

Good morning,

I wanted to write to tell you about Metro Deaf School and to invite you to come and visit us sometime soon.

Metro Deaf School is in Saint Paul near Como on the corner of Lexington and Energy Park. We serve 35 school districts around the metro providing a state of the art education for Deaf, DeafBlind, and hard of hearing students. We serve over 115 students ages 3-21 years old. And we are an extremely diverse school that looks like the Twin Cities with 65% students of color and 40% first or second generation refugees. We are unique in that of the 35 school districts we serve, 34 of those school districts place students with us and use Metro Deaf as their federal setting 4 Deaf and DeafBlind school option. We have families move to the Twin Cities from all over the U.S. to place their children in our program. We are a gem in Saint Paul and in the state of Minnesota.

I would love for you to meet our students and staff. Some who also live in Ward 3. I would ask that you visit us and see for yourself what our school is like and how we are meeting the needs of students and families. It is scary to have a Deaf or a DeafBlind child and parents grieve. Having an educational option that meets their needs in a fully accessible environment is a big relief. We have speech services, occupation therapy, physical therapy, counseling, sign language therapy, DeafBlind instruction, and orientation and mobility. We offer free sign language classes to parents along with other educational supports and community events. Lastly, we have a social work and mental health team who work with students and families.

When making decisions for Saint Paul's future, I hope you remember schools like ours and the families and students who are impacted by those decisions. Currently we are looking at the options for trying to build a gym for our students. We have tried renting gym space from Saint Paul Parks and Recreation as well as other schools and we have been turned down at every turn. Our students need a place for gross motor activity, physical education, and sports. If you could please think about the needs of our students when voting this Wednesday about the future option of having the school secure bonds, I would greatly appreciate it.

If you can make time in your schedule, I would love to help you plan a visit. You can email me or call me at 651-259-1050.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and consider a visit.

Dr. Susan Lane-Outlaw  
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Executive Director

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