



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



April 10, 2015

David Grosso
Chair, Committee on Education
D.C. Council
1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Grosso:

In the recently proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, the Phase I renovation funding for Eliot-Hine Middle School was postponed from FY 2016 to at least FY 2019. Eliot-Hine is located within ANC6A, serves many families within our ANC, and is the in-boundary middle school for the vast majority of ANC6A. At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on April 9, 2015, our Commission voted 6-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to request that you restore the Capital Improvement funding for Eliot-Hine Middle School's Phase I renovation in the 2016 budget.

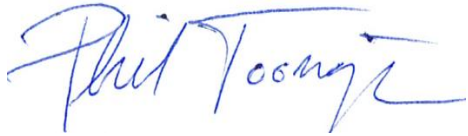
Physical facilities make a huge impact on a school's ability to fulfill its educational mission and, unfortunately, the facilities at Eliot-Hine MS are far below standard. Heating and cooling systems do not function properly. Classrooms lack adequate lighting, ventilation and acoustics. Doors fail to lock, causing security concerns. Restrooms are in ill repair. Phase 1 renovations target these deficiencies and make a real difference to students and communities.

Eliot-Hine Middle School needs this support. Eliot-Hine has seen a lot of broken promises since the consolidation of Eliot Junior High School and Hine Junior High School in 2008, starting with the failure to execute a plan to move the newly combined student body off-site for a year to allow for a comprehensive renovation of Eliot's facilities. Instead, the school received a summer blitz that was so poorly executed that teachers and staff were barred from the building when required to report back for the new school year as the contractor finished the limited-scope renovations. The school was then slated for its Phase 1 modernization FY13, which was then pushed back to FY2016. If the renovation is actually funded in FY19/20 as is now being proposed, there will have been over 12 years of delay in addressing needs identified as pressing back in 2008. This is unacceptable for our community and our students.

We urge you to restore modernization funding in the FY 2016 budget for Eliot-Hine and to keep the District's commitment to modernize it and any other schools in such tremendous need of repair across town. Thank you for providing great weight to the request of this Commission.

¹ ANC6A meetings are advertised on the listservs anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com, anc-6a@yahoogroups.com and newhilleast@yahoogroups.com, at www.anc6a.org, and in the *Hill Rag*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Toomajian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Phil" and last name "Toomajian" clearly legible.

Phil Toomajian
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc: Deputy Mayor for Education Jennifer Niles
Chancellor Kaya Henderson, D.C. Public Schools
Councilmember Charles Allen, Ward 6 Councilmember
Joe Weedon, Ward 6 Representative, D.C. State Board of Education