

To: Avni Patel
District of Columbia Public Charter School Board

From: Catherine Meloy
The Goodwill Excel Center

RE: Response to Questions: School Facility and Location

Date: August 19, 2015

Anvi, please find below the responses to the questions you had submitted regarding the location of the Goodwill Excel Center (GEC), 1776 G Street, Washington, DC., 20006. Because the school will not be opening until the fall of 2016 some of the questions were not applicable at this time. Colleen will be returning from vacation on Monday and at that time she can send any back up emails regarding our outreach that she has in her files. Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information.

What community engagement outreach has been done in the local community for the school location?

Phone call with ANC Ward 2, Patrick Kennedy on June 15th. Colleen Paletta provided Patrick an overview of the GEC and that GEC had a location in his district. Patrick welcomed attendance at the June 17th ANC meeting.

Attendance at the ANC meeting on June 17th. Catherine Meloy and Colleen Paletta attended the monthly ANC meeting. Colleen provided an overview of the GEC and that a possible location for the school was being considered in Ward 2. Favorable comments followed from ANC members. One commissioner stated, "I didn't know Goodwill did anything like this. It's fantastic."

Attendance at the July 8th Councilmember Grosso's Ward 2 Town Hall Meeting. Colleen Paletta attended the town hall meeting and was introduced to Deputy Mayor Niles and staff and Councilmember Grosso and staff. Both were enthusiastic about the school and welcomed further updates on the GEC facility. Follow up meetings have been requested and are being scheduled.

Colleen Paletta and Catherine Meloy had a meeting on July 21st with Sherri Kimbel, Director of Constituents Services for Jack Evans. Sherri was very supportive of the GEC site at 1776 G Street and knew that Councilmember Evans would be as well especially in light of the success of the Marriott Marquis project which Goodwill had oversight and implementation responsibilities that was also in Ward 2. (The current Goodwill Excel Center Community Outreach Plan is attached.)

What student recruitment has been done in the local community of the new school location?

Based on the GEC not opening until the fall of 2016, there has been no student recruitment at this time.

Are there any community concerns about the GEC location at 1776 G Street?

All comments from the community stakeholders have been very positive. Prior to the lease agreement for GEC, George Washington's School of Engineering occupied the space and therefore there was already a school presence at this location.

Why does the school think this place is the perfect place to locate?

The Goodwill Excel Center's mission is to provide adults the opportunity and support to earn a high school diploma and post-secondary education while developing career paths that offer greater employment and career growth opportunities. The school will address key student needs outside of the classroom by providing free, on-site child care for students, transportation assistance and life coaching. 1776 G Street will provide the high quality public school environment while addressing the street level requirements for the child care center and will be within two blocks of the Farragut West Metro.

Being located in the "business section" of the District, it will allow for the students to be in a physical environment for both education/work experience that will allow for the students to envision the possibilities for their workforce/career growth. The close proximity to George Washington University will allow for potential collaboration, along with the already established collaboration with the University of the District of Columbia Community College.

The physical layout of approximately 20,000 square feet match the needs for appropriately sized classrooms, teacher/coach breakout offices, student common lounge and child care center. (Please see attached draft architectural drawings for the school.)

After reviewing over 20 different sites in the District, 1776 G Street matches all the needs for providing an exceptional student environment for the Goodwill Excel Center. (Please see attached potential Excel Center sites.)

Will the school have to renovate the building and when would that take place? Has the school done anything to ensure the renovations will not have a negative impact on the neighborhood?

Since this site is an office building there will be no negative impact on the neighborhood. Major renovations of the space will begin upon the full execution of the lease and after selection of the architectural firm/contractors to complete the work. (Please see attached Project Schedule).


Will there be drop off and pick up times? How will the school propose to route traffic?

This is not applicable as it is an adult charter school.

Will the building be available for public use?

The space will only be used for the Goodwill Excel Center.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Catherine Meloy'.

Catherine Meloy
President/CEO

Goodwill of Greater Washington and the Goodwill Excel Center