



District of Columbia Government  
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A  
Box 75115 Washington, DC 20013



February 23, 2018

Andrea Swiatocha  
Manager, Facilities Planning and Design  
District of Columbia Public Schools  
1200 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Maury Elementary School Renovation

Dear Ms. Swiatocha,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting<sup>1</sup> on February 8, 2018, our Commission voted 6-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to encourage D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) and the Department of General Services (DGS) to seek a design for the modernization of Maury Elementary school that maximizes play and green space. The current design (as of January 16, 2018) could be improved by 1) reducing the size of the parking lot and 2) optimizing the building design for the small lot (72,023 square feet). These changes would help to increase play and green space for a projected enrollment of 539 students.

Adequate outdoor play time and space is key to child development. Nationally, 56% of children spend less time outdoors than maximum security prisoners. In Virginia, the recommended play space per student for an elementary school with enrollment between 400 and 599 students, based on guidance from the National Program for Playground Safety, is 122 to 183 square feet per student, three to four times the amount of play space for Maury students under current proposals. Failure to provide adequate play and green space will likely harm the socio-emotional development and educational success of students and possibly endanger their safety.

We recommend that DCPS/DGS consider the following options for maximizing play and green space:

1. **Reduce the size of the parking lot.** There are a number of options available to provide needed parking for teachers and staff, which if pursued would facilitate approval of a variance for a smaller parking lot, including:
  - a. Adequate on-street parking if the Daytime School Parking Zone Amendment Act of 2017 (B22-0351) passes, which will allow teachers to park on the street without adversely impacting local residents;
  - b. Availability of daytime staff-only parking on 12th Place and 13th Street, as was done on the adjacent streets at Stuart-Hobson Middle School; or
  - c. Availability of above-ground parking at a nearby church where approximately ten (10) spaces could be leased without impacting the church's normal activities. This church is less than a block away from the Maury Elementary site.

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<sup>1</sup> ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the [anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com](mailto:anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com), [anc6a@yahoogroups.com](mailto:anc6a@yahoogroups.com), and [newhilleast@yahoogroups.com](mailto:newhilleast@yahoogroups.com), at [www.anc6a.org](http://www.anc6a.org), and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.

2. **Optimize the building design.** Additionally, we recommend that all due consideration be given to community feedback regarding optimizing the building design. Currently half of the new building will be less than three stories in height, and a significant portion is only one story. The new design also eliminates a 6,000 square foot outdoor classroom and garden space, with no plans for replacement. Echoing the comments made by the Maury Community, we ask that DCPS/DGS consider:

- a. Reducing the footprint of the building while increasing the height of the one and two-story portions;
- b. Seeking a variance to allow for limited portions of the building to have a set-back, fourth floor; and
- c. Designing a portion of the green roofs to also serve as rooftop gardens and outdoor classroom space.

Please be advised that Brad Greenfield and I are authorized to act on behalf of ANC 6A for the purposes of this case. I can be contacted at philanc6a@gmail.com and Mr. Greenfield can be contacted at brad.greenfield@gmail.com.

On Behalf of the Commission,



Phil Toomajian  
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc: Councilmember Charles Allen  
Mr. Nathan Morris, DCPS  
Mr. Dan Nebhut, DGS

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