



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

May 22, 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

Chancellor Henderson
1200 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

DME Abigail Smith
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW,
Suite 303
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Resolution to Ensure Quality Neighborhood Schools

Dear Mayor Gray and Council Members,

At its regular meeting on May 14, 2014, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) discussed District’s school boundaries and feeder patterns. With 9 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (9-0). The Commission agreed on the following resolution:

Whereas, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) were created to “advise the Council of the District of Columbia, the Mayor, and each executive agency...with respect to all proposed matters of District government policy,” including with respect to education;

Whereas, the government of the District of Columbia is obligated to accord “great weight” to advice from ANCs;

Whereas, the purpose of the District of Columbia Public Schools' (DCPS) is "to ensure that every student attends a great school, and that every school meets high standards in all areas that affect student achievement;"

Whereas, the Deputy Mayor of Education (DME) is currently leading "a comprehensive review of its (the District's) student assignment policies, including school attendance boundaries and feeder patterns;"

Whereas, ANC 2B recognizes the importance of a quality public education to the health and vitality of all communities;

Whereas, ANC 2B values quality matter-of-right public schools from pre-school through high school and will work to ensure that all residents have access to this option within our community and throughout the city;

Whereas, ANC 2B recognizes that many parents desire clear and predictable pathways through the public school system and would prefer a school within the community;

Whereas Ward 2 demographics are rapidly changing, resulting in an increasing number of families with young children;

Whereas, Ward 2 does not have a comprehensive high school to serve children of high school age, and Ward 2's by-right high school options are either overcrowded, of low quality, and/or several neighborhoods away;

Whereas Ross Elementary and School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens are the only two DCPS elementary schools, and School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens is the only DCPS middle school within the boundaries of ANC2B;

Whereas, students within the attendance boundary of Ross Elementary currently are also in the middle school attendance boundary of School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens;

Whereas, School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens is the closest middle school to Ross Elementary;

Whereas, the parents of Ross Elementary students, through their PTA and LSAT, have expressed a preference for their children to attend School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens for a middle school;

Therefore, be it resolved, that ANC 2B recommends that School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens middle school attendance boundaries remain unchanged to serve those living within the Ross Elementary attendance boundary.

And be it further resolved that ANC2B encourages study and exploration of the creation of a new high school to serve Ward 2.

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

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William F. Stephens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Will Stephens
Chairman

cc:pmendelson@dccouncil.us, dcatania@dccouncil.us, dgrosso@dccouncil.us,
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