



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

March 13, 2017

Mr. Antwan Wilson
Chancellor
DC Public Schools
1200 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20002
Antwan.Wilson@dc.gov

Ms. Greer Johnson Gillis
Director
Department of General Services
2000 14th Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20009
greer.gillis@dc.gov

RE: Support for Gym and Locker Room Renovations at the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens

Dear Chancellor Wilson and Director Gillis:

At its regular meeting on March 8, 2017, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 6 of 8 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (6-0-0):

WHEREAS, the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens is currently operating at full capacity with a waiting list, and provides athletic facilities for its students and students at School Without Walls High School,

WHEREAS, there are currently funds available to refurbish and renovate a physical plant that dates back to 1922,

WHEREAS, the school’s principal, faculty, Home and School Association (HSA), and concerned neighbors have requested that renovating and updating the gym and locker room facilities be given highest priority,

WHEREAS, the students currently have no locker rooms and no place to shower or change clothes. The boys and girls have to change in the bathrooms, and they have to carry their possessions with them because there are no lockers,

WHEREAS, the school’s gym is too small to be used by School Without Walls High School for basketball because it does not have a regulation size court. The high school has no gym facilities and wants to use the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens for practices and home games but cannot do that now,

WHEREAS, when work was done on the school’s HVAC system in the cafeteria directly below the gym the work was not performed in the gym upstairs, and

WHEREAS, the needs of the school's gym are evident, immediate, and far more pressing than any need to renovate the school's auditorium. Renovations to the gym would benefit the students directly every single day. Unlike a lengthy project involving the auditorium, upgrading the gym facilities can be dealt with immediately and with minimum impact on daily operations of the school.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B and residents of the Dupont Circle neighborhood, including parents of students at Ross Elementary School, a feeder school for the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, strongly urge the DC Public Schools and the Department of General Services to begin a renovation of the gym and locker room facilities at the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens at the earliest possible date, giving the project a higher priority than any other project involving the school. Our children need a place to shower, to change with dignity, and to store their belongings, and they need it now.

Commissioners Mike Silverstein (mike.silverstein@dupontcircleanc.net) and Nicole Mann (nicole.mann@dupontcircleanc.net) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Mann
Chair