

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3B

GLOVER PARK AND CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS



December 10, 2014

The Honorable Philip H. Mendelson
Chair, Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

We are writing to express our Advisory Neighborhood Commission's support for maintaining a stand-alone Education Committee of the Council. ANC3B voted 4-0 to take this position at a properly noticed monthly meeting on December 10, 2014, with a quorum present.

Our ANC includes current and past DCPS parents, and each ANC member supports public education and children and youth in Washington, DC. In these roles, we strongly value the role played by a stand-alone Committee on Education. The ability of members of the Committee on Education to focus on key DCPS issues goes well beyond the role that could be played by members if education issues were returned solely to the purview of the Committee of the Whole.

Your decision to support a stand-alone education committee two years ago, with the support of your colleagues on the Council, helped to create an important forum for a variety of stakeholders to have an important voice on education in the City. The Education Committee held 59 hearings, markups and round tables, allowing for ample time to hear from the public and government witnesses and to deliberate on matters from oversight and legislation to nominations. Continuation of this committee will permit the Council to dedicate appropriate time and attention to oversight and policy discussions with DCPS and key stakeholders.

Stand-alone Education Committees are the norm in other jurisdictions that have mayoral control over their education system. The Council has sole responsibility for budget approval and oversight responsibility for DCPS, and in the same way as we have for other important agencies in the District, the City deserves a dedicated committee to fulfill those functions for its public school system. Eliminating the Education Committee could remove a vital focus on education issues and dedicated expertise on the Council in the form of both council members on the committee and

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3B01
N. GLOVER PARK
JOE FIORILLO

3B02
E. GLOVER PARK
JACKIE BLUMENTHAL

3B03
W. GLOVER PARK
VACANT

3B04
CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS
MARY YOUNG

3B05
S. GLOVER PARK
BRIAN A. COHEN

committee staff members.

We thank you for your previous support of a stand-alone Committee on Education, and we urge you to maintain this approach for the next Council session.

Sincerely,

Joe Fiorillo, ANC 3B-01



Mary Young

Mary Young, ANC 3B-04



Jackie Blumenthal, ANC 3B-02



Brian A. Cohen, ANC 3B-05

cc: Councilmembers Mary Cheh, Anita Bonds, Vincent Orange, and Councilmember-Elect Elissa Silverman,