I discovered that at just four former DCPS school buildings occupied by charters and owned by DC, at least an additional 1500 students (or what would be 5 small elementaries or 3 middle schools) could be accommodated, while what is being reported by the DME actively obscures this.

This means that DC is being cheated of its own real estate assets. How many others there are remains unspoken publicly.

The DME's boundary tool for this purpose is misleading because it does NOT account for different charter facilities—only for each "campus," even when the campuses are MILES apart, so while functionally they may be in different facilities, the tool doesn't recognize it. (Bethune is a good example.) And the boundary tool only accounts for the space at each charter facility that the charter itself has designated for its use—which in at least the case of Perry St. Prep and Sojourner Truth is NOT the entirety of the facility they occupy.

Paul: Paul charter school occupies a DC-owned bldg at 5800 8th NW, which when it was closed as a DCPS school comprised about 128K square feet. The DME's boundary tool says that Paul HS is 52% utilized, with a capacity of 800 and an enrollment of 419. This is misleading, as both Paul's MS and HS are in the same bldg and the SY22-23 enrollment audit says that Paul had 705 students, with 419 in the HS and 275 in the MS.

Paul added on to the bldg before 2015, and an article said that the size of the original bldg was 135K square feet and the addition 30K, bringing the total square footage to 165K. Using the conservative metric of 70K square foot space for 500 students (or about 140 square feet per student), the total that could be in Paul now (assuming 165K square feet is accurate) would be close to 1200 students.

So theoretically one could arrive at 52% utilization with a capacity of 1200--but NOT with a capacity of 800, unless the space devoted to the HS is in fact for only 800 (i.e. 419 HS students/800 HS capacity). But that is

not accounting for the middle school, of course.

Bottom line: No one is reporting that Paul could hold an additional 500 students—or another entire school.

Taft: The former DCPS school Taft in Brookland has 201,000 square feet. Its charter leaseholder, Perry St. Prep, has sublet a lot of space, including about 21,000-31,000 square feet to LAMB, which has now moved out entirely. There is yet another charter school contained in Taft, Sojourner Truth, which has both a middle and high school.

Per the DME's boundary tool, here are the numbers for these schools at Taft:

Perry Street Prep elem.: 69% utilized, 650 capacity, 321 enrollment
Perry Street Prep MS: 69% utilized, 650 capacity, 129 enrollment

Sojourner Truth MS: 70% utilized, 300 programmatic capacity, 166 enrolled
Sojourner Truth HS: 70% utilized, 300 programmatic capacity, 44 enrolled

The total programmatic capacity of these two charters (i.e. the space inside Taft that they have assigned to themselves—NOT the total unused) is much less than what Taft could hold (300 + 650, or 950 students reported capacity versus about 1500 estimated total capacity, using the 70K square feet/500 students rule of thumb). The enrollment of these two charters is 660 (321 + 129 + 166 + 44), which gets to the utilization rates on the boundary tool. A small portion of Taft is also leased to a private school that has less than 100 students.

Bottom line: No one is reporting that Taft is actually 50% empty and could hold another 600-700 students, amounting to 1-2 schools.

Slowe: This is a former DCPS school in Brookland leased to the Mary McLeod Bethune charter school. The most recent fiscal audit for Bethune shows the square footage of both its facilities: 56,028 square feet for

Slowe and 7,819 for its (private) facility in Ward 4 on 16th St. The January 29, 2024 charter board staff report (for Bethune's impending move of its Ward 4 facility) says that Bethune's SY23-24 enrollment is 361, with 93 students at 16th street.

That means there are about 268 students at Slowe this year. Using the 70K square feet/500 students metric, Slowe could hold at least 400 students—more than the entire LEA has enrolled in the last 7 school years at both facilities combined.

Bottom line: No one is reporting that Slowe has been half full for years running and could hold 150-200 more students.

Rabaut: This holds the entirety of the Capital City charter school at 100 Peabody NW. At its closure as a DCPS school, Rabaut had about 176K square feet. Capital City has its entire operation from elementary through HS in it. Audited enrollment for SY22-23 shows the following for Cap City: 342 HS; 332 MS; 380 elementary, for a total of about 1054 students. As noted above, using a metric of 70K square feet for 500 students, about 1300 students could fit into Capital City's facility (using the size at its DCPS closure).

Bottom line: No one is reporting that Rabaut could hold at least 300 more students than are currently there—or what amounts to another entire school.