



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

December 12, 2016

Mr. John Davis
Interim Chancellor
District of Columbia Public Schools
1200 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
john.davis@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: Auditorium and Gymnasium Repairs for the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens

Dear Chancellor Davis and Director Gillis,

At its regular meeting on October 20, 2016, 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 (**5-0-0**), after a motion made by Chair Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Smith, to adopt the following resolution:

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

WHEREAS, SWWFS has seen its enrollment double in the last three years to 478 students, even though the actual enrollment cap is 454 students,

WHEREAS, the SWWFS school building will soon reach its capacity of 500, with students representing all eight wards and with 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, resulting in some of the first renovations monies the school building has seen since the 1920s. Furthermore, when Stevens Elementary was merged into the Francis building in 2008, it received a “schools blitz” of very limited scope to update early childhood classrooms rooms with such things as age-appropriate toilet facilities, but little more than that,

WHEREAS, the DC Department of General Services (DGS) says that SWWFS has received essentially no substantial work that is similar in scope to what



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Browne, Eliot-Hine, and Jefferson Schools, among other DCPS facilities, received,

WHEREAS, SWWFS was allocated \$3 million in capital improvement funds in FY 2017 to modernize some short-term priorities, such as its gymnasium and auditorium,

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

WHEREAS, the SWWFS gymnasium and auditorium renovations have been put on hold for over two years due to lack of funding, however, presently, in the FY 2017 budget, funding of \$3 million currently exists, and

WHEREAS, the SWWFS administration and the school’s Home and School Association’s top priority is the renovation and expansion of the SWWFS gymnasium, with the second priority being the auditorium renovations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A asks the Department of General Services; Councilmember David Grosso, Chair of the DC Council’s Committee on Education; Ms. Jennifer Niles, Deputy Mayor for Education; and Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans to continue making all due efforts to help bring the FY 2017 School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens auditorium and gymnasium projects to completion.

Commissioners Florence Harmon (2A04@anc.dc.gov) and Patrick Kennedy (2A01@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 Robert White, Jr., At-Large
Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large
Councilmember Brandon Todd, Ward 4



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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, DC State Board of Education
Mary Lord, DC State Board of Education