Resolution in Support of Expanding Capacity at Stoddert Elementary School instead of Building the Proposed New Foxhall Elementary School

Whereas, District of Columbia Public School (DCPS) officials are proposing to use funds originally slated to renovate Stoddert Elementary School to help fund the construction of a new elementary school at Foxhall and Q Street;

Whereas, DCPS is proposing to build a new school that would wrap around an existing, DC-owned building that the District just re-leased to the Lab School in December 2020;

Whereas, the District is currently investing millions of dollars to renovate the recreation fields adjacent to the planned new school and recently renovated a recreation center that would likely be demolished to accommodate the new building;

Whereas, building the new school would take years to complete and DCPS officials admit that opening the proposed school at the Foxhall location would not fully address overcrowding at Stoddert and other nearby DCPS elementary schools;

Whereas, DCPS officials have stated that opening the new school would require boundary changes by location or grade level that would force many families living within walking distance of Stoddert Elementary School to instead enroll their children at the new school;

Whereas, the Stoddert community underwent a boundary change within the past two years and DCPS officials have repeatedly claimed they want to minimize disruptions to families via frequent boundary changes;

Whereas, Stoddert Elementary School is further away from the planned new Foxhall school than the other two impacted schools yet would have the most families required to switch to the school;

Whereas, the distance and lack of direct Metrobus access to the Foxhall site would mean affected Stoddert families would likely be forced to drive to the school, undermining the Mayor’s mobility goals;

Whereas, DCPS officials acknowledge that building a new school at the Foxhall location would not allow the District to meet its equity-driven mandate that 10 percent of students at Stoddert come from outside of the school boundaries, while expanding Stoddert will allow the District to meet that goal;
Whereas, many residents in the Foxhall community do not support the planned construction of the proposed new school on the Hardy park and recreation site;

Whereas, the Stoddert parent community has broad-based concerns about the impacts of the new Foxhall school on local families’ ability to participate in public education;

Whereas, there are widespread concerns that forcing many Glover Park and Cathedral Heights residents to send their children to the new Foxhall school, either by grade or location, would undermine the sense of a healthy, supportive, inclusive community that exists within the neighborhood, which is working to preserve economical housing options and attract and retain young professionals and families;

Whereas, there is ample space available to completely address overcrowding at Stoddert Elementary School by expanding the size of the school campus on District land at the existing site;

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that ANC3B strenuously objects to the proposed Foxhall school plan and urges the District of Columbia Public Schools to refocus its efforts on expanding capacity at Stoddert Elementary School instead;

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman or his designees are authorized to represent the Commission on this matter.

This Resolution was APPROVED by a vote of 5-0 at a duly noticed public meeting of ANC 3B on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at which a quorum was present. (A quorum is 3 of the 5 sitting members.)

Brian Turmail, Chairman

Ann Mladinov, Secretary