

Local School Advisory Team
School within School at Goding
920 F Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

January 11, 2018

Dear Chancellor Wilson:

The community at School within School at Goding, a citywide public elementary school, is eagerly awaiting the modernization of our vintage 1959 school building. We closely followed and supported the effort to make prioritization of school modernizations an objective and transparent process through the Planning Actively for Comprehensive Education (PACE) Facilities Amendment Act of 2016.

As we read the Act, it requires that DCPS publish final prioritization scores for school modernizations, with the raw data, by September 30, 2017, and hold three public meetings within 180 days of that release. (DC Code § 38-2803(d)(3)(B)-(E).) Could you please provide a status update, as we have not seen or heard anything to date?

In the 2018 Capital Improvement Plan, our building is slated for modernization starting in 2021, with a planning year in 2020. But we believe that some of the criteria used to formulate the 2018 CIP was not accurate, and our building should be prioritized for modernization sooner. For example, our facility condition assessment (which was conducted without consulting school faculty and staff) did not accurately reflect all of the problems with our building, and our building capacity was greatly overestimated (which lowers our utilization score). These are problems that must be addressed through a transparent process and robust public engagement. This is what the PACE Act intended to provide. But so far, we have not seen any transparency or engagement.

We look forward to hearing from you very soon about the status of school modernization prioritization and public engagement. Our children's health, safety, and education are at stake.

Thank you very much,

Elisabeth Jacobs, LSAT Chair
On Behalf of the SWS LSAT

CC:

Mayor Muriel Bowser

Jennifer Niles, Deputy Mayor for Education

Traci L. Hughes, Director, DC Office of Open Government

Kathleen Patterson, DC Auditor

Councilmember David Grosso, DC Council Committee on Education Chair

Councilmember Charles Allen, DC Council Committee on Education

Councilmember Trayon White, Sr., DC Council Committee on Education

Councilmember Anita Bonds, DC Council Committee on Education

Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr. DC Council Committee on Education