

Voicemail from Janey Atchison, 651-491-6565

I am calling regarding the conduit bond hearing for Hope Community Academy and MN Math and Science Academy.

I know they are seeking conduit bonds to purchase additional properties in order to expand their schools. Hope Academy is going to tear down three houses which means more properties to be removed off the property tax rolls that fund 1/3 of the public-school budget.

In both instances no study has been done to identify the impact the continued expansion will have on our communities and our traditional public schools.

Pragmatization of public institutions has already caused trouble; it hyper-segregates, if you look at their data. They're able to council out students, their cross subsidies are out of control, and they're able to bill back schools' districts with these IEPs that really don't offer appropriate stacking guidelines.

Just lots of issues around charter schools that I have specifically with their charter bill pack special ed process. The Hope Charter school; that building was not designed to be a school and they are going to be able to get bonds, potentially, because they picked a building that was not supposed to be designed as a school.

Increasing privatization of public entities causes harm to our communities especially when further public dollars are used to privatize various aspects. In the case of education, we are seeing more and more public dollars being handed over with no insight or input. For example, there's multiple charter schools in Saint Paul whose leadership makes far more than anyone in the Saint Paul school district does. Lots of questions around that, their fiduciary duties, charter school boards are not elected by the public and charter schools are not subject to the same oversight as Saint Paul Public schools.

Its unethical to allow public dollars to be spent when there is no citizen oversight and we have wonderful schools that our students can go to.

I'm asking that the HRA vote 'No' on conduit bonds for any charter schools until there is a study done to look at the impact of our communities and our schools. "Vote No!"