



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

October 21, 2019

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Mayor
Government of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004
muriel.bowser@dc.gov

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004
pmendelson@dccouncil.us

Chancellor Lewis Ferebee
Chancellor
DC Public Schools
1200 First Street NW
Washington, DC 20002
Lewis.Ferebee@k12.dc.gov

RE: Needed Renovations to the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens

Dear Mayor Bowser, Chairman Mendelson, and Chancellor Ferebee,

At its regular meeting on October 16, 2019, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With six of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (6-0-0), after a motion made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens (SWWFS) is a citywide educational resource serving students from all eight wards, with the majority of attendees living outside of Ward 2,

WHEREAS, over the past several years, SWWFS has demonstrated one of the strongest year-over-year track records of academic improvement of any public elementary school in the city,

WHEREAS, beginning in 2018 school administrators and community members repeatedly called the DC Public Schools’ (DCPS) attention to the issue of overcrowding at the school,

WHEREAS, DCPS lists capacity for the SWWFS building as 513 students and the actual enrollment for the 2019 academic year is 540 students and projected enrollments for 2020 and 2021 are 568 and 597 students respectively and such projections do not include the possible influx of additional students from the Embassy of China’s expanded apartment building at 2300 Connecticut Avenue NW,



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WHEREAS, the student experience is currently negatively impacted by overcrowding at the school, which also threatens academic gains and is degrading the work environment for teachers and other school staff,

WHEREAS, the physical plant at SWWFS will be hard pressed to accommodate the number of students currently projected to enroll prior to modernization, even with the addition of portable classrooms, and

WHEREAS, DCPS has repeatedly voiced a reluctance to invest in modification of the existing plant in light of the full modernization scheduled to begin in FY 2022.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A calls on Mayor Bowser, the DC Council, and DCPS to advance initiation of the first stage of modernization at SWWFS to FY 2020 by allocating the funding necessary to commence planning for modernization of the physical plant at SWWFS and planning for and acquiring the swing space necessary to facilitate modernization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A encourages DCPS to execute, with haste, all strategies for maximizing space and minimizing disruption to student learning until such time as a complete modernization and expansion of the facility may be completed.

Commissioners Patrick Kennedy (2A01@anc.dc.gov) and William Kennedy Smith (2A04@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

William Kennedy Smith, MD
Chairperson

CC: Councilmember Jack Evans, Ward 2
Councilmember David Grosso, At-Large
Sarina Loy, Councilmember Jack Evans’ Office
Jenny Reed, Director, Office of Budget and Performance Management
Jennifer Budoff, Budget Director, DC Council
Jonathan Antista, Senior Budget Analyst, DC Council
Akeem Anderson, Committee Director, DC Council’s Committee on Education
Nicole Goines, Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services
Sharona Robinson, Community Action Team Coordinator, DC Public Schools