

Government of the District of Columbia  
**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3F**  
*North Cleveland Park • Forest Hills • Tenleytown*

3F01 – Adam Tope, Chair  
3F02 – Karen L. Perry, Vice Chair  
3F03 – Mary Beth Ray  
3F04 – Sally Gresham  
3F05 – Manolis R. Priniotakis  
3F06 – Malachy Nugent, Secretary  
3F07 – Bob Summersgill, Treasurer



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**Resolution on Advocacy for General Principles Related to the  
DCPS Student Assignment Review Process**

WHEREAS, the District embarked in 2013 on a process, run by the Deputy Mayor for Education, to review school boundaries and the regulations that govern DC Public Schools (DCPS) student assignment; and

WHEREAS, an Advisory Committee was established to provide recommendations to the Deputy Mayor for Education prior to final recommendations to the Mayor on both the basic premises and specific rules governing student assignments and possible new school boundaries; and

WHEREAS, ANC 3F encompasses two DCPS schools – the Ben W. Murch Elementary School and the Phoebe Hearst Elementary Schools – and is also within the Alice Deal Middle School and Woodrow Wilson High School boundaries; and

WHEREAS, ANC 3F supports the basic concept of a government responsibility to make available publically funded education and have that education be as universally high-quality as possible; and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2014, the Advisory Committee released three “policy examples” that included potential policy changes to factors addressing student assignment, such as by-right policies, feeder patterns, specialized programming, preferences, new schools, “choice sets,” and lotteries, as well as raising limited impacts on charter schools policies;

WHEREAS, ANC 3F notes predictability in school enrollment – especially related to maintaining feeder patterns for in-boundary and out-of-boundary students – supports neighborhood cohesiveness and parent commitment to schools in terms of financial support and time devoted to upkeep, maintenance, enrichment activities, and fundraising and that any disruption to this principle threatens the continued health of successful schools; and

WHEREAS, any policy change that involves District-wide lotteries raises serious concerns about transportation options – to include possible environmental impacts – and the ongoing viability of successful neighborhood schools, as well as creating disincentives for investment in specific communities, such as have been made by families in houses and apartments in the Deal Middle School and Wilson High School feeder path; and

WHEREAS, that new enrollment patterns, to include overcrowding in Ward 3 resulting from the success of the DCPS neighborhood schools, served as the impetus for the review but that no policy examples or possible changes include new facilities in Ward 3; and

WHEREAS, some DCPS schools are chronically underperforming, and students in the neighborhoods that those schools serve need and deserve access to high-quality educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the upending of long-established school assignment and feeder patterns is not a solution to the challenges of improving quality at underperforming schools, raising serious questions about the timing of this process; and

WHEREAS, the proposed policy changes include minimal impacts on charter schools, despite charter schools playing a major role in the enrollment rates throughout the District, which served as an important factor in initiating the review; and

WHEREAS, ANC 3F recognizes the comments of Councilmember Muriel Bowser, who said in a statement that, “Students must have, by right, as opposed to lottery, an assignment to a school at the elementary, middle, and high school levels in their area;” and

WHEREAS, ANC 3F recognizes the comments of Councilmember David Catania, who said in a statement that, “Any proposal that would remove by-right neighborhood elementary, middle and high schools from our public education system is a nonstarter for me.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, for the reasons stated above, that ANC 3F calls on the Deputy Mayor for Education to provide extensive and thorough “grandfathering” for any families impacted by any of the proposed policy changes, to include coverage of children not yet matriculating in DCPS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 3F supports the below basic principles related to student assignment and calls on the Deputy Mayor for Education and the Advisory Committee to use these principles in determining student assignment policies:

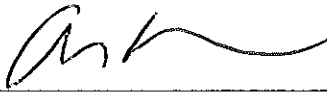
- Geographic by-right schools at the elementary, middle and high school levels;
- Predictability and stability related to geographic feeder patterns;
- No mandated District-wide lotteries while still providing options for using voluntary lotteries to fill available capacity in neighborhood schools with out-of-boundary students;
- Thorough review of potential changes to charter schools policies, such as the geographic preference in admissions selections, regardless of the legislative or procedural challenges associated with such revisions;
- Requirements that there be coordinated planning between the charter and DCPS schools to ensure that both can thrive and play their appropriate role in the District’s education landscape;
- Consideration for new high school options located in Ward 3; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 3F reserves the right to provide further specific recommendations prior to the submission of the final recommendation to the Mayor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Commissioners Malachy Nugent, Manolis Priniotakis and Adam Tope are authorized to speak on behalf of ANC 3F regarding these issues.

[Signature page follows]

ANC 3F approved this resolution at its meeting on April 22, 2014, which was properly noticed and a quorum present. The resolution was approved by a vote of 7-0-0..



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Adam Tope, Chair