



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

August 11, 2017

Mr. Antwan Wilson  
Chancellor  
District of Columbia Public Schools  
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Ms. Jennifer Niles  
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**RE: School Without Walls Usage of the Stevens Elementary School at 1050  
21st Street NW**

Dear Chancellor Wilson, Deputy Mayor Niles, and Deputy Mayor Kenner,

At its regular meeting on July 19, 2017, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“**ANC 2A**” or “**Commission**”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 8 of 8 commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (**8-0-0**), after a motion made by Commissioner Harmon and seconded by Commissioner Schrefer, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, ANC 2A, by resolution dated April 24, 2017, objected to the failure of the DC Public Schools (DCPS), the Deputy Mayor for Education’s Office (DME), and the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development’s Office (DMPED) to honor commitments made to the community and Ivymount School, the selected educational user of the Stevens Elementary School building, and urged DCPS, DME, and DMPED to honor those commitments,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A followed the troubling events surrounding the repudiation of those commitments by DCPS, DME, and DMPED through the DME letter dated May 17, 2017 to Commissioners Kennedy and Harmon as to the selected educational user of the Stevens Elementary School building, a property listed on the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A is and has always been convinced of the historical importance of the Stevens Elementary School, viewing the school’s heritage as unique, given its establishment in 1868 and original purpose as the first public school for the children of freed slaves in Washington, DC,



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WHEREAS, the Stevens Elementary School, as a DCPS public school, has served generations of African Americans and community members in Washington, DC as a public school, and includes among its notable graduates Charles Drew, Petey Greene, Jr., Roberta Flack, Amy Carter, Colby King, Rayford Logan, Robert Hooks, and Jonathan Ogden,

WHEREAS, the Stevens Elementary School should never have been closed as a DCPS public school in 2008, was a jewel in the community, and has served as a vibrant school supporting the needs of District of Columbia students with excellent programs since 1868,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A seeks to preserve the Stevens Elementary School, a National Historic Landmark, for the public education school purpose for which it was originally built in 1868 and urges DCPS, DMPED, and DME to support the building’s usage by School Without Walls, a DCPS public school that serves the Foggy Bottom, West End, and Dupont communities,

WHEREAS, the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, which serves the Foggy Bottom, West End, and Dupont communities, is currently over-enrolled as of last school year, even with 476 students enrolled, the maximum capacity for the school, and for this upcoming school year 485 to 500 students are expected to enroll, again the maximum capacity for the school, with the current waiting list for pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grades being 930 children, and

WHEREAS, the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens will also need swing space for upcoming renovations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Public Schools and the Deputy Mayor for Education’s Office, with the support of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development’s Office, to restore the historic Stevens Elementary School to the DCPS public school educational usage that honored the memory of abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens by making it an additional campus of the School Without Walls.

Commissioners Florence Harmon ([2A06@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A06@anc.dc.gov)) and Patrick Kennedy ([2A01@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A01@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy  
Chairperson



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CC: Richard Livingstone, Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services  
Anna Shapiro, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development’s Office  
David Toney, Vice President of Development, Akridge  
Richard Trogisch, Principal, School Without Walls  
Councilmember Jack Evans, Ward 2  
Sherri Kimbel, Director of Constituent Services, Councilmember Jack Evans  
Chairman Phil Mendelson, DC Council  
Councilmember David Grosso, At-Large  
Councilmember Elissa Silverman, At-Large  
Councilmember Robert White, At-Large  
Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large  
Councilmember Brianne Nadeau, Ward 1  
Councilmember Mary Cheh, Ward 3  
Councilmember Brandon Todd, Ward 4  
Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5  
Councilmember Charles Allen, Ward 6  
Councilmember Vince Gray, Ward 7  
Councilmember Trayon White, Ward 8