



District of Columbia Public Charter School Board

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June 12, 2006

Ms. Sharon Schellin
Secretary to the Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington DC 20001

Dear Ms. Schellin:

This letter serves to highlight statements included in my May 11, 2006 testimony as it relates to the ways in which the DC Public Charter School Board's (PCSB) application review process provides for community input and accounts for the location of charter schools.

Pursuant to §38-1802.03 of the DC School Reform Act, chartering authorities are required to:

1. hold public hearings as a part of their application review process;
2. provide notice of hearings in the DC Register, newspapers of general circulation; and
3. provide written notification to ANCs in the area in which a school is proposed.

Accordingly, the PCSB has held hearings for each application cycle, and provided notice in the *Post* and *Times*. Additionally, written notification has been provided to all ANCs, regardless of where proposed charter schools intend to locate, which includes hearing schedules and Executive Summaries for all applicants.

As it relates to locating a charter school, the PCSB requires applicants to demonstrate a need to establish charter schools in proposed areas through a Demographic Analysis Form, which includes information on surrounding schools, and proposed schools' impact on student and teacher recruitment. Applicants must also describe outreach to the community, particularly the communities in which they plan to locate.

Finally, applicants must describe the facility, including renovation needs (if identified). Typically, applicants do not have a lease for the facility at the time of application, therefore, they can be granted no more than a conditional approval. In order to be fully approved, an applicant must provide, among other things:

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District of Columbia

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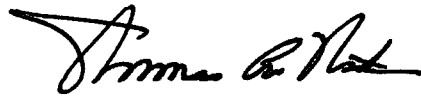
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CASE NO. 06-06

1. information identifying a facility for the school, including a description of the site where the school will be located, any buildings on the site, and any building proposed to be constructed on the site,
2. information demonstrating that the school has acquired title to, or otherwise secured the use of, the facility

Additionally, the PCSB conducts a Pre-Opening Visit with each school prior to its opening, during which the school must provide its Certificate of Occupancy as evidence of its readiness to open.

I am thankful for the opportunity to share with you information about how our process allows community input, and would ask that in the future we be consulted before measures are taken that would unnecessarily burden charter schools' abilities to acquire facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Nida". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a stylized "N".

Thomas A. Nida
Chair