



Notes for Completing the Facility Charter Agreement Amendment Application

Overview

This application is for a school seeking approval from the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) to operate a new facility.¹ The school may operate the new facility in addition to or in lieu of the facility or facilities already recognized in the school's charter agreement.²

Standard for Approval

DC PCSB staff will generally recommend that its Board approve a facility amendment if the school makes a reasonable and documented effort to engage its internal community and the community groups located in the area surrounding the proposed space. The internal community includes school staff, students,³ and current families. Community groups include, but are not limited to, prospective families, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC), civic and citizens associations, churches, public and public charter schools, and businesses. Before submitting this application, the school must

- Discuss its plans with the community during an open meeting of its board of trustees.
- Notify the appropriate ANC Chairperson and the Single-Member District Commissioner regarding its facility plans in writing. The notification must include a request to be added to an ANC meeting agenda to present the school's facility plans.

Other engagement activities may include developing an action plan that responds to community concerns, commissioning a traffic study, and initiating collaboration with neighboring schools.

¹ Per DC PCSB's *Definition of School, Campus, and Facility Policy*, "a facility is a building that houses part of a campus, an entire campus, or multiple campuses. It may be temporary or permanent. A school may operate a single-campus among multiple facilities, or a school may operate multiple campuses in one facility." See the policy here: <https://bit.ly/3vyUyKY>.

² If a school has multiple facilities per campus or multiple campuses per facility, DC PCSB will ask the school to identify a distinct name for the facility/facilities.

³ Schools that do not enroll young adult and adult students need not demonstrate student support for the proposed changes.

Ultimately, the school must demonstrate that it has worked with its internal community and the community surrounding the proposed space to address any concerns and needs.

Finally, the school must demonstrate that opening the new facility will not harm its economic viability.

Submission Deadline

Per DC PCSB's *Charter Agreement Amendment Petition Submission Policy*,⁴ a school must submit its facility amendment application at least three months before it intends to serve students in the proposed space. A school that participates in the My School DC (MSDC) lottery that seeks to operate a new facility should submit its amendment request ahead of MSDC's school profile data collection deadline. Failure to do so may result in students not being matched to the new facility.

Contact

Before completing the application, please contact Melodi Sampson at msampson@dcpcs.org to discuss the proposed change(s) or to ask general questions about the charter agreement amendment process.

⁴ See the *Charter Agreement Amendment Petition Submission Policy* here: <https://bit.ly/34ORPBZ>.

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA) NAME: Social Justice Public Charter School

BOARD CHAIR NAME: Tammy Tuck

SUBMISSION DATE: Apr 3, 2024

SUBJECT: Facility Amendment Request

SCHOOL BACKGROUND AND PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Campus name(s): Social Justice School

Year(s) opened: 4

Grades served: 5th-8th grade

Year the school will undergo its next charter review or renewal: 2025

Proposal summary: SJS is seeking to change its location for the 2023-2024 SY.

Year the school plans to implement the proposed changes: 2024

When did the school's board approve the proposed changes? *SJS Board*
Approved the proposed changes via unanimous vote, as outlined in our by-laws, on April 2, 2024. The consent form is attached.

FACILITY

- **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.)

- **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
Rocketship Infinity Campus	5th-8th grade	5450 Third Street NE Washington DC 20011

- **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
Social Justice Public Charter School	5th-8th grade	333 Kennedy Street Ne Washington DC 20011

- **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?**

Social Justice School will lease the proposed facility.

- **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 majority of our scholar-activists, more than 90%, currently utilize the metro for

their daily commute to school. Our new location is literally across the street from our current location. The address for our current location is 5450 Third Street NE and the address for our new location is 333 Kennedy Street, less than two football fields away from our current location. We are thankful that our scholar-activists and their families will be able to stay in the community in which many of them have been for several years. As such, our site remains convenient and a short, less than 5 minutes, walk from the Fort Totten Metro Station.

In our efforts to encourage re-enrollment, we are committed to keeping open lines of communication with families. Prior to match day, we will inform families, current and potential, about the relocation and make ourselves available to address any challenges or concerns they may have. To date, we have contacted all families, current and potential. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive as families advocated for SJS to stay in the Ward 5 community.

It is important for families to know that while our location is changing, our program remains steadfast, ensuring a seamless continuation of the quality education and support our students currently receive.

To assist families in need of transportation to the new location, we have devised several measures. Firstly, we will be providing DC One Cards to facilitate access to public transportation. Additionally, we understand the importance of community support, and we will actively help families coordinate car pools, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and collaboration.

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

Yes, there will be newly created seats for additional students at SJS.

To ensure effective student recruitment, we have already initiated outreach efforts within the community. We have held meetings with several civic organizations to discuss our plans and have secured opportunities to table at their meetings, allowing us to directly connect with community members.

Our dedicated street team is extremely active in the community through their participation in community events. This face-to-face engagement will provide us with valuable insights into the community's needs and expectations.

In the digital realm, we have been actively promoting our open house dates through

various online channels. Our social media presence has been boosted to reach a wider audience, and we have received positive engagement from interested individuals. Additionally, starting in April, we plan to post signage in visible locations to generate awareness and interest within the community.

Our recruitment efforts will be ongoing, with a series of open houses, canvassing events, shadow days, and participation in community gatherings planned until count day in October. We are committed to fostering strong connections within the new school community and providing a welcoming environment for all prospective students

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 site provides capacity for up to 160 students on an initial basis, marking the maximum anticipated enrollment during the period of occupancy of this site. Further, the site provides potential to expand into a purpose-built facility for a long term, which will be able to support 300 students.

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.

The space will include pre-certified modular classrooms which do not need to be fabricated, but rather delivered to the site and tied into existing electrical infrastructure already existing on-site. This is not a renovation so much as a delivery and installation process. Prior to delivery of the modular classrooms, we plan to have the modular classrooms' location and design reviewed by the architect and approved by the city. Notably, several modular classrooms will include a ramp for accessibility.

- **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?**

Ward 5 is an amazing community that comprises both residential and commercial property. It is home to three metro stations that allow access for members of the community. The three metro stations are as follows: Fort Totten, serving the red/yellow and green lines, Brookland, serving the red lines, and Noma serving the red line as well. This influx of metro stations allow students, and their families to be able to access the community in a convenient and easy manner.

Since our inception, we have always been committed to being a community school. As such, we really believe in working together with our community to support our schools. We have partnered with the Lamond Riggs Civic Association, ANC 5A, the Lamond Riggs Library and the Main Street organization, all of which are located in the Lamond Riggs Community.

In addition, we always invite community members to our events, such as our celebration of learning, our End of the Year Celebration, promotion and our annual fish fry.

We are excited to continue to partner with the local community organizations in order to support our families, and to serve as a resource for families in need through our food pantry.

- **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?**
- The immediate vicinity of SJS' proposed location is home to several schools, including Lasalle Backus Elementary School (PreK-5th), Rocketship Infinity Campus (PreK-5th), DC Bilingual (PreK-5th), and Washington Latin (6th-12th). Compared to these schools, SJS has shown the highest growth to proficiency, as indicated by achieving a score of 3+ on the PARCC Assessment for the 6-8 grade level band..

Most of the schools in the surrounding neighborhood only go up to 5th grade, which minimizes direct competition and presents opportunities for SJS to collaborate with these schools. SJS has already established partnerships with Rocketship and DC Bilingual, and we are enthusiastic about continuing these collaborations. Additionally, it's important to note that there are additional middle schools in Ward 5, providing a continuum of education options for students in the area.

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

SJS held an open board of trustees meeting on March 27th 2024 in order to discuss the changes.

- **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.**

SJS has been located at our current location, 5450 Third Street NE, for four amazing years. We have always been transparent about our need and desire to find our permanent facility after our license agreement expired. We consistently have engaged all of our stakeholders, including, staff, scholar-activists, parents, and Board members in this process.

SJS has held monthly meetings, called our "Chit Chats", where our Principal, Brandon Johnson, and our Executive Director, Myron Long share updates about our progress as a school community. The structure of these meetings provide space for leaders to share updates and for parents to address concerns. We have been sharing our progress to date with our families in these meetings.

In addition, SJS also uses 'Class Dojo', a communication platform, to provide updates about our progress in finding our facility for the 24-25 SY. Moreover, we also share monthly updates via our school newsletter.

Concerns have been raised, particularly regarding transportation. We acknowledge the importance of this aspect and have proactively addressed it in our communications. We've highlighted that the majority of our families currently use the metro for commuting, and the proposed location is not only closer to the metro station but is also on the same green line. This strategic choice ensures that the new location remains accessible and convenient for

our families, alleviating transportation concerns.

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.*

Social Justice School has been actively engaged in discussions with key community stakeholders to ensure transparency and alignment with the interests of our neighbors. Specifically, we have maintained ongoing communication with Gordon Fletcher, the ANC for the single-member district in which our new facility will be located. Mr. Fletcher has been a valuable partner in our planning process, providing insights and perspectives from the local community.

Additionally, we have also established a close working relationship with Zachary Parker, the current Ward 5 Councilman. Councilman Parker has shown great enthusiasm and support for the Social Justice School's presence in Ward 5. His input and guidance have been invaluable as we navigate the path forward. Both elected officials remain excited about our temporary location and the prospect of our current location.

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?

We contacted Councilman Parker on February 21st, and March 27, 2024. We contacted Commissioner Fletcher on March 8th and March 27th.

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

There were no concerns mentioned from the community.

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

Social Justice School's budget can be found [here](#).



**ACTION BY UNANIMOUS WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
SOCIAL JUSTICE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL INC.**

The undersigned, constituting all of the fully elected and/or appointed trustees of Social Justice Public Charter School, Inc. a nonprofit corporation (the "Corporation"), hereby take the following action by unanimous written consent in accordance with the governing law and Bylaws of the Corporation:

The Trustees have reviewed and considered the change in facilities for the Social Justice School as attached as Exhibit A.

After evaluation of the matters, the undersigned trustees give their unanimous written consent to the change in facilities. SJS will be located at 333 Kennedy Street for the 24-25 SY.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Corporation approve the change in facilities.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers of the Corporation are authorized and directed to take such action and to execute such documents as they may deem necessary or proper to carry out the purpose and intent of the foregoing resolution.

This Unanimous Written Consent may be executed in counterparts and shall be effective for all purposes on Monday, April 1.

Trustees



Patricia Brantley Date 04/1/24



Caitlin Campbell-Hahn Date 3.29.24



Joel Smith Goering Date 3/29/2024



Shannon Hodge Date 03/29/2024



Eric Goldstein Date 3/29/2024



Maia Shanklin Roberts Date 4.2.24



Neils Ribeiro-Yemofio

3.29.24
Date



Aaron Stallworth

3/29/2024_
Date



Dionne McDonald

Date 4/2/2024

3/28/24



Tammy Tuck

Date

[Exhibit A](#)