

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



May 12, 2023

The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Via email

RE: Support for Additional \$6.2 Million for Stoddert Elementary School Expansion

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3B to request your support **for an additional \$6.2 million** to ensure that the Stoddert Elementary School addition is completed in a way that provides a safe and appropriate learning environment for students, now and in the future.

As you know, Stoddert is in the midst of the design phase for a capital improvement project to replace the trailers and right-size the cafeteria. In January, DCPS selected a concept without taking into account the priorities, concerns and feedback of the Stoddert SIT. The current concept also does not restore a second preK4 classroom, leaving Stoddert without any PreK3. Stoddert currently is the only elementary school in Ward 3 to offer only one preK4 class, due to capacity constraints.

Since January, the Stoddert community has conveyed its concern with the current plan's potential impact on student safety. The current proposal locates the cafeteria on the east side near the main pedestrian entrance to the school, and we are concerned that the daily deliveries, loading and waste removal by large trucks in the front of the school—the same area where students enter and exit the building—will jeopardize student safety.

- Stoddert also hosts two after-school care programs for its students that run until 6pm, and as it is the site of a community center and Department of Parks and Recreation space, also holds programming in the evenings. The safety risk to students and other pedestrians transiting through the delivery area therefore extends beyond school hours.
- Additionally, the current plan will require all students to transit between the two farthest points on the campus—from the cafeteria on the east side to the playground on the west side—on a daily basis. This daily flow of students from lunch in the cafeteria to recess

WWW.ANC3B.ORG

EMAIL: ANC3BMAIL@GMAIL.COM

3B01
N. GLOVER PARK
KEVIN LAVEZZO

3B02
E. GLOVER PARK
JACKIE BLUMENTHAL

3B03
W. GLOVER PARK
MELISSA LANE

3B04
CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS
J. KEVIN CARROLL

3B05
S. GLOVER PARK
GUPI HOWIE

3B06
CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS
BEN BERGMANN

on the playground will increase the number of people walking through the intended delivery zone for the cafeteria.

These concerns have been conveyed to DCPS since January, and DCPS has been asked for a cost estimate for an alternative proposal that locates the cafeteria on the west side of the school near the playground. Such an alternative would allow for smooth and efficient student flow from lunch to recess, enable deliveries and waste removal to be handled safely with no risk to students or others from the back parking lot (as it is now), and most importantly, would prevent students having to walk the length of the campus, close to street traffic, and through the planned delivery area for cafeteria.

DCPS did not respond to repeated requests for cost estimates on alternatives until one week ago. Based on the information we have presently, **DCPS projects that it will cost an additional \$6.2 million dollars to relocate the cafeteria to the west side of our campus and restore a second preK4 classroom.**

ANC 3B represents Glover Park, Stoddert's home and Ward 3's most densely populated and fastest growing neighborhood. As such, it is imperative that we maximize the city's investment in right-sizing Stoddert, to ensure the addition meets the needs of the community, now and in the future. **We are asking for your support in granting an additional \$6.2 million dollars, so that the project can be done correctly now and meet the needs of the Stoddert community.**

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

With gratitude,



Jackie Blumenthal
Chair, ANC3B
Serving Glover Park, Cathedral Heights and Wesley Heights

This letter was approved by a vote of 6-0 at a duly-noticed public meeting of ANC3B on May 11, 2023 at which a quorum was present. (A quorum is 4 of the 6 Commissioners.)