

A Resolution in Support of Additional Design Concept Options for the Modernization of the Adams Campus of Oyster-Adams Bilingual School:

WHEREAS: Oyster-Adams Bilingual School is an inclusive community of learners dedicated to academic excellence and creativity that develops responsible leaders who are bilingual and bi-literate in Spanish and English.

WHEREAS: Oyster-Adams Bilingual School is a National Blue Ribbon School, recognized as an exemplary high performing school by the U.S. Department of Education.

WHEREAS: Oyster-Adams Bilingual Elementary School has a diverse student population, with more than sixty-seven percent of students self-identifying as Hispanic or of Latin American origin, African American, Asian-American, or two or more races.

WHEREAS: The cultural diversity within Oyster-Adams Bilingual School forges long-lasting friendships among students and families from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, nationalities, and socio-economic levels.

WHEREAS: The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) intends to modernize the Adams Campus of Oyster-Adams Bilingual School located at 2020 19th Street, NW with a project budget of \$55 million.

WHEREAS: The full modernization will bring the school's facilities in line with the DCPS educational specifications, including: installing learning, instruction, and support technology at cutting-edge standards and capacities; constructing classrooms to accommodate a 21st-century learning environment; integrating discovery commons spaces, small group rooms, and resource rooms; and adhering to Americans with Disabilities Act requirements throughout the building.

WHEREAS: DCPS intends to increase the capacity of Adams Education Campus to serve 486 students in a traditional elementary school setting.

WHEREAS: The Oyster-Adams Bilingual School community welcomes this modernization and is highly satisfied with the Design-Builder selected by the Department of General Services (DGS).

WHEREAS: The Concept Design is the earliest stage of the design process Year 1 of Planning and Design.

WHEREAS: DCPS presented three design concept options to the School Improvement Team (SIT) at the Concept Design Presentation Meeting on May 1, 2023.

WHEREAS: All three design concepts options contemplated constructing either a gymnasium or cafeteria over the existing soccer field and track in the rear of the Adams Campus.

WHEREAS: Any construction over the existing soccer field and track will severely limit outdoor space for students during recess, outdoor learning, and after-school activities.

WHEREAS: Upon presentation of the three design concepts options, multiple SIT members raised concerns that the design concepts will negatively impact the outdoor space for Oyster-Adams students.

WHEREAS: DCPS, DGS, and the Design-Builder received extensive feedback raised by the Oyster-Adams Bilingual School community regarding the planned contraction of outdoor space on May 4, 2023 and May 8, 2023 via a comment form administered by the Oyster-Adams Bilingual School Principal.

WHEREAS: The SIT continued to raise significant concerns regarding the new construction over the existing playspace at the Concept Design Feedback Working Meeting on May 8, 2023.

WHEREAS: Mayor Muriel Bowser has explicitly acknowledged the importance of adequate outdoor playspace at the ribbon cutting at a new \$1.5 million playground for the Oyster Campus on October 31, 2022, stating: “We know that having safe, fun, and beautiful places to play and learn are an essential part of a child’s school day.”

WHEREAS: At the same event, Chancellor Ferebee explained that a playground can “empower our students to make new friendships and go deeper in their journey of cultural education and awareness.”

WHEREAS: The Director of DGS Keith A. Anderson underscored the Department’s important role, saying: “DGS is proud to deliver the Oyster-Adams Playground Project to ensure our children have the safe and fun spaces they love and deserve.”

WHEREAS: Maintaining off-street parking for Oyster-Adams Bilingual School faculty and staff is absolutely critical for recruitment and retention.

WHEREAS: It is specifically contemplated in the procurement documentation that the Design-Builder can make revisions to the concept design submission as necessary to incorporate comments, feedback, and other direction and that the Design-Builder should anticipate that such revisions will be required.

WHEREAS: DCPS and DGS have not yet approved a final concept design.

THEREFORE: BE IT RESOLVED THE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1C OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, SUPPORTS MAINTAINING THE SIZE OF THE REAR OUTDOOR AREA OF THE ADAMS CAMPUS OF THE OYSTER-ADAMS BILINGUAL SCHOOL TO SUPPORT OUTDOOR PLAY SPACE FOR STUDENTS AND PARKING FOR FACULTY.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1C OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, STRONGLY SUPPORTS ADDITIONAL DESIGN CONCEPT OPTIONS FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE ADAMS CAMPUS OF THE OYSTER-ADAMS BILINGUAL SCHOOL.