



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E

TENLEYTOWN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
CHEVY CHASE WAKEFIELD FORT GAINES

c/o Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home 5425 Western Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20015

<https://anc3e.org>

-- MAY 10 DRAFT 4:30 pm draft--

Whereas:

The District of Columbia Public Schools (“DCPS”) (1) is constructing a new school at Hardy Park (“Foxhall”), and (2) has purchased the former GDS lower school at 4530 MacArthur Boulevard (“MacArthur”);

DCPS states that the goal of these investments is to help address overcrowding in the Woodrow (soon to be August) Wilson High School (“Wilson”) feeder pattern;

DCPS projects that the Wilson feeder pattern will add approximately 3,000 new students by 2028-29, consisting of 1,300 new elementary students, 600+ new middle school students, and 1,000 new high school students, not accounting for demand at the PK-3 and PK-4 levels [<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jUDT9rbqaIeUIWTnb6ivjcVII9EMzkb/view> -- Brian Doyle/Ward 3 EdNet slides, not sure if there is a better cite];

It is anticipated that the new Foxhall school can accommodate 450-550 elementary students, while the MacArthur site can accommodate approximately 575 secondary students;

DCPS acknowledges that the new school sites at Foxhall and MacArthur will not resolve entirely the projected shortfall of seats in the Wilson pattern;

DCPS is currently conducting a community engagement process in and around Ward 3 to support planning for these sites, including the formation of a Community Working Group (“CWG”) that began meeting in February 2021, along with additional school-based meetings and a community survey in April-May 2021.

Janney Elementary School (“Janney”) and Wilson are located in ANC3E-01 represented by Commissioner Matthew Cohen, and Alice Deal Middle School (“Deal”) is located in ANC3E-04 represented by Commissioner Tom Quinn. Both Janney and Deal are part of the Wilson feeder pattern;

DCPS, through its School Planning Director, has invited ANC3E to participate actively in the CWG;

Concurrently, the DC Office of Planning (“OP”) has initiated recently discussions regarding the future redevelopment in the Friendship Heights neighborhood, also part of ANC3E, including the construction of significant additional housing;

The ANC3E notes that at the moment this process is an incomplete effort, and would be better served by comprehensively examining additional options that could better ensure any solution



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for Foxhall/MacArthur would fit within the broader context of Ward 3 capacity issues. As the presentation notes, these two new sites are not going to solve all the Ward 3 capacity issues.

In fact, the endeavor's myopic approach leaves out significant critical issues that play an important role here.

First, the availability of additional real estate that, taken collectively with these proposals, would go a long way in addressing capacity. Friendship Heights has significant vacant real estate which could become part of a public-private partnership to expand capacity and should be considered alongside the Foxhall/MacArthur discussion.

Second, new development along the Wisconsin Avenue Corridor presents a unique opportunity to address economic diversity in the Wilson feeder pattern. This ANC has long called for strengthening the inclusionary zoning requirements that developers must meet in an effort to enhance economic diversity, which would, in turn, provide more economic diversity in Ward 3 schools.

Third, as the city's population grows, it is critical that policymakers keep a close eye on how any new development, including new schools, will impact the environment. The city has set transportation goals of increasing the share of public transit, biking, and walking to 75% of all trips within the District, and reducing commuter trips by car to 25% by 2032. It makes little sense to promote these two new DCPS school buildings without consideration of the MoveDC goals. Failing to consider transportation challenges presented by the Foxhall/MacArthur sites runs directly counter to the City's efforts elsewhere.

Be it resolved that ANC3E:

Applauds DCPS, Councilwoman Mary Cheh, State Board of Education Member Ruth Wattenberg, and other District Leaders for their efforts to address overcrowding in the Wilson feeder pattern, including finding Capital Improvement Plan funding beginning in FY 2021 to construct the Foxhall site and purchase the MacArthur site;

Emphasizes that ANC3E, as the Advisory Neighborhood Commission that is home to Janney, Deal, and Wilson, has a strong and vested interest in (1) a transparent process by which DCPS decides how best to use these sites and (2) how DCPS proposes to alleviate overcrowding in the Wilson feeder pattern;

Requests DCPS expand this process to include consideration of vacant real estate in Friendship Heights as possible locations for additional school sites to relieve capacity issues;

Requests that the Mayor enter into negotiations for a public private partnership that could provide for mixed use development on the Lord & Taylor site [square 1580] reserving no less



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than half of the 6.2 acres for new field space for school athletics (and community use during non-school use) and infrastructure that would include retail, residential, and possibly a community center along with new DCPS facilities, whether a Wilson 9th Grade academy or other expansion site for Wilson HS.. The Mayor should also consider square 1660 and 1661 for additional public-private partnerships that could benefit the community in this manner. The location is central to Metro and bus access and would make it easy for students to access the site from beyond the immediate neighborhood and thus comports with MoveDC goals.

Requests the Mayor engage other relevant agencies in the planning process for the Foxhall/MacArthur site to ensure robust consideration of transportation issues endemic in both locations. The Mayor ensure protected bike lanes and sidewalks are available for students and staff to safely access these sites and must also include bussing as an option. Bussing students from their neighborhood elementary school makes logical sense, benefits the environment and is consistent with DC sustainability goals.

Requests the Mayor break out of the current siloed approach to thinking about diversity in DCPS. Ward 3 schools could achieve considerable economic diversity if the Mayor included more robust inclusionary zoning requirements in development projects. While this will not address the issue of diversity in its entirety, it will help ensure the overall neighborhood is inclusive.

Requests that the Mayor's office and DCPS confirm their commitment to "neighborhood schools" in the District of Columbia and thus work to minimize distance traveled to and from school and ensure safe passage that does not rely on individual automobile transportation;

Requests that the Mayor and Council of the District of Columbia ensure that OP and DCPS communicate and coordinate regarding capacity of local Ward 3 schools and, in particular, consider what new capacity will be needed in light of planned development of new housing units;

Calls on OP to direct The Urban Land Institute, and any other entities tasked with analyzing or studying proposed Friendship Heights redevelopment in ANC3E, to address public school capacity issues as part of their analysis, specifically, the number of additional student seats that new housing units will generate, and how that need will be met;

Requests that OP study what sites in the Friendship Heights, AU Park, and Tenleytown area would be suitable for use as a new school site(s) to alleviate overcrowding at Wilson and Deal M.S., including, for example, the former Lord and Taylor site and the Buchanan Estate site at 4220 Nebraska Avenue, NW; and, finally,

Strongly recommends implementation of a comprehensive plan to address, among other things, (1) potential solutions to overcrowding issues in DC public schools, including Ward 3, taking



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into account drops in enrollment related to the Covid-19 pandemic, and (2) examine problems relating to undersubscribed/under-capacity schools, while some schools are overcrowded.

DRAFT