

Letter from the Executive Director



Photo credit: Beverlie Lord

Dear Stokes School Community,

We reached two major milestones in the final weeks of January. During our January board meeting, Stokes School trustees approved a new site for our second campus. A few days later, we became only the fourth charter school in the District of Columbia to successfully complete a 20-year charter review and renewal. These are both huge accomplishments in the life and evolution of our school. We are extremely proud of our 20-year history and very eager to embark upon the next stage of growth.

For many years, members of the school community encouraged us to expand and open a second campus. But we chose to grow slowly and deliberately in order to improve and develop our academic program, school culture and operational systems. In 2015, we decided that we had reached a point in the development of our school that we were prepared to replicate. In preparation for this replication, several members of our administrative leadership team participated in a Strategic Growth Initiative sponsored by Bellwether Education Partners. This process helped to confirm that we were growing for the right reasons and to be very intentional about how, when and where to grow.

Another major factor that influenced our decision to open a second campus is the reality that the number of applications we receive from prospective families annually far exceeds the number of available spaces – more than 50:1. The area East of the Anacostia River does not currently have a language immersion charter school, which makes it an ideal location for our second campus. We believe that all families and communities across DC deserve access to a high quality language immersion program like the one that Stokes School has offered for the last twenty years.

In late January 2018, our board approved a site in an excellent location in Ward 7. It is spacious, has extensive grounds, offers easy access to metro bus and train lines and is in close proximity to a DC Parks and Recreation site. It is the former Evans Middle School building on 5600 East Capitol St., NE. We will operate our school on the first and second floors of the building. Maya Angelou Public Charter School currently operates a high school program on the third and fourth floors of the building. The Maya Angelou PCS community is very warm and welcoming and we look forward to co-locating with them. We are in the process of finalizing an agreement to occupy the building and plan to open our Stokes School “East End” campus in August of 2018. The program will be a replication of our Brookland campus and will begin with four pre-kindergarten classes and two kindergarten classes. We will add a grade level each year until we reach fifth grade.

A successful replication will mean that in addition to opening our second campus, we are able to maintain the integrity and stability of our current campus. We are working to ensure a smooth transition from one campus to two. Please join us in the March First Friday session to hear more updates about our plans for both campuses.

Sincerely

Erika Bryant
Executive Director