



## **ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E**

**TENLEYTOWN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS**  
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[www.anc3e.org](http://www.anc3e.org)

### **RESOLUTION REGARDING WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL'S 2015-2016 BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, Woodrow Wilson High School ("Wilson") is the most diverse and largest comprehensive, non-application high school in the District of Columbia; and

**WHEREAS**, Wilson impacts all eight wards of DC, serving students from every zip code in the District of Columbia. At least 44 percent of its students (826 students) live outside its boundaries, and generous grandfathering ensures that Wilson will continue to serve a diverse population for many years; and

**WHEREAS**, Wilson serves more "at-risk" students than the entire student body of Coolidge or Roosevelt High Schools. Five hundred and eight-two (582) students at Wilson – 30% percent of the Wilson student body – are considered at risk and need extra support; and

**WHEREAS**, Wilson is growing rapidly, reflecting the quality of its academic program and the growing confidence that DC parents have in the public school system; and

**WHEREAS**, Wilson already suffers from a budget shortfall, which will deepen to crisis levels under the District of Columbia Public School (DCPS) proposed 2015-2016 budget. Wilson's 2014-2015 allocation of \$15,828,036 was based on a projected enrollment of 1,708 students but its actual verified enrollment is 1,793 students. The failure to provide funding for 85 additional students resulted in an actual per student funding of \$8,836, which is less than the per pupil funding minimum. Enrollment in the 2015-2016 academic year is expected to increase again, resulting in a lower per student allotment than DCPS's proposed \$8,312 per student; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed 2015-2016 budget will increase class size, reduce the number of teachers and administrative staff and exacerbate crowding in an already-crowded facility. Wilson would lose 10% of its teachers and administrative staff under the proposed budget, thus pushing class size to 30 students for regular classes and 35 to 40 students for Honors and AP classes. Such a result flies in the face of DCPS policy that states that class size is not to exceed 25 students, a policy that is based both on experience and educational research which demonstrates that smaller class size strongly improves student performance. Moreover, fewer teachers and administrators will result in more disruptive class breaks and lunch hours, putting students at risk; and

**WHEREAS**, the budget cuts will cripple Wilson’s effort to close the achievement gap by reducing funds needed to strengthen the Ninth Grade Academy, provide tutors, study halls, review courses, and a dedicated fulltime college counselor to help its students, many of whom would be the first in their families to apply for and attend college; and,

**WHEREAS**, District voters showed they want to deliver “Alice Deal for All,” that is, raise all DC schools to Alice Deal Middle School’s level of excellence, not reduce the quality of DC’s best schools.

**WHEREAS**, in this DCPS-declared “Year of the High School, the proposed 2015-2016 budget will undercut the years of investment and hard work that have made Wilson the “gold standard,” and shake the confidence of parents, students and the community in the future of DC public schools.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in recognition of these considerations, ANC 3E adopts the following resolution.

**RESOLVED**, ANC 3E urges DCPS to provide funding needed to enable Wilson to continue to deliver high quality academic programs and maintain a safe and secure environment for students, teachers and staff by adding \$900,000 to student allotment to Wilson’s proposed 2015-2016 allotment.

The Commission approved this resolution at its meeting on April 8, 2015, which was properly noticed and at which a quorum was present. The resolution was approved by a vote of 5-0-0 with Commissioners Bender, Hall, McHugh, Quinn and Wallace present.

ANC 3E

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By Jonathan Bender, Chairperson