



SAINT PAUL NAACP
Roy Wilkins Memorial Branch
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St. Paul NAACP Statement
Concerning the Proposed Expansion of the Twin Cities German Immersion Charter School
December 19, 2018

The St. Paul NAACP issues this statement in opposition to the proposed expansion of the Twin Cities German Immersion Charter School (“TCGIS”), because we believe that it will exacerbate the racial and socioeconomic segregation in the St. Paul schools.

In July 2016, during the 107th National Convention, delegates of the National NAACP unanimously passed a Resolution calling for a moratorium on charter school expansion. The NAACP National Board of Directors formally ratified the Resolution on October 15, 2016. As the text of that resolution states, one of the primary concerns that the National NAACP was addressing was that “charter schools have contributed to the increased segregation rather than diverse integration of our public school system.”

The potential expansion of TCGIS is the type of charter school expansion that the NAACP Resolution specifically addresses. According to the Minnesota Department of Education, TCGIS’ student population is 87% white, 13% students of color, and only 7% low-income (qualifying for free-or-reduced-price lunch). In stark contrast, the surrounding school district, St. Paul Public Schools, is 21% white, 79% students of color, and 68% low-income. Expansion of such a predominantly white and relatively wealthy charter school in the heart of the city would frustrate efforts to desegregate St. Paul schools and contribute to further racial and socioeconomic segregation.

The concerns of local educational policy are highly germane to the decision-making of any city governmental body. Racial and socioeconomic segregation in our schools is the responsibility of all government officials to eradicate, and it is certainly their obligation to avoid any decision to make things worse. Education has a special place in our society. The Minnesota State Constitution singles out education to receive special protection and requires unique obligations by the state to provide an adequate education to all students. Courts since *Brown v. Board of Education* have found that segregated education is both unconstitutional and immoral. We strongly urge the Planning Commission and all other city officials involved to reject the proposed expansion and prevent further segregation of our schools.

About the St. Paul NAACP

The St. Paul NAACP is part of a national network of more than 2,400 branches of the NAACP covering all 50 states and the District of Columbia. As the Nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization, the NAACP has more than 500,000 members in the United States and overseas. The mission of the NAACP and its state and local affiliates is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all persons, and to protect constitutional rights. The St. Paul NAACP is the local unit of the NAACP comprising members within St. Paul.