

DRAFT

By Electronic Mail

November 20, 2023

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Government of the District of Columbia

Director Delano Hunter
District Department of General Services

Ely Ross
Chief Operating Officer
District of Columbia Public Schools.

RE: Request to Convene a School Improvement Team (SIT) for MacArthur High School (MHS) and Construction of Promised Auditorium

Mayor Muriel Bowser, Director Delano Hunter, Chief Operating Officer Ely Ross,

This letter serves to urge you to immediately convene a School Improvement Team (SIT) for MacArthur High School (MHS).

It is both unwise and unreasonable for DCPS to work through the school's Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) for this major capital project. Our concerns are shared by parents in the MacArthur feeder pattern who have recently reached out to us.

First, not only are the functions of a SIT outside the purview of an LSAT, but there is much work for MacArthur's LSAT to do on matters of budget, curriculum and school culture to ensure that MHS continues on its successful path. It is in the school's - and ultimately the students' - best interest for the newly constituted LSAT to fully focus on its intended job and not be bogged down by the review and feedback process in which a SIT engages.

Second, without doubt, the scope and budget of the MacArthur work qualify the project for a SIT.

Third, we have seen again and again that community engagement is critical to better outcomes for DCPS's capital projects.

MacArthur has successfully launched its inaugural year in no small part because of the extensive and intentional community engagement undertaken by both DCPS and Principal McCray over the past year. The inclusion of MacArthur parents (both current and future) and ANCs in a SIT will be an important way to continue building community and confidence in DCPS's newest school and its feeder pattern. A SIT would increase transparency and facilitate community input in planning for MacArthur's future - both stated goals of school improvement teams. Conversely, failure to convene a SIT will undermine both.

Additionally, this letter serves to request the construction of an auditorium at MHS, as promised to

the community. DCPS appears to be claiming the Council didn't provide enough money for an auditorium despite the Council funding every penny of the EOM/DCPS's budgetary request. ANC3C officially requests clarification on whether the plans for said promised auditorium ever existed and/or when the plans for said promised auditorium can be expected.

ANC3C wants to ensure the success of MacArthur High School. Convening a SIT for the school's capital project will be an important part of that success. Also, providing an auditorium at this large, comprehensive high school is essential.

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed public meeting on November 20, 2023 with a quorum present, a quorum being five commissioners, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 3C voted x-x-x to provide written comments.