

Steering Committee

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March 14, 2017

Dear Alderman Moore,

We are writing with great concern regarding two proposals for local charter expansion that have been recently submitted to CPS: (1) the addition of 100 high school seats for CMSA and (2) a new k-5 charter school proposed by a Michigan-based Assyrian cultural organization.

Our community needs to know where you stand on these proposals. The timetable for action on these proposals is short and means that a response from you is urgent.

As you are aware, on November 8, 2016, your constituents voted against ANY charter expansion in the 49th Ward. The ballot result was 62.6% vs. 37.4% with 11,342 voting in favor of a "Charter Freeze." We ask that you abide by this result and honor the vote of your community.

As for the CMSA expansion, you are also aware that Sullivan High School, in spite of significant improvement and growth under Principal Chad Adams, is still over 400 students short of capacity. The addition of more seats at CMSA can only undercut the gains made by our neighborhood high school. It could also mean the loss of up to \$500,000 annually for Sullivan.

As for the Assyrian charter, we understand the very real needs of immigrants. But we also believe that segregated public education is not the answer, and instead promote our neighborhood schools as places where students of ALL backgrounds can be welcomed into a safe, holistic environment.

Finally, you have formed your own committee, CORPS, to support neighborhood schools. We can only assume that you would oppose efforts that undermine these schools' success.

We are therefore asking you to clearly state your opposition to these two new charter proposals. In the past, we have found it difficult to receive a reply from you. So if we do not hear back from you by Sunday, March 19, that you are opposed to these two proposals, we will take your silence as a "no" - that is, you FAVOR charter expansion in the 49th Ward.

Thank you.

Katy Hogan and Gabe Gonzalez
Co-Chairs, Network 49

The progressive, independent political organization for Chicago's 49th ward