to serve an additional 150 students for about the same cost as our current space (which *cannot* accommodate more students). We anticipate minimal move in expenses (including moving and repair/updating costs). Even if Meridian's enrollment did not increase as anticipated, we will still be able to both service our debt and pay the lease on the new location. Section C1 provides further information regarding the specific impact of the new location on Meridian's financial state.

5. How has the school informed its external stakeholders (e.g. local ANC commissioners, neighbors) and internal stakeholders (e.g. staff, parents) of the proposed amendment(s)? Please attach any written communication (e.g., meeting minutes). Describe any notable support for or opposition to the proposed amendment(s). If concerns have been brought to your attention, how do you plan to address them? *[EXCLUDES the following amendments: Governance, Goals, Mission, Curriculum, Graduation Requirements and Competency-Based Learning Credits. If not applicable, write N/A.]*

See Section C1

6. When did your school's board approve the proposed amendment(s)? Please attach minutes from the meeting and vote results.

The new location was approved by the Meridian PCS Board during its November 12, 2019 Board meeting. Draft minutes from the meeting are attached to this application.

Section C1. **New Campus Location or Additional Facility**

***ONLY complete this section if applying to amend a Facility or New Location.**

Any school that is planning to operate a new campus in an existing (or new) location or relocate an existing campus, whether temporarily or permanently, and even if it is taking over an existing campus of another public charter school, must notify DC PCSB of the change and amend its charter agreement to include the new address.

DC PCSB will generally approve a campus addition or relocation amendment, if the school has made documented and meaningful effort to engage the community, including the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC), and has made an effort to address their concerns, if any. The school must show proof that it has taken into consideration the current families attending the school and their transportation needs, at least for the first year of operation in the new location.

1. Please check the reason below that best describes your proposed change.
 - Entire campus or school is relocating from current location to a new location.
 - A single campus is both staying in its current location AND expanding into a second location (e.g. some grades in one facility and some in a second facility to allow more space, or until a permanent larger facility is found).
 - School is creating a new campus being housed in a new facility (Note: Please complete [Section A2: Program Replication](#))
2. List all the facilities and addresses the school currently operates, along with the new facility(ies) the LEA plans to operate if approved. Include the campus(es) located in each facility, highlighting any changes from what is currently written in the school's charter agreement.

Currently, Meridian operates a lower school at 2120 13th St NW (containing grades PreK3 – 6th grade) and an upper school at 3029 14th St NW (containing grades 7 and 8). If approved, Meridian would move grades 6, 7, and 8 to 770 Kenyon St NW and not renew our lease on 3029 14th St NW.

3. Is the proposed new facility a property that you plan to purchase or lease? How many square feet is this space? Which grade level(s) will be at this location? If you have already purchased or leased the property, provide specific dates of when the property was acquired.

We plan to lease the property from the city and retain the lease terms that Chevez Prep had with the District of Columbia. The property is 42,000 square feet and would house 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. As of the time of this application, we have not yet formalized an agreement to take over the property but the Chavez Board of Trustees has accepted our non-binding proposal to do so.

4. If the school is planning to move a current campus into a new location, please answer the following:
 - a. How will the change in location impact students who currently attend this campus, and how will you ensure that students will re-enroll?

We do not currently believe that the change in location will represent a significant hardship for any of our families. Our current 7th and 8th graders attend a campus approximately ½ mile away from the new proposed location, and metro access is by the same metro station (Columbia Heights). For our 6th grade students (currently our 5th grade students), this would represent a change from what they would otherwise do next year if we retained our campus locations. The new campus is also 0.78 miles away from our current elementary school campus, allowing for our middle school students to continue walking to our lower school to pick up siblings as they do now. Throughout the rest of the year, we will be communicating to families through multiple means to ensure families are aware of the new campus space and we will also hold tours of the space so they can become familiar with both the walking path from the metro station and the traffic patterns near the school.

- b. Given that students are expected to move; how will you support families that need transportation?

Since the new middle school campus is so close to the current middle school campus, we do not anticipate needing to support families that need transportation.

5. Describe the neighborhood of the proposed location (e.g. residential, commercial, metro-accessibility). What value will you bring to this community? In your response, list traditional and public charter schools in close proximity to the new location, identifying schools that serve the same grade span as you will serve at full capacity at this location. Describe how the academic performance, demographics, and mission of your school compare to these schools.

The immediately surrounding area is largely residential, and is located four blocks away from the Columbia Heights metro station. Metro bus lines 63, 70, and 79 all serve stops within several blocks of the campus as well. The value we bring to the Ward 1 community is immense. As we are already located in the community on a temporary lease that ends either this year or next year if we pursue an extension, failing to find a campus near our current location would mean the loss of a middle school in the community. We do not anticipate being able to find another middle school campus in such close proximity to our current location.

Schools located within 1 mile of 770 Kenyon St NW are listed in the table below along with their OSSE STAR ratings for SY18-19.

School	Distance from 770 Kenyon St NW (in Miles)	Grade Bands Served	OSSE STAR Rating (in Stars)
Tubman Elementary	0.19	PreK3 – 5	2
E.L. Haynes PCS – MS	0.34	5 – 8	3
Benjamin Banneker HS	0.41	9 – 12	5

Bruce-Monroe ES @ Park View	0.42	PreK3 – 5	4
Raymond ES	0.43	PreK3 – 5	4
AppleTree Early Learning PCS – Columbia Heights	0.48	PreK3 – PreK4	N/A
Cardozo EC	0.53	6 – 12	1
Columbia Heights Education Campus	0.54	6 – 12	3
Howard University MS of Mathematics and Science PCS	0.59	6 – 8	2
Breakthrough Montessori PCS – Petworth	0.78	PreK3 – 2	N/A
H.D. Cooke ES	0.80	PreK3 – 5	3
Bancroft ES	0.85	PreK3 – 5	4
Powell ES	0.87	PreK3 – 5	3
Roosevelt HS	0.95	9 – 12	1
MacFarland MS	0.97	6 – 8	2
LAYC PCS	0.6	Adult Education	N/A
Carlos Rosario	0.5	Adult Education	N/A
Next Step PCS	0.7	Adult Education	N/A
YouthBuild PCS	0.6	Adult Education	N/A

In SY19-20, Meridian Middle School was a three-star school on the OSSE STAR report, meeting or exceeding the STAR rating of all other middle schools within a one-mile radius. Meridian MS also earned a “leveler” school designation by the Education Policy Institute for meeting its “at-risk” growth targets, and was the only middle school in Ward 1 to earn this designation last year.

Describe demographics and how our school’s vision compares to these other schools.

6. Describe how you have engaged your school’s community in the decision to relocate,

expand, or divide into this new location. Submit documentation of your communications with your staff and families regarding this new location. Please explain any potential concerns raised by the school's internal community, including students, teachers, etc.

Over the past several years, Meridian PCS engaged in an extensive visioning process led by our Board of Trustees. One component that came out of the visioning process was establishing a permanent location for a middle school campus that felt more like a school but stayed in Ward 1 close to the lower campus. This fall, we conducted a Back to School night survey for parents. The results indicated our parents wanted the new middle school to serve grades 6-8, be located near the lower campus, and have a gymnasium if possible.

On 11/19/19 and 11/21/19, the Head of School met with impacted teachers in grades 6-8 to discuss the potential move.

On 11/19 and 12/13, Meridian held listening sessions with current Meridian parents to discuss the possible move. One concern raised was the safety of students as they walk from the Columbia Heights Metro Station to the new campus location. Meridian staff provided information about a bus route that runs from the Columbia Heights Metro Station to within one block of the proposed new campus, which assuaged the concern at the time. No other concerns about the space have been raised by parents.

On 12/11, the Head of School held a town hall forum with all staff. Staff did not raise any concerns at the meeting about the potential move and instead seemed excited for a permanent middle school campus.

Meridian plans to conduct an additional town hall meeting on 1/9 for current Meridian families and another on 1/16 for the larger community around the new campus location.

7. Describe all community outreach that has been done in the local community of the new school location. Submit documentation of communications with nearby principals, neighbors, ANC representatives, Councilmembers, and others, notifying them of your plans.

Meridian's Head of School has met with the following individuals so far about the move.

- Brianne Nadeau, Ward 1 Councilmember
- Emily Gasoi, Ward 1 Representative, State Board of Education
- David Grosso, At-Large DC Councilmember

Meridian has also reached out to the following individuals and groups of individuals to inform them of the potential move.

- Commissioner Thomas, ANC 1B04 Representative
- Commissioner Boese, ANC 1A Chairperson
- Commissioner Brown, ANC 1A10 Representative
- All principals of schools within 1 mile of proposed campus

Meridian plans to hold a town hall for the larger community around the new school location on January 16, 2019. To publicize the event, Meridian will be using

electronic means of communication, including but not limited to sharing the notice with the Ward 1 Education Council and other community listserves.

8. Will there be newly-created slots for additional students? If so, discuss student recruitment efforts in the new school community.

In the first year, we do not anticipate any new creation of seats for new students other than our typical yearly recruitment of students to fill vacated seats. In future years, we plan to grow with 50 additional students in 6th grade and carry those students up through each grade. To recruit the additional 50 students in 6th grade, we intend to conduct outreach through community meetings, open houses, and radio and print advertisements across the city.

9. What is the occupancy maximum at the new location? If the maximum occupancy load for staff and students is less than the total number of staff and students who will occupy the facility at any point in the future, please explain how you will address this issue.

The current certificate of occupancy provides for 420 students, which is larger than our projected enrollment at the end of the five-year plan. Therefore, we do not plan to have to address this issue.

10. In addition to providing a [5-year Operating Budget](#), please answer the following questions regarding the financial impact of the proposed new location:

- a. How much does the proposed new facility cost, and how many students will be served at the new site?

The cost for obtaining the rights to the lease is \$8.5M. Meridian will also pay annual rent of ~ \$150K. As noted earlier, Meridian expects to serve 150 students initially, increasing by 50 students per year, reaching a total of 300 students for SY2023-24.

- b. What is the school's per-pupil cost, and how does this compare with its per-pupil allowance?

Costs are projected to be significantly below Meridian's allowance. Meridian anticipates our per pupil facility costs for SY20-21 to be around \$2600 per student, compared to a facilities revenue of \$3460 per student, and this includes rent, occupancy expenses and debt service.

- c. If you plan to operate multiple facilities, in addition to the proposed new location, what is the LEA's total facilities cost (e.g. lease, plus mortgage)? How does this expense compare with your per-pupil allowance?

Meridian's total per-pupil cost is less than the school's allowance. Meridian projects our facilities costs for both buildings to be ~\$1.7M, compared to our facility allocation of ~\$2.2M.

- d. What additional sources of funding do you plan to use to pay for this new facility.

Meridian is in the process of obtaining \$6.5M in financing from Eagle Bank. Financing will be supplemented with cash. Meridian has a cash reserve of approximately \$5M. Assuming that the school paid \$2M in cash as part of this transaction, that would leave Meridian with \$3M in cash, roughly equivalent to 74 days of cash on hand.

- e. If applicable, what contingencies do you have in place in case the new location enrolls fewer students than anticipated?

Our enrollment projections assume that we will enroll 300 students at the new middle school location over time. If, however, Meridian only enrolled 150 students over time, the school would still have positive net operating income and would be able to meet all debt service obligations.

Five-Year Estimated Budget Worksheet

DESCRIPTION	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
REVENUES					
Per Pupil Charter Payments	13,619,973	14,813,743	16,035,811	17,286,820	17,504,760
Federal Entitlements	1,118,385	1,217,791	1,327,184	1,440,184	1,479,116
Income from Grants and Donations	2,139	2,347	2,563	2,786	2,786
Activity Fees	102,792	112,791	123,149	133,876	136,255
Other Income					
TOTAL REVENUES	\$14,843,289	\$16,146,672	\$17,488,707	\$18,863,666	\$19,122,917
EXPENSES					
Personnel Salaries and Benefits	9,623,057	10,162,047	10,700,069	11,170,872	11,392,911
Direct Student Costs	1,207,253	1,324,686	1,446,333	1,572,317	1,510,273
Occupancy	1,673,442	1,685,256	1,693,734	1,702,756	1,709,612
Office Expenses	932,285	1,021,706	1,114,264	1,209,987	1,233,125
General Expenses	300,000	306,000	312,120	318,362	324,730
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,736,037	\$14,499,695	\$15,266,520	\$15,974,294	\$16,170,651

Meridian Public Charter School - Submitted 12/13/19

Meridian PCS Board Meeting
November 12, 2019
Draft Minutes

Board Members in attendance

Karen Rivas
Edie Ashton
Mahmia Richards
Justin Dulguid
Annie Hsiao
Payson Peabody
Steve Percy

Meridian PCS

Matt McCrea
Ariel Weissburg
Michael Russell

TenSquare Team Members (Departed After Leadership Update)

Alexandra Pardo
Janalee Jordan-Meldrum

Board Chair, Edie Ashton called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

- I. Minutes
Karen Rivas moved to approve the minutes. Annie Hsiao seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- II. New Employee Policies Approval
Matt McCrea and Michael Russell discussed the revised employee policies. The revisions have been reviewed by lawyers. Payson Peabody moved to approve the revised policies. Steve Percy seconded. The revised policies were approved unanimously.
- III. Leadership update.
Schoolwide report – Citywide PMF scores were released and Meridian scores were roughly in the middle, with exceptional growth. The head of school reported that the HR manager had resigned and a search was underway for a new HR director.
Elementary School report – First term is coming to a close.
Middle School report – An open house for rising 9th graders was held with alumni attending other schools to help prepare for transition. It was reported that 17 graduating students were accepted to a Tier 1 or selective high school last year.
Operations report – Audit underway, report will be submitted late at auditor's request. Mike Russell reported that Meridian's financials are on track and we expect to realize a \$5.13m surplus by year end. No major changes from the trajectory last reported to the Board.
- IV. Committee reports
Academic Performance – Committee met and visited elementary school classrooms and reviewed first test scores. Schedule for remainder of year will follow calendar of test results. There was a brief discussion of the upcoming expiration of Meridian's contract with TenSquare contract and the anticipated transition.

Governance – Conflict of Interest forms will be signed by new members. A prospective new board member may be up for board vote at next meeting after meeting with several board members.

V. Facility Discussion

There are [five/six?] possible buildings under consideration:

- 770 Kenyon Street (former Cesar Chavez middle school);
- 705 Edgewood St NE;
- 1763 Columbia Rd which would require a build-out;
- 1375 Missouri Ave. (LAMB School); and
- 802 Rhode Island Avenue (Calvary Academy);
- [another building?]

The Board of Cesar Chavez approved Meridian's proposal to take over the lease on the Kenyon St. property. All board members were polled to determine if there was any conflict of interest and there was none.

Matthew McCrea reminded the Board of the parent survey results regarding the Middle School where parents expressed an interest in having better facilities, including a gymnasium or other sports facilities, and a "middle school feel." Matthew also related his meeting with DC Council Ward 1 Representative Breanne Nadeau who is supportive of Meridian's bid to return the Kenyon Street property to educational use.

Steve Percy moved to move forward with securing a new middle school facility, seconded by Payson Peabody. The motion to move forward passed unanimously.

Annie Hsiao moved for the establishing a committee of Peabody, Gent, Richards, Ashton, and Percy to pursue and authorize facility by unanimous committee vote, otherwise, in the event the committee could not reach unanimous agreement, the matter would be brought before whole board. Mahmia Richards seconded the motion and the motion to form the committee passed unanimously.

VI. Executive Session [Notes separate]

Meridian PCS
Draft Executive Session Notes
11/12/2019

Review of the Chavez proposal.

Matthew related that Meridian bid \$8.5 million to take over lease of school building. \$2m would be cash and the remaining \$6.5m would be financed.

Needed a significant deposit (\$2 million?) deposit so that Cesar Chavez did not pass building to another school.

Need to secure approval of city and DCPCSB at January meeting (too late for December meeting).

Eagle Bank likely source of financing either in total or via tax-free bond, as covenants in recent refinance give the bank first refusal.

There was a discussion of how much cash to use (between 1 and 2 million) and how much to finance.

Remaining lease of 18 years to align with financing. Option to renew twice for 15 years each.

Tax-free status to be maintained by pursuing repairs of facility once Chavez has relinquished lease.

Information needed from Chavez on operational costs as well as access to building and security of vacant space.

School leadership believes the work required to build out the space would be minimal given the condition of the building and its prior use as a school.

Working with ANCs, DC Council representative, and student families to support Meridian's bid to restore the building to educational use.



Matthew McCrea <mmccrea@meridian-dc.org>

Meeting Request - Meridian PCS Head of School

Matthew McCrea <mmccrea@meridian-dc.org>
To: 1A10@anc.dc.gov

Mon, Dec 2, 2019 at 3:28 PM

Good Afternoon Commissioner Brown,

I wanted to reach out to you again to discuss our possible move to 770 Kenyon for the upcoming school year. Please advise on your availability for a meeting in the next few weeks to sit down and chat.

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I'm looking forward to talking with you soon.

On Tue, Nov 12, 2019 at 11:11 AM Matthew McCrea <mmccrea@meridian-dc.org> wrote:

Good Morning,

I am writing this afternoon to find a time to meet with Commissioner Brown to get a chance to know each other and share my vision for Meridian Public Charter School. I have been Meridian's Head of School for about four months now and would love if we could either meet offsite or if I could take you on a tour of the building. Additionally, we are actively pursuing the old Chavez Prep building on 770 Kenyon St NW and I would appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the immediately surrounding community. Our middle school is currently located at the intersection of 14th and Irving NW (above the CVS) and I know that we have a large number of students in your Single Member District, but as we contemplate a move, I want to ensure that I prioritize community engagement along the way.

Have a wonderful day and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

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Matthew J. McCrea
Head of School
Meridian Public Charter School
B.A., University of Chicago
M.A.T., American University

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Matthew J. McCrea
Head of School
Meridian Public Charter School
B.A., University of Chicago
M.A.T., American University



Matthew McCrea <mmccrea@meridian-dc.org>

Meeting Request - Meridian PCS Head of School

Matthew McCrea <mmccrea@meridian-dc.org>
To: "Boese, Kent C. (ANC 1A08)" <1A08@anc.dc.gov>

Wed, Dec 4, 2019 at 8:44 AM

Good Morning Kent,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to check on your availability in the next few weeks to meet. Let me know a few times that work for you and I'll be sure to fit you into my schedule. Thanks!

On Mon, Nov 25, 2019 at 9:40 AM Matthew McCrea <mmccrea@meridian-dc.org> wrote:
Kent,

Hope this email finds you well. I'm sure you're booked solid coming up on Thanksgiving this week, but I'd love to set a time for us to chat next week whenever you're available. If on the off chance you're available tomorrow, I'm also in the office all day and would gladly make time for you.

Have a happy Thanksgiving and I look forward to chatting soon.

Matt

On Wed, Nov 13, 2019 at 5:07 PM Matthew McCrea <mmccrea@meridian-dc.org> wrote:
Kent,

Wonderful. Thanks for your quick response and I look forward to connecting with you soon.

On Wed, Nov 13, 2019 at 1:00 PM Boese, Kent C. (ANC 1A08) <1A08@anc.dc.gov> wrote:
Good afternoon Matthew,

Hopefully we can meet before January. We have an upcoming community meeting in a week or so, perhaps we can coordinate something then.

Let me get past tonight's ANC meeting and then circle back with you.

With regards,

Kent

Kent C. Boese | Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A | Single Member District (SMD) 1A08
608 Rock Creek Church Road, NW | Washington, DC 20010
202-525-7682 | 1a08@anc.dc.gov | Twitter: @KentBoeseDC

From: Matthew McCrea <mmccrea@meridian-dc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 12:38 PM
To: Boese, Kent C. (ANC 1A08) <1A08@anc.dc.gov>
Subject: Meeting Request - Meridian PCS Head of School

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to

phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

Good Morning,

I am writing this afternoon to find a time to meet with Chairperson Boese to get a chance to know each other and share my vision for Meridian Public Charter School. I have been Meridian's Head of School for about four months now and would love if we could either meet offsite or if I could take you on a tour of the building. Additionally, we are actively pursuing the old Chavez Prep building on 770 Kenyon St NW and I would appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the immediately surrounding community. Our middle school is currently located at the intersection of 14th and Irving NW (above the CVS) and I know that we have a large number of students in ANC 1A, but as we contemplate a move, I want to ensure that I prioritize community engagement along the way.

Unfortunately, we are unable to make tonight's ANC meeting, but we would appreciate the opportunity to attend the January ANC meeting and present to the community if appropriate.

Have a wonderful day and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

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Matthew J. McCrea
Head of School
Meridian Public Charter School
B.A., University of Chicago
M.A.T., American University

Honor the Best in Public Service! Nominate an outstanding DC Government employee and/or team for the [19th Annual Cafritz Awards](#) by December 6th, 2019.

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Matthew J. McCrea
Head of School
Meridian Public Charter School
B.A., University of Chicago
M.A.T., American University

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Matthew J. McCrea
Head of School
Meridian Public Charter School
B.A., University of Chicago
M.A.T., American University

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Matthew J. McCrea
Head of School
Meridian Public Charter School
B.A., University of Chicago
M.A.T., American University



Matthew McCrea <mmccrea@meridian-dc.org>

Meeting Request - Meridian Head of School

Matthew McCrea <mmccrea@meridian-dc.org>

Wed, Dec 4, 2019 at 8:47 AM

To: 1B04@anc.dc.gov

Good Afternoon Commissioner Thomas,

I wanted to follow up on my earlier request for an opportunity to meet with you. I also wanted to reach out about the potential move of our middle school campus. While neither our current middle school location nor our proposed new middle school location at 770 Kenyon St NW is in your ANC, there is the potential for a grade realignment as we consider moving our sixth grade (currently located at the Harrison campus at 13th and V) and in any case, a number of your constituents attend Meridian.

I have availability on and off between now and when we leave on break on 12/20 and will also be in town on 12/23 to meet if that works for you.

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and I look forward to hearing from you soon. Have a great day!

On Mon, Oct 28, 2019 at 2:22 PM Matthew McCrea <mmccrea@meridian-dc.org> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

I am writing this afternoon to find a time to meet with Commissioner Thomas to get a chance to know each other and share my vision for Meridian Public Charter School. I have been Meridian's Head of School for about four months now and would love if we could either meet offsite or if I could take you on a tour of the building.

Have a wonderful afternoon and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

--

Matthew J. McCrea
Head of School
Meridian Public Charter School
B.A., University of Chicago
M.A.T., American University

--

Matthew J. McCrea
Head of School
Meridian Public Charter School
B.A., University of Chicago
M.A.T., American University



Matthew McCrea <mmccrea@meridian-dc.org>

New Location - Meeting

Matthew McCrea <mmccrea@meridian-dc.org>
To: Elementary Staff <esstaff@meridian-dc.org>

Tue, Dec 10, 2019 at 1:57 PM

Good Afternoon Team,

Many of you have likely seen the flyers around the building for a series of Town Hall meetings to be held over the next month about a new location for our middle school. This is a project that Meridian has been working on for some time and I have been spending a large part of my days on since I began in July.

In addition to the Town Hall meetings for the community (both our current families and families around the neighborhood in which we are planning to relocate), I wanted to ensure I had an open forum to answer any questions from all of the rest of our staff. Several weeks ago, I held a meeting with the middle school teachers as they are most directly impacted by the move, but I recognize that there may also be some impact for the elementary staff as well, even if it's not a direct impact.

I will be staying after school tomorrow (Wednesday, December 11) and will be in the MPR at 4 PM to answer any questions that anyone might have following a brief presentation about the proposed new middle school location. If you are unable to attend that meeting for some reason, please don't hesitate to reach out or stop by my office and I'll fill you in on what we've got so far.

Thank you all for your support and I look forward to continuing the conversation around Meridian's future with each of you.

--
Matthew J. McCrea
Head of School
Meridian Public Charter School
B.A., University of Chicago
M.A.T., American University



Matthew McCrea <mmccrea@meridian-dc.org>

New message from P. Anderson's Meridian Middle School class

P. Anderson via Remind <chat+914240cc-707d-43a6-8e2e-75da468c93b6@mail.remind.com> Sat, Dec 7, 2019 at 11:59 AM
To: mmccrea@meridian-dc.org



MERIDIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

P. Anderson:

“¡Familias de Meridian!

Asista a una reunión del Ayuntamiento sobre la posible reubicación de la escuela secundaria.

Necesitamos escuchar tus voces.

Se les pide a las familias actuales que asistan el viernes 13 de diciembre a las 8 am en la ubicación de ES o el jueves 9 de enero a las 5:30 pm en la ubicación de MS.

Dear Meridian Families!

Please attend a Town Hall meeting regarding the possible relocation of the Middle School. We need to hear your voices.

Current Families are asked to attend Friday Dec 13th at 8am at the ES location or Thursday Jan 9 at 5:30pm at the MS location.

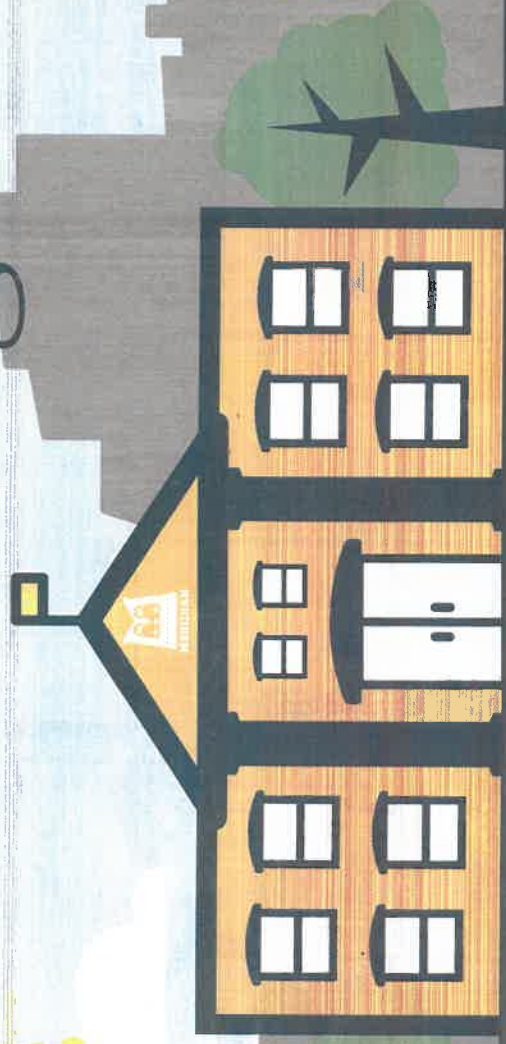
rmd.me/N32BbAKEwhF”

Respond to P. Anderson

Town Hall Meeting

WE'RE MOVING!

LEARN ABOUT OUR NEW HOME!



Join us to discuss the possible relocation of our Middle School next school year

Meridian Families - Friday, Dec. 13th - 8am - ES

Meridian Families - Thursday, Jan. 9th - 5pm - MS

Community at Large - Thursday, Jan. 16th - 5:30pm - ES



December 11, 2019

Dear Members of the DC Public Charter School Board,

I am the Ward 1 representative on the DC State Board of Education and I am writing to express my full support for Meridian Middle School’s proposed move to the former Chavez Prep facility at 770 Kenyon Street, NW.

For the past several years, Meridian Middle School has operated in an incubator space at 3029 14th Street in Columbia Heights. While school leaders and staff have made the most of the space, it is far from ideal. First, the school is on the second floor of a retail space, not intended to be a school. There is no proper cafeteria, no real gym, no outdoor recreational space and no room to grow. Despite challenges with the space, Meridian Middle school has made impressive gains over the past year. In fact, in SY18-19, Meridian was the only middle school within a mile of the new proposed site to earn 4 stars on the OSSE STAR report and was also named a “Leveler” school by the Education Policy Institute for meeting its growth targets for at-risk students on PARCC in 2018-19. As this progress demonstrates, it is time for Meridian to move into a space where the student body can continue to grow and thrive.

Logistically, it makes sense for Meridian MS to move to the Kenyon Street property as about half of the school’s approximately 650 students live in Ward 1. In addition, a large number of Meridian families have students at both the elementary and middle school campuses. If the middle school is not granted access to the Kenyon Street site, it will be forced to locate outside of Ward 1, making drop off and pick up much more difficult. Even more pressing, older siblings who attend the middle school are often charged with drop off and pick up duties for their younger siblings at the elementary campus at 2120 13th street. The Kenyon street property is just a mile away, a quick bus ride or walk up the hill. If the middle school is forced to relocate outside of the ward, this becomes an issue of safe passage for those students.

Finally, as the representative for Ward 1 school stakeholders, I know it would cause considerable hardship to families who want to stay in the neighborhood. Frankly, our ward cannot afford to lose another middle school.

For all the reasons stated above, I urge the members of the DC PCSB to vote to allow Meridian Middle School to settle into their new forever home at 770 Kenyon Street. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Emily Gasoi



State Board of Education of the District of Columbia
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