

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3B
GLOVER PARK AND CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS



May 18, 2017

Chairman Phil Mendelson and Members of the Council
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Members of the Council:

ANC 3B urges the members of the D.C. Council to act to ensure that actual per-pupil funding for District of Columbia Public Schools does not decline during the 2017-2018 school year. Our concerns are based on the fact that the Mayor's initial proposed budget for the District of Columbia Public Schools would result in per-pupil funding cuts for the D.C. public schools that serve students from our communities, as well as many other schools.

The Mayor's proposed budget, released in early April, ostensibly provided a 1.5 percent increase in funding, per pupil, for the upcoming school year. What the executive office failed to note, however, was that the funding increase would fail to cover cost of living pay increases the Mayor has committed to provide teachers next school year. After accounting for that increase in compensation, the total per-pupil funding levels for next year would actually decline, in some cases significantly, at many D.C. Public Schools, including facilities serving our community.

At Stoddert Elementary, all categories of non-personnel funding for the coming school year would see significant cuts, meaning fewer supplies and other resources essential for sound instruction. At Hardy Middle School the Mayor's proposed budget would force the facility to eliminate an arts instructor and reduce full time Spanish instruction to a part-time program. Funding for teacher supplies at the middle school would also be cut to "below minimum" levels. And at Wilson High School, 8.8 staff positions would be cut next year.

At a time when the city is experiencing a budget surplus and future growth prospects are promising, it is difficult to understand why the Mayor would proffer a budget that actually cuts per-pupil funding. After working hard to rebuild confidence in D.C. Public Schools and finally increasing enrollment levels, it is even harder to understand why the city would knowingly undermine that newfound confidence by needlessly cutting funding for student programs.

The Commission strongly urges the City Council to enact a school-year 2017 to 2018 budget that provides an actual per-pupil funding increase of at least 1.5 percent per student and avoids needless staff reductions and supply cuts at Wilson, Hardy, Stoddert and other D.C. Public Schools.

P.O. BOX 32312 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007 WWW.ANC3B.ORG EMAIL: INFO@ANC3B.ORG

3B01
N. GLOVER PARK
ANN MLADINOV

3B02
E. GLOVER PARK
JACKIE BLUMENTHAL

3B03
W. GLOVER PARK
MELISSA J. LANE

3B04
CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS
MARY C. YOUNG

3B05
S. GLOVER PARK
BRIAN TURMAIL

At a duly noted public meeting on May 11, 2017, at which a quorum was present, the Commission voted 4-0 to send this letter to the Council. The Commission also voted that Commissioner Turmail or whomever the Chairman designates are authorized to represent the Commission on this matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blumenthal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" that loops around the start of the name.

Jackie Blumenthal
Chairman, ANC3B
For the Commission