

**LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA) NAME:** Briya Public Charter School

**BOARD CHAIR NAME:** Charlotte Baer

**SUBMISSION DATE:** Thursday, January 26, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Facility Amendment Request

## **SCHOOL BACKGROUND AND PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

---

**Campus name(s):** Sharpe

**Year(s) opened:** 2019

**Grades served:** Prekindergarten + Adult

**Year the school will undergo its next charter review or renewal:** 2026

**Proposal summary:** Briya's current location at the Sharpe Health School has a long history including several different locations in Wards 1 and 4. This site originated in Bancroft Elementary School in the late 1980s. When Bancroft underwent a renovation in 2016, Briya moved with Bancroft to the swing space at Sharpe. Both schools returned to Bancroft in 2018. However, during the 2018-2019 school year, DCPS decided that Briya would no longer collocate with Bancroft. Briya returned to Sharpe for the 2019-2020 school year for what was supposed to be a seven-year period with the possibility of extension. However, during the FY23 Budget process in the spring of 2022, it was determined that Sharpe would need to be used for additional DCPS swing space, so Briya needed to relocate again. In November 2022, Briya signed a lease for a portion of the building at 801 Shepherd Street, NW. Briya will renovate the space in early 2023 with plans to move into the building that summer. The new building is shared with MPD and the Boys and Girls Club.

The Shepherd Street location is ideal for this Briya site for many reasons. First, it is less than a mile from the current location at Sharpe and only two blocks from Briya's Georgia Avenue site which is collocated with Mary's Center where many Briya families access health care services and other programming. Second, it is easily accessible by both bus and Metro from Wards 4 and 5 where the largest concentration of Briya families resides. Third, there is onsite parking and green space for our outdoor prekindergarten program. Fourth, the entrance is located on the ground level allowing for easy access with strollers.

**Year the school plans to implement the proposed changes:** SY23-24

**When did the school's board approve the proposed changes?** *Please attach minutes from the meeting and vote results.*

Briya's Board of Trustees publicly voted to approve the lease for 801 Shepherd Street on October 19, 2022. The vote was unanimous in support of the lease agreement. Minutes are include as an attachment to this application.

---

## FACILITY

---

**1. Please check the box that best describes the school's proposed change.**

- The LEA or a campus within the LEA is relocating from its current facility to a new facility.
- The LEA or a campus within the LEA is staying in its current facility *and* expanding into an additional facility (i.e., some students will attend the current facility while some will attend the proposed facility).
- The LEA seeks to open a new campus to be housed in a new facility. (Also complete the Expansion and/or Replication Amendment Application.)

**2. In the table below, list the facility/facilities the school operates (i.e., the facility/facilities identified in the school's charter agreement). For each entry, report the facility name, the campus(es) and grades served within, and the address.**

Current Facility/Facilities		
Facility Name	Campus Name(s); Grade(s) Served	Address
Adams Morgan	Ontario Road; PK + Adult	2333 Ontario Road, NW
Petworth North	Sharpe; PK + Adult	4300 13 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW
Petworth South	Georgia Avenue; PK + Adult	3912 Georgia Ave., NW
Fort Totten	Fort Totten; PK + Adult	100 Gallatin Street, NE

**3. In the table below, list the facility/facilities the school seeks to operate (i.e., the facility/facilities the school will continue operating along with the facility the school proposes operating). For each entry, report the facility name, the campus(es) and grades served within, and the address.**

Proposed Facility/Facilities		
Facility Name	Campus Name(s); Grades Served	Address
Adams Morgan	Ontario Road; PK + Adult	2333 Ontario Road, NW
Petworth North	Shepherd; PK + Adult	801 Shepherd St., NW
Petworth South	Georgia Avenue; PK + Adult	3912 Georgia Ave., NW
Fort Totten	Fort Totten; PK + Adult	100 Gallatin Street, NE

**4. Will the school lease or purchase the proposed facility? If the school has already purchased or leased the facility, when did the school acquire it?**

Briya will lease space at 801 Shepherd Street. The lease was signed in November 2022.

**5. How will the new location impact current students? How will the school encourage student re-enrollment? How will the school support students in need of transportation to the new location?**

The new location is less than a mile from the current location at Sharpe and only two blocks from Briya's Georgia Avenue site which is collocated with Mary's Center where many Briya families access health care services and other programming. It is also easily accessible by both bus and Metro from Wards 4 and 5 where the largest concentration of Briya families resides. Briya has begun conversations with families about the upcoming relocation. Briya will continue to support families with Metro cards to get to school.

**6. Will there be newly created seats for additional students? If so, discuss student recruitment efforts in the new school community.**

The new location will have the same programmatic capacity as the current location at Sharpe Health School; therefore, no additional recruitment efforts are planned at this time.

**7. What is the maximum occupancy 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 programmatic capacity of the new location is about 125 which includes staff and students. This is in line with the current occupancy at the Sharpe location. We are not anticipating exceeding this level in the future.

**8. Does the proposed space require renovation? If so, describe the renovations the new location will need, either to serve as a school or to be accessible for students with disabilities.**

Briya is currently in the conceptual design process, but anticipates that the building will need the following renovations to serve as a school:

- Finishes – painting and flooring
- Plumbing – additional sink fixtures

- Demolition – finishes, non-load bearing partitions
- Partitions – new partitions layout
- Electrical – classroom upgrades to meet capacity, and pantry appliances, generally modify to accommodate new layout
- Communications –
  - Remove existing LAN branch cables from lease area, back to switches
  - Add LAN cable plant for data and phone throughout the space
- Access Control –
  - Modify/remove current tenant access control of spaces within the lease area. (Example: Room 206, corridor doors)
  - Add access control between building lobby and lease area
- HVAC –
  - Verify the current system is fully functional, modify as required
  - Modify existing zones to accommodate new partitions/spaces
  - Modify controls as required to meet LEED certification requirements
- Fire Alarm – modify to accommodate new layout
- Fire Suppression – modify to accommodate new layout (anticipate less than 25 heads)

**9. Describe the proposed facility’s neighborhood (i.e., is it residential or commercial, is it metro accessible). What value will the school add to the proposed neighborhood?**

The building at 801 Shepherd Street is in a mixed-use neighborhood in Ward 4. It is almost equidistant to Georgia Avenue, NW and New Hampshire Avenue, NW both which are main thoroughfares with easy access to public transportation via bus routes and Metro lines. The block itself has residential and commercial units as well as a church. Briya—and its early childhood and adult education programs—would complement the other schools in the neighborhood that serve elementary, middle, and high school students.

**10. List the traditional and public charter schools near the new location, identifying schools that educate the same grade span your school serves/will serve. Describe how the school’s mission and academic performance compare to these schools. What impact will the school’s relocation have on enrollment at neighboring schools?**

There are several traditional and public charter schools near the new Shepherd Street location, including: Bruce-Monroe ES, Raymond EC, Briya at Georgia Ave., Powell ES, Roosevelt HS, MacFarland MS, Height ES, and E.L. Haynes PCS. Briya’s programming is complementary to other schools in the neighborhood in that it serves the parents of many students who attend these K-12 schools but should not impact their enrollments.

**11. When did the school hold an open board of trustees meeting to discuss the proposed change(s)?**

Briya's Board of Directors held a public hearing on the proposed relocation to Shepherd Street on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. There were no requests from members of the community to deliver testimony on this matter.

**12. Describe how the school has engaged its internal community in its decision to relocate or expand into the proposed location. Submit documentation of the school's communications with its staff and families regarding the proposed space. Identify the internal community's concerns and how the school is responding to their needs.**

Briya leadership engaged its staff and students on this decision during the first few months of the 2022-2023 school year. Students were informed during Fall Student Council meetings and Briya's Executive Director visiting all classes at the current Sharpe site in December 2022 to update them on the progress of the decision. Students expressed excitement about improved Metro and Bus access, increased opportunities for partnership with MPD, and being in a more traditional school building with larger classrooms. Staff were also updated at monthly staff meetings and the change was frequently discussed during departmental meetings.

**13. Describe how the school has engaged the community surrounding the proposed location. *Please attach documentation of communications with nearby principals, neighbors, ANC representatives, Councilmembers, and other community groups, notifying them of the school's plans.***

DGS first provided notification to the local ANC on September 16, 2022. Briya staff were in regular communication with Councilmember Lewis-George's office beginning in Spring 2022 when the decision to displace Briya from Sharpe was first being considered through negotiations in Fall 2022 when the lease was signed. Briya provided notification of a signed lease agreement to the Councilmember's office on November 18, 2022. Briya reached out to ANC member-elect, Dr. Antoine Kirby on December 7, 2022, and had an in-person meeting with him on December 21, 2022.

Briya leadership has had several informal meetings with staff of the Boys and Girls Club as well as a formal meeting with Frank Ferlenda, the branch Director in early January 2023. Similarly, Briya is in ongoing conversations with the MPD regarding access to the building during construction, planning for community events, and building upon Briya's existing partnerships with the agency.

**a. When did the school inform the ANC representatives of its**

**facility plans? Has the school already presented its facility plans during an ANC meeting? If not, when will it do so?**

DHS first communicated with the ANC that it was in conversation with Briya about leasing the space on September 16, 2022. Once the lease was finalized, Briya reached out to the current and incoming ANC representatives as well as the chairwoman on December 7, 2022. On December 21, 2022, incoming ANC representative, Antoine Kirby, met with Briya leaders and toured our Georgia Avenue site which is also located in his ANC to better understand our program.

**b. Summarize the external community's concerns, if any, and describe the school's response with specificity.**

At present, Briya has not received any concerns from the community about its relocation to Shepherd Street.

**14. Complete and submit DC PCSB's [5-Year Operating Budget](#) template in accordance with its instructions.**

Briya's five-year operating budget projections have been submitted as an attachment to this application.

**Briya Public Charter School  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 19th, 2022, 6:00-6:30 p.m.**

**Board members present**

Charlotte Baer, *Chair*  
Bill Bletzinger, *Treasurer*  
Alejandra Sandoval  
Brittany Pope  
Cara Sklar  
Brenda Martinez  
Jennifer Huang

**Staff members present**

None

**Board Members Absent**

Ji Sung Yang  
Daniela Carrozza  
Flor Buruca, *Secretary*  
Doris Garay

1. Executive Session

- a. Pursuant Chapter 5, Subchapter IV, Section 2-575 of the Code of the District of Columbia, the Briya Board of Trustees will enter into closed session to discuss, establish, or instruct the public body’s staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken in negotiating incentives relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses or business activities in the District;”
  - i. **Bill Bletzinger** moved to approve the *Shepherd Lease*, **Brenda Martinez** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
    1. Roll call:
      - a. Charlotte Baer – yes
      - b. Bill Bletzinger - yes
      - c. Alejandra Sandoval yes
      - d. Brenda Martinez - yes
      - e. Brittany Pope - yes
      - f. Cara Sklar - yes
      - g. Jennifer Huang - yes

2. Adjournment

- a. The Executive session concluded and the meeting is adjourned at 6:30 pm.