



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

September 29, 2015

Chancellor Kaya Henderson  
District of Columbia Public Schools  
1200 First Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
[kaya.henderson@dc.gov](mailto:kaya.henderson@dc.gov)

**RE: Renovation Funding for School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens**

Dear Chancellor Henderson,

At its regular meeting on September 16, 2015, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With seven of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted to adopt the following resolution, which was introduced by Commissioner Harmon and seconded by Commissioner Williams, by a vote of **(7-0-0)**:

WHEREAS, The School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens (SWWFS) is a DC Public School (DCPS) at 2425 N Street NW, in the West End/Foggy Bottom neighborhood within ANC 2B, but on the border with ANC 2A and the only DCPS elementary/middle school that services residents of ANC 2A, after Stevens Elementary was closed in 2008 and the students were transferred to SWWFS;

WHEREAS, SWWFS has seen its enrollment double in the last two years to 416;

WHEREAS, the SWWFS school building will soon reach its capacity of 500, with students representing all eight wards and having a waiting list of more than 500 additional applicants;

WHEREAS, SWWFS has not received a Phase 1 renovation, and this past summer’s renovation funding was a very small stabilization effort, which is some of the first renovations monies the school building has seen since the 1920’s. Furthermore, in 2008, when Stevens Elementary was merged into the Francis Junior High School building, the school building received a “schools blitz” of very limited scope to update early childhood classrooms with such things as age-appropriate toilet facilities, but little more than that;

WHEREAS, DC’s Department of General Services says that SWWFS has received essentially no substantial work similar to the work completed at Browne, Eliot, and Jefferson, among other DCPS facilities;

WHEREAS, SWWFS was allocated \$2.5 million in capital improvement funds in FY 2015 to plan a full modernization and to modernize some short-term priorities, such as its gymnasium and auditorium;



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WHEREAS, DC Public Schools has approved the gymnasium and auditorium projects;

WHEREAS, the SWWFS auditorium renovations has been put on hold as well as the renovations of the SWWFS gymnasium for lack of funding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ANC2A asks DC’s Department of General Services; Councilmember David Grosso, Chair of the DC Council Education Committee; Ms. Jennifer Niles, Deputy Mayor for Education; and Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans to continue making all due efforts to help bring the FY15 SWWFS auditorium and gymnasium projects to completion.

Commissioners Patrick Kennedy ([Patrick.Kennedy@anc.dc.gov](mailto:Patrick.Kennedy@anc.dc.gov)) and Florence Harmon ([2A06@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A06@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy  
Chairperson

cc: Chairman Phil Mendelson, DC Council  
Councilmember Jack Evans, Ward 2  
Councilmember David Grosso, At-Large  
Councilmember Elissa Silverman, At-Large  
Councilmember Vincent Orange, At-Large  
Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large  
Councilmember Brandon Todd, Ward 4  
Councilmember Charles Allen, Ward 6  
Councilmember Brianne Nadeau, Ward 1  
Councilmember Mary Cheh, Ward 3  
Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5  
Councilmember Yvette Alexander, Ward 7  
Councilmember LaRuby May, Ward 8  
Jennifer Niles, Deputy Mayor for Education  
Jack Jacobson, State Board of Education  
Mary Lord, State Board of Education  
ANC 2A Commissioners