August 31, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Darren Woodruff, Chair Scott Pearson, Executive Director

District of Columbia Public District of Columbia Public

Charter School Board Charter School Board

3333 14th Street, NW 3333 14th Street, NW

Suite 210 Suite 210

Washington, DC 20010 Washington, DC 20010

RE: June 19 Reversal Approving DC Prep Enrollment Petition Violated the Law – Office of Open Government Decision OOG-0004\_7.03.17\_AO

Dear Dr. Woodruff and Mr. Pearson,

We are writing to you concerning the Public Charter School Board (PCSB) vote on June 19, 2017, to approve the DC Preparatory Public Charter School (DC Prep) enrollment ceiling requests, which reversed the PCSB’s April 24, 2017, decision to deny DC Prep’s request, based in part on DC Prep’s high number of suspensions.

On August 9, 2017, the Office of Open Government (OOG) issued a binding opinion that made it abundantly clear the Public Charter School Board’s vote on June 19, 2017, approving DC Prep’s enrollment ceiling requests was in violation of the public meeting requirements of the School Reform Act (SRA), the Public Charter School Board’s (PCSB’s) custom and practice for notifying the public, and the Open Meetings Act’s (OMA’s) legislative history that the public has the statutory right to be present and offer public comment at every PCSB public meeting and hearing. The OOG concluded “[t]he DCPCSB’s failure to publically notice the June 19, 2017, meeting was an improper closure in violation of … established case law.”

Because the public was not notified the PCSB was going to revisit the vote it took on April 24, 2017, at its June 19, 2017, meeting, we respectfully request the PCSB void its June 19, 2017, vote approving DC Prep’s enrollment ceiling requests. We ask that the PCSB notify the public it is reconsidering the vote it took on April 24, 2017, taking public comment, and holding another public meeting to consider DC Prep’s enrollment ceiling request.

Sincerely,

Allyson Criner Brown, Teaching for Change, Ward 7 Parent

Nancy Huvendick, 21st Century School Fund

Valerie Jablow, Ward 6 Parent

Iris Jacob, Ward 8 Parent

Sarah Livingston, Editor, Citizen Reader

Cathy Reilly, Public School Advocate

Becky Reina, Ward 1 Parent

Martin R. Welles, Esq., Treasurer, Amidon-Bowen Elementary School PTA

Suzanne Wells, Ward 6 Parent

Kent Withycombe, Esq., Washington Lawyers’ Committee, Public Education Project Director

Cc: Mayor Muriel Bowser

 Deputy Mayor for Education Jennifer Niles

 Council Chairman, Phil Mendelson

Councilmember Anita Bonds

Councilmember David Grosso

Councilmember Elissa Silverman

Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

Councilmember Jack Evans

Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie

Councilmember Charles Allen

 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

Thomas Byrd, We Act Radio

 Valerie Strauss, The Washington Post

 Emma Brown, The Washington Post

 Alejandra Matos, The Washington Post