



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



June 15, 2013

Ms. Kaya Henderson
Chancellor
DC Public Schools
1200 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Chancellor Henderson,

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A (ANC) requests that you reinstate proximity preference at the School Within A School (SWS). The ANC adopted a resolution making that request at its regularly scheduled and publicly¹ announced meeting of June 13, 2013. The vote was 6-0-1, with five required for a quorum.

SWS's move to the Goding building at 920 F Street, NE, is a welcome development for the Capitol Hill community and ANC6A. SWS has always had strong ties in our community and its attendees are predominantly drawn from our neighborhood—currently, it has the highest percentage of neighborhood children of any school on Capitol Hill.

The ANC would like to see those ties to SWS's immediate community continue. Unfortunately, the children who live closest to the school who sought admission to it in this year's lottery were not afforded the opportunity to attend. As our neighborhood continues to add elementary-aged children at the fastest rate in the city, the community's need for early education slots in schools like SWS also grows. While we do not quibble with DCPS's decision to drop boundaries from admission to SWS and to make it a citywide school, we strongly urge that neighborhood proximity preference be reinstated.

Such a preference will allow neighborhood families to play an important role in the school that is closest to their home and will aid the school by having strong support from its neighboring community. It will also support the emphasis that SWS's Reggio Emilia curriculum

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the anc6a-announce@googlegroups.com, ANC- 6A and NewHillEast yahoogroups, on the Commission's website, and through print advertisements in the *Hill Rag*.

places on local community and parental involvement by connecting the school to its immediate neighbors.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to reinstate a proximity preference at SWS. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me or ANC6A-02 Commissioner Gloria Nauden (202-528-9005; gnauden@gmail.com) regarding this matter.

For the Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Holmes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Holmes
Chair

cc: Vincent Gray, Mayor
Abigail Smith, Deputy Mayor for Education
Tommy Wells, D.C. Councilmember, Ward Six
Monica Warren-Jones, State Board of Education