

February 25, 2019

DC Public Charter School Board  
3333 14th Street NW  
Suite 210  
Washington, DC 20010

Dear Members of the DC Public Charter School Board,

In late January, I was surprised and disappointed to learn that Chavez Prep Middle School in Ward 1 was shutting its doors. Chavez Prep serves 235 middle school students in Ward 1 and employs nearly 30 teachers.

I write you to express my concern with the lack of community involvement, the lack of notice, and the haste with which the decision to close the school was made.

Additionally, there are various allegations that concern me regarding this closure:

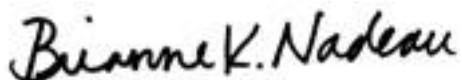
- that representatives of the Chavez Public Charter School Board (“Chavez Board”) were observed conducting tours of the Chavez building to potential leasers in early January before the school community was aware of a potential closure
- that proposed successorship language in the collective bargaining agreement that was being negotiated between employees and Chavez Prep was rejected, while the school leadership was preparing to close
- that teachers became aware of plans to close the school when a teacher was asked to comment on the closure by a Washington Post reporter, rather than being informed directly by the leadership of Chavez Prep

I do not believe this is acceptable. Teachers, parents, and members of the community should have been included in the conversation when considering the closure of Chavez Prep Middle School.

I am asking that you, the Public Charter School Board, obtain an explanation of how the Chavez Board came to the decision to close the school, including alternatives considered and discussed with the PCSB, DCPS, or otherwise. I would also urge you to work with the Chavez Board to keep Chavez Prep in operation for another year so we can work with you on a long-term solution. If it is determined that a closure is still necessary, the additional year will give students, parents, and teachers a reasonable amount of time to determine their next steps.

I look forward to hearing back from you and working with you to determine an acceptable solution.

Sincerely,



Brianne K. Nadeau  
Councilmember, Ward 1