

Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3F
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Resolution on the June 2014 Draft Student Assignment Policy Proposal

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Deputy Mayor for Education created an Advisory Committee (the Committee) to develop recommendations for the Mayor on both the basic premises and specific rules governing student assignments and new boundaries for DC Public Schools (DCPS); and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2014, the Committee released its Draft Student Assignment Policy Proposal for public review and comment by July 21, 2014; and

WHEREAS, ANC 3F reaffirms its commitment to the fundamental responsibility of government to provide all students with a high-quality, publically funded education; and

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

WHEREAS, a large number of ANC 3F residents actively participated in the ongoing public debates about DCPS student assignments and school boundaries, including through ANC 3F, which has hosted two Community Meetings and adopted a resolution (April 2014) on the topic; and

WHEREAS, the latest Proposal affirmed and included many of the aspects included ANC 3F's April resolution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 3F **supports** the Committee's recommendations to:

- *retain* existing DCPS policy on school attendance zones, which gives each student the right to attend a grade-appropriate school based on his or her place of residence; and
- *establish* middle school and high school attendance zones according to the Proposed Geographic Feeder Pathways; and
- *provide* by-right access to PK3 and PK4 programs in their zoned DCPS school for children in Title I DCPS zones and lottery access for students in non-Title I zones, recognizing that the Murch Elementary and Hearst Elementary are non-Title I zones; and
- *improve* public transit services and affordability for public school families and the safety of students traveling to and from school; and

- *craft* student transfer policies that minimize the movement of students during the school year and support educational continuity for students; and
- *phase in* its proposed changes according to the timetable described; and
- *ensure* that DCPS plans for, and reassesses on a regular basis, the programmatic and space needs at the individual school and community levels, and *urges* the committee to highlight the need for special coordination among schools in close proximity, such as the Murch, Hearst, Janey, and Lafayette Elementary schools, especially concerning facilities and boundary issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 3F **opposes** the Committee's recommendations to:


- *set aside* at least 10 percent of seats in zoned elementary schools for out-of-zone students, given persistent concerns about overall capacity and walkability of local schools, until the Committee clarifies that it will measure that 10 percent as a portion of the school's capacity (not the school's enrollment) and then only when the school enrollment is not above 100 percent of capacity; and
- *require* selective schools to pair with or convert to a non-specialized school when necessary to address insufficient capacity in the non-specialized DCPS system, a proposal that sacrifices the goal of academic excellence and specialized schools for a quick fix on capacity; and
- *adjust* the Hearst Elementary school boundary northward from Yuma Street NW to Albemarle Street NW for families not currently grandfathered into the existing DCPS school boundaries, recognizing that the streets in question strongly prefer to remain within the Murch Elementary community, but *urges* the Committee to continue exploring other boundary options that are not as disruptive to current neighborhood residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 3F calls for the Committee to **clarify** its recommendations to:

- *give priority* to at-risk students in all lotteries until a school reaches 30 percent at risk in terms of how the percentage will be assessed, especially if there are dramatic differences at different grade levels; and
- *coordinate* policies with charter schools, in particular with specifics on how the granting of new charters will be balanced against the geographic distribution of neighborhood schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 3F reserves the right to provide further specific comments prior to the submission of final recommendations to the Mayor and authorizes Commissioners Nugent, Priniotakis, and Tope to speak on behalf of ANC 3F on these issues.

This resolution was approved by a vote of seven (7) in favor, none (0) opposed, and none (0) abstaining from voting, at a duly noticed public meeting of ANC 3F on July 15, 2014.



 Adam Tope, Chair