

## Sheldon, Tina (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Heintz, Polly (CI-StPaul)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 5, 2021 5:50 PM  
**To:** Sheldon, Tina (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** FW: Charters and Conduit Bonds

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**From:** Jack Williams <jwilliams@mdsmn.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 5, 2021 12:02 PM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Charters and Conduit Bonds

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

March 5th, 2021

Jack Williams

529 Iowa Ave E

St. Paul, MN 55130

**Council Ward 5**

St. Paul City Council Amy Brendmoen

527 Payne Ave

St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Amy Bredmoen and St. Paul City Councils,

I'm a long-time East Side St. Paul resident, and I couldn't see myself anywhere but be in the beautiful, strong, diverse neighborhood that I proudly called my home.

I am writing to urge you to consider voting against the possibility of a resolution that would not allow the charter schools to apply for conduit bonds for 6 months. I want to tell you briefly about our charter school, Metro Deaf School. In my 15 years serving after-school programs for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind students. It was such a rewarding and joyful experience to watch our students growing into exceptional citizens.

Metro Deaf School is a free public charter school serving Pre-K-12th Grade and Transitional programs. We provide a bilingual and interdisciplinary curriculum using American Sign Language (ASL) and English for students who are primarily Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard-of-Hearing. Our school promotes academic excellence for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students using an ASL/English (write, read, and/or spoke) bilingual approach. We are the second oldest charter school in the nation since 1992, and we proudly serve to St. Paul community since we originated.

We moved into a larger school two years ago at Energy Park Drive and Lexington Ave from Brewster St (right next to Hmong College Prep Academy). We are so thrilled to use the bigger school, so our students have a better opportunity to learn so many amazing things. Our school's enrollment grows into 120 students, and we are expecting more students enrolling later in a few months after the COVID-19 pandemic start to dwindle, and schools are safe to go back full time.

When we brought the school without a gym, we have the vision of what we wanted for a community center down the road and tirelessly do fundraising and writing grants to help us build the gym so our students can do sports practices and PE classes. Currently, we are using the open area in the building, garage, and/or rent a gym space at various St. Paul schools and community centers.

Our dream is to build a beautiful community center where all deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind community members in Twin Cities gather and use our space. We also wanted to make a stronger connection to our beloved St. Paul neighbors by allowing them to come in to take ASL classes, using our spaces for events and working closely with St. Paul Recreation Centers to set up games to play with their teams. To add this one, our school was informed that bonds are ready to work with us and complete our longtime dream to build a community center sooner than we originally thought.

If St. Paul City Councils decide to vote to support the resolution will be so devastating to our school because we waited a long time to make sure our students' needs be met and able to work with our community efficiently. It's time for us to have a gym to put smiles on our students. I'm asking you to vote against suspending the bonds for charter schools.

Thank you for your time to read this email.

The tour at school: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tt8uL7YxGhA&t=3s>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MetroDeafSchool>

School's website: [www.mdsmn.org](http://www.mdsmn.org)

Warmly,

Jack Williams

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# GO CHEETAHS!!!

**Jack Williams**

**pronouns: he, him, his**

**Student Life Coordinator**

**[jwilliams@mdsmn.org](mailto:jwilliams@mdsmn.org)**

**Metro Deaf School**

**1125 Energy Park Drive St. Paul, MN 55108**

**VP (763) 515-0697 | Text (651) 600-2467 | Voice (651) 224-3995**

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*Chartering 20 Years in Deaf Education*