

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



May 23, 2022

The Honorable Mary Cheh
Ward 3 Councilmember
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mary:

ANC3B is deeply grateful for your strong support on the first budget vote for an expansion of Stoddert Elementary School that will help meet increasing enrollment expectations by building to accommodate 554 students now with the option of adding a third floor if necessary. We are also grateful to your colleagues Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers White, Silverman, Bonds and Henderson for their initial budget votes that will allow Stoddert School to serve its local community in the near term and far into the future.

Today Stoddert is a walkable, local school that attracts families to the neighborhood who comprise a valuable tax base for the city. Families who depend on Stoddert live in one of the densest parts of Ward 3, and they pay a premium in housing costs for access to a walkable elementary school that has strong parental involvement. As we're sure you agree, Stoddert should be a model for public elementary schools in every ward instead of being diminished by short-sighted planning.

Now, however, DCPS is saying that if the Council wants to build an adequate expansion to Stoddert, it will have to budget an additional \$1.5 million. While we have no expertise in the cost of building school additions and can't judge this funding request, we urge you and your colleagues to continue your support for the expansion of Stoddert School by maintaining your goal of capacity for 554 students in the capital project that has already been approved, adding to the FY 2023 budget the extra \$1.5 million that DCPS says is required, and requiring the design for the current project to accommodate addition of a third floor at the school if it is needed in the future.

Without your support, DCPS would have limited the expansion to a capacity of 523 students despite its own projections of 631 students by SY28-29. The overflow would necessarily have to be assigned to schools that are inconveniently located with no good public transportation options students in our area, requiring parents to drive students back and forth, increasing school-hour traffic and dividing the Stoddert community.

ANC3B discussed this issue at our duly-noticed public meeting on May 19, 2022, at which a quorum was present (3 of the 5 Commissioners constitute a quorum) and voted 5-0 to send a letter supporting the proposed changes in budget language for Stoddert and continuing our advocacy for an adequate expansion of Stoddert School until it is achieved.

Thank you and your colleagues again for your support of our school and our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Turmail". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian Turmail, Chairman

cc: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Councilmember Robert White
Councilmember Elissa Silverman
Councilmember Anita Bonds
Councilmember Christina Henderson