



Office of Mayor Betsy Hodges

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18th November 2016

### **Northeast Middle School**

Wiegand & Carriger

2955 Hayes Street Northeast

Minneapolis, MN 55418

Dear Northeast Middle School Engineers,

I have often spoken about the three questions on the whiteboard in my office that I ask myself every day: *How does this make the city run well? How does this move the dial on growing the city? How does this move the dial on equity?* I write to you in the hope that you can help provide our city with a solution to a challenging situation: Many places in our city are currently considered “food deserts”, there isn’t a market where people can purchase fresh, affordable produce within one mile of their residence. Your school, Northeast Middle School, is currently considered to be located within a food desert.

After hearing that your cutting-edge and innovative principal, Mr. Vernon Rowe, is implementing his new vision for NEMS where IB scholars are learning the skills and knowledge, based on our state standards, to provide a solution to this and other sustainability issues, we decided to come to you and ask you to specifically come up with plans that could be implemented in any school, any home, to address this issue. Sustainability, “Going Green” strategies, and a diverse group of young scholars utilizing problem/inquiry/hands-on learning?? Clearly what your principal, Mr. Rowe, is doing, in partnership with the Spark-Y! Program, will help our city run well, and will move the dial on both growing the city and on equitable solutions for our city -- on multiple levels.

Our city is looking to our young people, our future. We are looking for innovative engineers who can come up with a model and process to provide alternative ideas, processes, and designs to solve this food desert issue in our urban neighborhoods. We are looking for the best solutions possible, and you will need to justify why your solution is the best option for us.

Sincerely,

Mayor Betsy Hodges  
City of Minneapolis