



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

March 17, 2014

The Honorable Vincent Gray, Mayor
District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 316
Washington, DC 20004

Council of the District of Columbia
The Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Supporting full modernization of Garrison School

At its regular meeting on March 12, 2014, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 7 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (7-0):

WHEREAS, Garrison Elementary school serves residents of ANC 2B, and DCPS designates a number of families in ANC2B to Garrison as their school of right;

WHEREAS, the Dupont Circle Community along with the Logan Circle Community are working together to make our neighborhoods a place where families want to stay and raise their children, and having a system of high quality, matter-of-right DCPS community schools for all Dupont residents is essential to that goal;

WHEREAS, over the past three years, parents at Garrison have re-established a Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), developed strong partnerships with local community organizations, reached out to prospective parents, and worked directly with DCPS to improve the school;

WHEREAS, the PTA and community have greatly improved maintenance services at the school and groups through constant vigilance, volunteer efforts, and consistent advocacy;

WHEREAS, professional pro bono services and non-DCPS funds have been secured to defray the costs of modernization, and the PTA and community stand ready to further assist;

WHEREAS, DCPS anticipates the neighborhoods served by Garrison will see an increase of 125 elementary students by 2015 and retaining these current and anticipated families is essential to our community;

WHEREAS, the population in the neighborhoods surrounding Garrison (Shaw, Logan Circle, 14th Corridor, U St. corridor) is expected to be one of the densest in the District, recreational areas are scarce, and Garrison with its 3.5 acres of grounds could be greatly alleviate field scarcity and quality of life;

WHEREAS, Garrison has not undergone a single renovation since opening in 1964, and is in desperate need of capital investment, as recognized in the 2010 Master Facilities Plan and the engineering report on which the DME 2013 Public Education Master Facilities Plan is based, including:

“Many interior spaces are in need of renovations”; “Ceiling finishes are in poor condition, Asbestos tile is present throughout and needs to be removed”; “Public address and fire alarm systems are antiquated and require replacement”; [Plumbing] fixtures are outdated and should be replaced; “Wooden exterior doors need to be replaced and all exterior windows have deteriorated and need to be replaced”; ADA compliance is “unsatisfactory” and the building “needs numerous upgrades in order to accomplish [compliance]”;

WHEREAS, Garrison has an educational facilities effectiveness (EFEI) score of 36 percent according to the DME 2013 Public Education Master Facilities Plan—one of the lowest in the District;

WHEREAS, the DME 2013 Public Education Master Facilities Plan defines the Shaw/Logan Circle neighborhood as one of the “areas of greatest need” for strategic capital investment;

WHEREAS, Garrison is one of the only public schools (DCPS or charter) in the Shaw/Logan Circle neighborhood that has not been partially or fully modernized;

WHEREAS, the DME 2013 Public Education Master Facilities Plan first short term recommendation is to “target capital resources for areas of greatest facility condition and quality need with large school aged populations, but low enrollment”;

WHEREAS, the DME 2013 Public Education Master Facilities Plan first long term recommendation is to “reassess the phased modernization approach” and “fully modernize certain facilities in clusters of greatest need”;

WHEREAS, a phased modernization at Garrison would mean having to choose between an ADA compliant school and classrooms in which children can effectively learn, between a field without sinkholes and a non bunker-like school entrance, between windows that open and asbestos removal;

WHEREAS, the FY2014 Capital Improvement Plan, despite advancing Garrison's Phase 1 to FY2014, still sees the completion of Garrison's modernization in 2022—9 years away; and

WHEREAS; capital investment in Garrison has been too often postponed and is long overdue in order to meet population growth in the area and to ensure the diversity, vitality and coherence of the community.

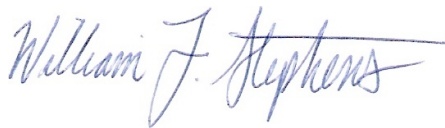
Resolution

Therefore, be it resolved that ANC 2B recommends that the City Council fully fund Garrison's modernization by allocating sufficient funds in Fiscal Year 2015 to allow for a complete, one-time modernization of both the school building and its grounds, including adequate space for community programming.

Commissioners Stephanie Maltz (stephanie.maltz@dupontcircleanc.net), Will Stephens (will.stephens@dupontcircleanc.net), and Noah Smith (noah.smith@dupontcircleanc.net) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,



Will Stephens
Chairman

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