



HYDE PARK-KENWOOD COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

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The Schools Committee

August 4, 2014

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Alderman William D. Burns (4th)
435 E. 35th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60615

Dear Alderman Burns:

The Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference and its Schools Committee are built on the principle of community process and input in major decisions. The HPKCC Schools Committee understood from the announcement of the schools repurposing process that you were to lead open meetings to decide the best future for the Canter building. We recognize circumstances that may have made this difficult but we had hoped for more. It is our opinion that the community and key stakeholders were not engaged in an open process about the future of the Canter building.

We consider the April, 2014 letter to the Herald, which expressed your view that moving the Kenwood Academic Center to the Canter building would be a good use, to be the only public notification given. It was not until your June monthly meeting that any details were provided and the community had a chance to help you frame out the details. We would have preferred a process with key stakeholders, such as parents and LSC's, along with residents and CPS to discuss various possibilities for the use of the Canter building. The HPKCC Schools Committee is dedicated to providing equity and quality across a strong K-12 continuum, and making it easier for each school to provide its own suite of options. We now look forward to working with you and Principal Jones to make the repurposing of the Canter building a means to strengthen the middle grade experience in our neighborhood.

Going forward the HPKCC Schools Committee expects that there will be greater transparency and engagement of a greater number of stakeholders. We also want to extend our help as you continue to work towards developing plans to strengthen the Hyde Park – Kenwood schools.

Regards,

Anita Hollins, President, and for the Board of Directors
Nancy Baum and Camille Hamilton-Doyle, for the Schools Committee

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in good standing