

**NLWJC - Kagan**

**DPC - Box 058 - Folder-008**

**Washington DC - Charter Schools**

**SCHEDULE PROPOSAL**

**October 15, 1998**

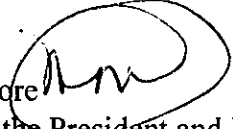
ACCEPT

REGRET

PENDING

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**TO:** Stephanie Streett  
Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Scheduling

**FROM:** Minyon Moore   
Assistant to the President and Director of Public Liaison

Carol Thompson-Cole  
Advisor, Office of Management and Budget

**REQUEST:** For the President and First Lady to attend a ceremony commemorating the grand opening of the Community Academy Public Charter School (CAPCS).

**PURPOSE:** To congratulate Kent Amos and the Urban Family Institute for establishing a charter school and to show the President's commitment to enriching inner city communities and expanding educational opportunities.

**BACKGROUND:** The Community Academy Public Charter School (CAPCS) is a new public charter school founded by the Urban Family Institute. The school, which opened in September, enrolls 290 children in grades pre-kindergarten through seventh grades as well as 23 young adults in an automotive technology training program. The school is open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm. Each teacher and many of the parents volunteer 2 hours each day in after school programs. The founders of the Community Academy hope to eventually expand the school to operate as a multi-campus, mixed-use educational institution that combines instruction with job training and other community-based services for neighborhoods throughout northwest Washington.

**DATE AND TIME:** Flexible, before Thanksgiving

**DURATION:** 1 hour

**LOCATION:** Community Academy Public Charter School

1300 Allison Street, NW  
Washington, DC

**PARTICIPANTS:** The President and First Lady, along with representatives from the Urban Family Institute and the Community Academy Public Charter School

**REMARKS REQUIRED:** Yes

**MEDIA COVERAGE:** Optional

**FIRST LADY'S ATTENDANCE:** Invited

**VICE PRESIDENT'S ATTENDANCE:** No

**CONTACT:** Minyon Moore or Jocelyn Neis, 6-7910

**ORIGIN OF THIS PROPOSAL:** Kent Amos, President, Urban Family Institute



1400 16th Street, N.W., Suite 101  
Washington, D.C. 20036-2266

October 7, 1998

Minyon Moore  
Assistant to the President and  
Director for Public Liaison  
Office of Public Liaison  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Moore:

I am writing to request the presence of the President and the First Lady at the grand opening ceremony of the Community Academy Public Charter School. The Community Academy Public Charter School (CAPCS), a new public charter school founded by the Urban Family Institute, is described below. The event will be held at the Community Academy at **1300 Allison Street, NW**. The date is flexible based on the availability of the First Family, however we would like to hold the event prior to Thanksgiving.

The school will be dedicated and named in honor of my father and mother, Ben and Gladys Amos, both lifetime residents of the District. My mother taught in the DC Public Schools for 32 years and my father was a graduate of DCPS and an attorney. My father has been ill for sometime, and may not live beyond the first of the year, so there is some urgency to the timing of the dedication. Two special dates (my father's 87<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 12<sup>th</sup> and my parents 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary on October 23<sup>rd</sup>) will add to the celebration.

When President Clinton wrote in Between Hope and History about Carmen's and my work with DC young people, he praised our plan to create neighborhoods where families would have the resources necessary to support their children and move to self-sufficiency. The Community Academy makes that dream a reality. Our goal in developing CAPCS was to create a full-service community-based learning center providing world-class education, after-school enrichment, social and health services, as well as entrepreneurial training and business development. At the Community Academy, we expect academic and personal excellence from all students as well as their families.

The school opened in September 1998 and educates 290 children in grades pre-Kindergarten through Seventh grades as well as 23 young adults in an automotive technology training program. The school is open from 7:00 am until

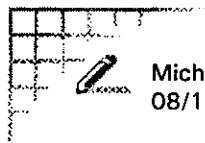
8:00 pm, with every teacher and many of our parents volunteering at least 2 hours with the children at our after-school Kids House. Eventually CAPCS will operate as a multi-campus, mixed-use educational institution combining rigorous academic instruction with social services, job training and other community-based services for communities throughout Northwest Washington, DC.

We would be honored to have the President and Mrs. Clinton attend the Community Academy's celebratory event and the realization of our dream to educate children and support families. Please call my office at (202) 234-KIDS to coordinate the scheduling of this special event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Amos", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kent Amos  
President, Urban Family Institute  
Vice Chair, Community Academy Public Charter School



Michael Cohen  
08/13/98 08:49:03 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: I'm out on Friday

but am pageable if you need me.

Bruce--got the POTUS note suggesting a DC charter schools event. Jon will send us an e-mail on Friday with possibilities. Also, note that ED will have charter schools grants to announce at the end of Sept, probably the 30th (and not before) if we are looking for a news hook.



09:52:06 PM

Record Type: Record

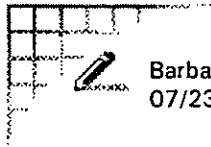
To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP  
cc: Michael Cohen/OPD/EOP, Jonathan H. Schnur/OPD/EOP  
Subject: charter schools -- quick update

Just wanted to brief you on a recent development:

Jack called Melanne about D.C. developments in general this evening. They discussed the issue of charter schools in particular in some detail. Melanne conveyed her support of the House version of the D.C. approps on charter schools. She argued that since it's unlikely that we will ever get the \$100 million in economic development money, we should state outright our support for the House position and work to ensure that this is the resolution in conference. He seemed amenable on that issue. However, they did not go into detail about the Senate.

Also, I wanted to explain the concern about Carol that I raised earlier. Basically, Carol has been working with the Control Board very closely for a long time, and I am concerned that Carol has been advocating the Board position on these matters, even on those issues on which the Administration and the Board may have conflicting views, e.g. charters. (I believe Jon shares this concern.) My concern is that the Board's position on the request for broad transfer authority is untenable, and that for all we know, they are using the issue of charter schools as leverage to get transfer authority in lieu of a real resolution of the charter school issue. This of course is a gamble, because they could easily never receive the transfer authority as well as any resolution of charters. And in fact, this is what happened in the Senate full committee -- while Jon and I were told several times that the Senate would fix the problem with some kind of transfer authority, they neither fixed charter schools nor offered any transfer authority. In my conversations with Carol, she has argued the Board position, and while I realize that we must be deferential to the Board, such deference does not preclude us from trying to convince them to take actions that would meet some Administration priorities as well. My only concern was that the DPC/Education/First Lady view gets communicated to Jack, and hopefully, ultimately to Alice. However, the conversation between Jack and Melanne above assauges many of these concerns.

Thanks.



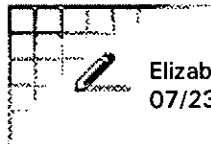
Barbara Chow  
07/23/98 07:22:22 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP  
cc:  
Subject: DC House Approps

FYI. As Mike feared. We should probably sort out a response.

----- Forwarded by Barbara Chow/OMB/EOP on 07/23/98 07:22 PM -----



Elizabeth Gore  
07/23/98 06:42:02 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message  
cc:  
Subject: DC House Approps

The subcommittee mark includes a \$21 million plus up for charter schools (to \$33 million). The plus-up is taken out of the public school account.

The bill is \$83 million below its allocation, (so presumably amendments could be offered to make the public school account whole although I know of no Dems that are planning to offer such amendments in subcommittee).

There is NO Davis-Bacon limitation on school repairs/construction.

Message Sent To:

Jonathan H. Schnur/OPD/EOP@EOP  
Neera Tanden/WHO/EOP@EOP  
Barbara Chow/OMB/EOP@EOP  
Charles E. Kieffer/OMB/EOP@EOP  
Martha Foley/WHO/EOP@EOP



3 → 22

cons. budget	12m	2,200
		↓
needed:	30m	4,000 expected

Sen DC Appropri. 2 days ago

supposed to do report.

Control? P&L says  
do this:

House - tomorrow

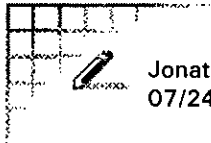
2. limited on floor?

↳ W.T.imes: It will add \$20m

not clear from what.

It will add vouchers long to bill.

have to make  
sure to fix for  
future.



Jonathan H. Schnur  
07/24/98 11:12:48 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP  
cc: Michael Cohen/OPD/EOP, Neera Tanden/WHO/EOP  
Subject: DC charter schools

Elena --

I wanted to give you an update on what has happened in the past 24 hours on DC charter schools.

House action in subcommittee today on the DC appropriations bill. The subcommittee mark fully funded charter schools -- increasing the charter school line item from \$12 million to \$32 million -- by cutting the same amount from the DC public school system. However, according to OMB, Congressman Moran spoke in the mark-up about the need to fully fund charter schools and the rest of the DC public school system. Congressman Taylor, the subcommittee chair, supposedly agreed to take this approach in the mark-up of the bill in full committee next Thursday. Taylor apparently said the additional funding would come out of the federal payment to DC -- a payment used for other purposes in the Senate but most of which Taylor had not planned to appropriate to DC at all. Moreover, Livingston also attended the mark-up and apparently made a supportive statement about this approach. This is obviously better news than expected, though I don't think we can be certain that this agreement will hold -- particularly given that the Taylor's subcommittee took the wrong approach by cutting funds from the DC school system to fully fund the charter schools.

**Rumors of Senate Action on the floor last night.** Last night about 8:30 pm, we got word that the DC appropriations bill was possibly going to be brought to the floor of the Senate last night or this morning. OMB sent us a SAP to review including language on the charter school issue and a likely voucher amendment. Surprised that the bill was coming to the floor so quickly, Neera and I got a number of people on the line to assess the situation in the Senate on the bill and on the status of the charter school issue. In a conference call with OMB (Carol Thompson Cole, Janie Jeffers, and Roz Rettman) and eventually Control Board staff (Tim Leath), we discussed the charter school issue but soon learned that the bill was not going to the floor of the Senate until next week...probably later next week. Therefore, the SAP did not need to be sent last night, though it may need to be sent early next week.

**Last night's conference call -- more information on the Control Board's and Senate's preliminary positions.** Control Board staff indicated that the Board's efforts this week have been focused primarily on getting very broad authority to transfer funding from one portion of their budget to another -- an approach with many benefits to the Control Board, only one of which is making it possible to transfer funding into the charter school line item. The Senate apparently was -- not surprisingly -- reluctant to provide such broad transfer authority.

The control board staff also indicated that the Senate was considering two options for addressing the charter school issue in a Manager's amendment to the appropriations bill. The first option was to take funding from the DC surplus to fully fund the charter schools. The second option was simply to direct the Control Board to fully fund charter schools. Under the second option -- unless further steps were taken in the House or in conference to provide the Control Board additional transfer authority -- the Control Board would be forced to increase funding for charter schools at the expense of other items in DC's education account. (This account includes the DC public school system, UDC, and libraries.)

When Control Board staff expressed to us concerns with both of these options, we outlined another option -- providing the Control Board specific authority to transfer funding from anywhere in the DC budget into the education account for charter schools. The staffer said he couldn't speak for the Control Board but that his recommendation to the Board would be that they *not* task Senate staff to take this approach. He implied that

Senate adoption of this option now could jeopardize the Board's attempts to secure broader transfer authority -- essentially, he implied that he didn't want to lose one of his strongest arguments for a broad transfer authority simply in order to fix the charter school issue now. He said it might be easier to support more specific transfer authority once the bill is in conference -- apparently if the Board has given up at that point on getting the broader authority. Finally, the staffer did say that he understood the need for the Control Board to publicly state its intention to fully fund charter schools.

**OMB calls to Alice Rivlin.** After the call, Mike Cohen, Neera and I spoke about next steps. Carol Thompson Cole had said she would call Alice Rivlin, but we agreed that a higher-level call to Rivlin was important. Melanne called Jack Lew this morning to ask him to call Alice Rivlin to ask for two things:

1) for the Control Board to support an alternative in the Senate that would make it possible to fully fund charter schools without taking the funding from the DC public school system -- by granting the Control Board specific authority to transfer funding from anywhere in the DC budget into the education account for charter schools. (We also could ask the Control Board if it could quietly tolerate cuts in other programs to fully fund the charter schools)

2) for the Control Board to make a public statement -- at the appropriate point in the near future -- about its desire to fully fund charter schools without taking funds away from the DC public school system.

I don't believe that Jack Lew and Alice Rivlin spoke today, but I have not been able to confirm that. I will let you know anything more as soon as I find out.

**Next steps.** Here's my best sense of next steps for Monday. What do you think?

1) Find out what the Control Board's position is on this. If Jack Lew does not speak to Alice Rivlin, I think we need to identify another way to do this quickly. Their position should affect the approach we take.

2) Convene another meeting to discuss the situation. Determine best option to pursue. This clearly needs further discussion, but here's my best sense of possible options: (I think option 1 is probably the most desirable. According to Control Board staff, options 2 and 4 are currently being considered by Senate staff. Option 5 seems to be the current Control Board strategy.)

OPTION 1 -- Support a Senate amendment granting the Board specific authority to transfer funding from anywhere in the DC budget into the education account in order to fully fund charter schools. This may make the most sense if A) the Control Board is willing to work with us to include this in the Senate bill and B) commit to using this authority to fully fund charter schools without significantly cutting the DC public school system. It may be hard to get the Senate to include this without Control Board support.

OPTION 2 -- Support a Senate amendment to take funding from the surplus in order to fully fund charter schools. This may make the most sense if the Control Board is unwilling to work with us, given problems with the following options. But OMB may well have serious concerns about this, given OMB's and the Control Board's past opposition to this.

OPTION 3 -- Identify cuts in other DC programs (outside of the education account) in order to fully fund charter schools, and get the Senate to include these recommendations in Senate amendment.

OPTION 4 -- Support Senate amendment directing Control Board to fully fund charter schools. Absent any new authority for the Control Board to allocate funds to charter schools from outside the education account, this would force the Control Board to support charter schools by cutting the DC public school system. Support for this approach doesn't seem to make sense -- given that the only way to fully fund charter schools and the DC public school system under this approach would be to rely on getting the right transfer authority in conference.

OPTION 5 -- Do nothing in the Senate. (We could still encourage the House committee to honor the apparent commitments made today by Taylor and fully fund charter schools and the DC public school system -- taking money from the federal payment that had not been fully allocated in the subcommittee mark-up. Push for the House position or the right fix in conference. But it seems like a very risky strategy to rely on the House for DC appropriations issues.) Yes

OPTION 6 -- Encourage the Senate to include language expressing an interest in fully funding all public schools -- including charter schools -- without a specific fix. This perhaps could help leave the door open to negotiations in conference.

Options 1-3 only

Back to  
ask  
Rivlin

why?

3) Agree on language for a SAP that reflects our decision -- or that is general enough to cover the options that we are still considering.