



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G

Serving Chevy Chase, DC and surrounding neighborhoods

5601 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20015

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RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL'S 2015-2016 BUDGET CUTS

WHEREAS, a quality public education enhances the District's economic competitiveness and quality of life for individuals, families and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Wilson High School is the public high school in NW Washington that serves not only students within ANC 3/4G's boundaries but students across all eight wards in the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 2015-2016 budget for Wilson will face a budget reduction of approximately \$1,000 per student from \$9,276 in FY15 to \$8,306 in FY16. This would be the lowest allocation of any neighborhood school compared to an average of nearly \$14,000 per student in other District high schools; and

WHEREAS, Wilson's reduction in per pupil funding stems from an effort to invest additional funds in schools with the highest concentrations of at-risk students, 31 percent of the nearly 1900 students who attend Wilson (582 students) are at-risk – exceeding the at-risk student populations at several other high schools; and the entire student enrollment at two of those schools.

WHEREAS, Wilson's student body continues to grow faster than expected. The current 2014 - 2015 budget was based on a projected enrollment of 1708, while the actual enrollment is almost 1800. This discrepancy resulted in a shortfall of almost \$790,000 this year.

WHEREAS, DCPS projects that Wilson's enrollment will increase to 1,878 students next year. While this reflects confidence in its academic program, adding 170 students to an already overcrowded building designed for only 1,550 students with no additional funding and in fact \$309,600 than this year will have serious consequences.

WHEREAS, Under the proposed budget, Wilson would lose 10% of its teachers and administrative staff; not only jeopardizing the quality of instruction and student achievement due to bulging class sizes but also fewer adults to monitor student behavior which poses a serious threat to student, instructor and staff safety. Fewer teachers and administrators will result in less class order and more disruptive class breaks and lunch hours; 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 to prevent truancy, to provide tutors, study halls, review courses, and specifically a dedicated fulltime college

counselor for students, many of whom would be the first in their families to apply for and attend college; and,

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 3/4G adopts the following resolution.

RESOLVED, ANC 3/4G stands with Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh, Wilson's Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) and Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) to urge DCPS to provide a \$900,000 student allotment to Wilson's proposed 2015-2016 which invests \$8, 791 per student. This funding will enable Wilson to continue to deliver high quality academic programs while maintaining a safe and secure environment for students, teachers and staff.

We, the Commissioners of ANC 3/4G, also support maintaining funding for ALL of the schools, from the elementary level to the high school level, within the 3/4G service boundaries. Because all schools in the District deserve adequate funding, however, the increased funds for Wilson should not affect the proposed funding for any other DCPS school.

The Commission approved this resolution by a vote of 5 to 0 at its meeting on April 13, 2015, which was properly noticed and at which a quorum was present.

By Randy Speck, Chair

By Chanda Tuck Garfield, Secretary