



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D**

February 19, 2019

Mr. Lewis Ferebee  
Acting Chancellor  
DC Public Schools  
1200 First Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
[Lewis.Ferebee@k12.dc.gov](mailto:Lewis.Ferebee@k12.dc.gov)

**RE: Overcrowding at the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens**

Dear Acting Chancellor Ferebee,

At its regular meeting on February 11, 2019, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D (“ANC 2D” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 2 of 2 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (2-0-0):

WHEREAS, the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens (SWWFS) is a city-wide educational resource serving students from all eight wards, with the majority of attendees living outside of Ward 2,

WHEREAS, SWWFS is the DC Public Schools (DCPS) in-boundary school for all preschool, elementary school, and middle school students in ANC 2D,

WHEREAS, over the past several years, SWWFS has demonstrated one of the strongest year-over-year track records of academic improvement of any public elementary school in the city and currently has a waiting list of 700 students requesting enrollment,

WHEREAS, current enrollment at SWWFS is 474 students and, with a perfect distribution of students from preschool through grade 8, the building could reasonably accommodate a total of no more than 500,

WHEREAS, the middle school at SWWFS is currently budgeted and staffed to accommodate 150 students, while middle school enrollment for the next academic year now stands at 160 and a conservative estimate projects it may reach 190 or more, depending on the number of eligible students from Thomson Elementary School and Ross Elementary School who chose to enroll,

WHEREAS, completion of the staff compound at the Chinese Embassy will inevitably result in a significant increase in the number of elementary school students at SWWFS in the coming academic year,

WHEREAS, the need to recognize, support, and build upon academic success should be a first order imperative throughout the DCPS system and the current enrollment surge at SWWFS, particularly in the middle school, represents a clear and present threat to the academic integrity of the school, and

WHEREAS, if DCPS does not take immediate action (rather than waiting until the late summer or fall), then DCPS will be failing the school, students, and larger community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2D requests that DCPS increase the funding available to SWWFS for the 2019-2020 school year by roughly \$600,000 in order to increase staffing to a level commensurate with the anticipated expanded enrollment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2D requests that DCPS prioritize needed renovations of the physical plan at SWWFS to increase available academic space by re-purposing and subdividing the smaller of its two gyms to create six new classrooms. It is the belief of the ANC and the SWWFS community that, if undertaken in the next 45 days, such a renovation can be completed prior to the 2019-2020 academic year, thereby raising the overall capacity of the building by 150 students without materially affecting the physical education program, which can be reorganized to more efficiently operate in the single large gym without a meaningful loss of effectiveness.

Commissioners David Bender ([2D01@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2D01@anc.dc.gov)) and Jeff Nestler ([2D02@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2D02@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R Bender". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Bender  
Chair