**Resolution Regarding School Overcrowding in the Wilson High School Feeder Pattern and the Need to Keep Old Hardy Public**

**Passed 4/25/2019**

**Whereas**, eight of fifteen DCPS schools in the Wilson High School feeder pattern are currently at or well above their enrollment capacities;

**Whereas**, overcrowding affects all students’ educational experience in common spaces such as gyms, outdoor play space, hallways; and, further, by converting special education and pre-kindergarten classrooms to other uses.

**Whereas**, overcrowding limits enrollment of out-of-boundaries students to Wilson Feeder schools;

**Whereas**, the Deputy Mayor for Education’s Master Facilities Report projects at least an additional 25% growth in elementary school enrollment within the Wilson High School feeder pattern by 2027;

**Whereas**, DC Public Schools (DCPS) and the Deputy Mayor for Education’s (DME) office have agreed that expanding school facilities is a necessary step to relieve overcrowding, a central recommendation in the recently released Wilson High School Feeder Pattern Community Working Group (CWG) on Overcrowding and the 2019 Master Facilities Plan;

**Whereas**, the old Hardy School building is the only DCPS-owned property west of Rock Creek that is not currently being used for public education;

**Whereas**, the four DCPS elementary schools in the perimeter of the old Hardy School building (Key, Mann, Stoddert, and Hyde-Addison) are collectively forecasted to enroll 346 students above capacity by 2027 – prospectively constituting the need for another school building;

**Whereas**, the Deputy Mayor for Education’s Master Facilities Report affirmed that no public land exists today in Ward 3 that is available for a new DCPS elementary school;

**Whereas**, this overcrowding cannot be addressed by redrawing school boundaries since every nearby DCPS elementary school west of the Rock Creek Park is forecasted to experience enrollment beyond capacity by 2027;

**Whereas**, the old Hardy School building was originally leased on a temporary basis to a private school starting in 1998 with the expectation that it would be returned to DCPS if demand for capacity were to exist in the future;

**Whereas**, the Keep Old Hardy Public Coalition was created to advocate for the restoration of the old Hardy School building to DCPS use at the conclusion of the current lease in December 2023;

**Whereas**, there is a significant amount of confusion surrounding funding for both DCPS and charter schools; the lack of transparency in how DCPS and charter budgets are created, funded, and applied undermines public confidence; there are two bills before Council that seek to correct these issues that would benefit all schools, students, and residents of the District;

**Whereas,** there was no community input sought before the decision was made by the Mayor’s office to request emergency legislation to extend a 50 year lease to a private school at the old Hardy Building; similarly in Shaw the express wishes of the community to reopen the old Shaw Middle School to serve as an anchor for their feeder system as they were promised in prior boundary reports were seemingly ignored when the Mayor’s office made the decision to use the site for an expanded Banneker High School; the lack of adequate feeder networks in every neighborhood in every Ward puts added pressure on the Ward 3 feeder;

**Now, Therefore,** in recognition of these considerations, Ward 3 Democrats adopt the following resolution;

**Resolved,** Ward 3 Democrats endorse the recommendations outlined in the CWG Report, especially the need for new schools to be open in the Wilson High School feeder pattern.

**Be It Further Resolved That,** Ward 3 Democrats support the return of the old Hardy School to use as a DCPS school when its current lease ends, and recommends to the DC Council and the Mayor of the District of Columbia that no action be taken to dispose or otherwise encumber the old Hardy School;

**Be It Further Resolved That,** Ward 3 Democrats wish to be included as partners in the Keep Old Hardy Public Coalition.

**Be it Further Resolved That**, Ward 3 Democrats support efforts to bolster and create excellent feeder networks and neighborhood schools in every Ward.

**Be it Further Resolved That**, Ward 3 Democrats support the Public School Transparency Amendment Act of 2019 and the [School Based Budgeting and Transparency Act of 2019](http://www.davidgrosso.org/grosso-analysis/2019/4/2/school-based-budgeting-and-transparency-act-of-2019) to increase transparency, accessibility, and accountability.

**Be it Further Resolved That**, Ward 3 Democrats ask the Mayor and Council to take serious accounts of community views and give significant weight to the needs and wants of the communities these schools were built to serve before making decisions to avoid what is currently happening with the old Hardy building and the old Shaw Middle School.

**Passed by:**

**THE WARD THREE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**