Warren proposes selling 2 schools

Schools

Buildings offered to charters for $3M

DAVID RILEY

@RILZD

Mayor Lovely Warren has proposed selling two former public city schools to charter school operators for a combined $3 million.

If City Council agrees, the former School 22 on Zimbrich Street off Joseph Avenue would be sold to Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School. The discontinued School 36 at Carter and St. Jacob streets would go to Uncommon Schools.

Both buildings are in northeast Rochester and would be sold for $1.5 million each. The Rochester School District discontinued use of both schools last year and the city took control of the buildings, according to Warren's legislation.

In a related measure, Warren also has proposed a new exemption to a requirement that tax-exempt purchasers of city-owned properties waive their tax-exempt status for five years and pay property taxes.

Under Warren’s proposal, buyers who purchase a school building with the intent to continue using it as a school would not be required to waive their tax-exempt status. This would apply to most charter school operators.

The mayor’s legislation said this would give the city some flexibility in selling buildings not readily adaptable for other uses. Warren also has spoken in the past about her support for charter schools.

Eugenio Maria de Hostos plans to use School 22 to house at least 500 students in grades K-6. It also expects to spend upward of $400,000 a year on facility improvements over the next 10 years.

The same operator has another charter school nearby at 1069 Joseph Ave.

Uncommon Schools, which operates several other charter schools in the city, plans to house kindergartners at School 36 and to later introduce students through grade 4. Ultimately, 400 students are expected to attend there.
School 22 is one of two former school buildings the city wants to sell to charter operators. The plan for the School 22 building calls for at least 500 students in grades K-6.

JUSTIN MURPHY/@CITIZENMURPHY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The former School 36, at Carter and St. Jacob streets.

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