



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D
Southwest, Buzzard Point, The Wharf

December 17, 2024

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Dr. Lewis Ferebee,
Chancellor
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Via email: lewis.ferebee@k12.dc.gov

RE: Follow-Up on ANC 6D Conversation with Deputy Chancellor for Finance & Operations Patrick Ashley, December 9, 2024

Dear Chancellor Ferebee:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed public meeting on December 9, 2024, with a quorum present, a quorum being five Commissioners, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6D voted 8-0-0 to send the questions below to you related to Amidon-Bowen Elementary School (ABES) modernization swing space. We thank you for sending your proxy, Deputy Chancellor for Finance & Operation Patrick Ashley to our meeting. We will greatly appreciate receiving written answers to these questions, and we look forward to continued dialogue with DCPS on this important topic.

COMMISSIONERS

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SMD 8 *Rhonda Hamilton*

1. If modular units are to be built for ABES modernization, which budget year needs to include those funds to accomplish timely modular unit construction? Needed in FY 26 \$10M plus outyear to maintain?
2. Will the Chancellor commit to meeting with the Amidon-Bowen community in February to hear concerns about DCPS's proposed swing space?
3. How does DCPS factor in the cost to ABES students and families of such a distant swing to Meyer Elementary School?
4. When will DCPS clarify the cost-benefit calculation of DCPS's swing space decision-making for ABES?

5. The Swing Space Committee and ANC members were originally told by DCPS that the swing required 80,000 square feet and partnership with one other school. In follow-up meetings, DCPS officials increased the burden of those requirements and continued to refuse to provide official documentation related to DCPS's decision-making or specifics related to the size of space needed and the components of the swing. For example, over a year after the ABES discussion first started, DCPS shifted the original 80,000 square foot requirement to a 100,000 square foot requirement, which now includes a 20,000 square foot teacher parking lot. Similarly, the original requirement for 2 schools to participate in any swing location became a requirement for 3 schools to participate in a swing. And still, DCPS continues to refuse to provide official documentation related to their decision-making or justification for the size of space needed and the components of the swing. The ABES Swing Space Committee has repeatedly requested these documents, even via FOIA, and not received clarifying materials.
 - a. Does DCPS believe that refusing to share requested requirements documents builds trust with the community?
 - b. Does DCPS believe that refusing to share requested requirements documents results in swing space that supports the Southwest community?
 - c. How can the ABES parents and students find a better swing space when DCPS keeps increasing swing space requirements?
 - d. When will DCPS provide the documents the Swing Space Committee continues to request?
6. The current ABES teacher parking lot is approximately 7,000 square feet. Why is DCPS requiring 20,000 square feet of ABES parking lot swing space, which is 13,000 square feet more parking lot space than ABES teachers currently utilize?
7. How many schools will be using the modular swing space at Whittier Elementary School?
8. When the ABES Swing Space Committee and ANC members ask for better engagement with DCPS on ABES swing space, we are told about how DCPS will be engaging with other schools in the future in a more organized, more collaborative, and more timely manner. That response continues to ignore the real needs and the approaching hardship of DCPS's proposed swing space location for ABES.
 - a. What is DCPS leadership doing to engage with the ABES Swing Space Committee and the ABES Swing Space Action Committee on better swing space for the upcoming ABES modernization right now?
 - b. Who is the responsible DCPS person for that communication?
 - c. What is the engagement plan focused on collaboration to find a better swing space for ABES?
9. The ABES Swing Space Committee has heard through the grapevine that DCPS is considering a hybrid approach so that modernization construction can be staggered, and part of the current building can be used for the swing.

- a. Does that change the footprint of ABES's construction/modernization?
 - b. Does that change ABES's construction timeline?
 - c. What is the resulting cost for the ABES swing (modular units + any changes to the existing building to outfit)?
10. Are requirements for swing space generalized, or are they specific to Amidon-Bowen Elementary School?
 11. What are the specific swing space requirements for Amidon-Bowen Elementary School?
 12. Is DCPS open to suggestions for other swing spaces for ABES?
 13. The objections DCPS has expressed to most of the Swing Space Committee's proposed swing space locations do not apply to Amidon Field, which has the same square footage as the current ABES building. Will DCPS work with the Swing Space Committee explore using Amidon Field for the modernization swing space?
 14. Aside from the funding, what conditions permitted DCPS to agree to modular campus swing spaces for Ward 4 and Ward 5?
 15. When DCPS is constructing a modular campus, is it bid-build or design-build?
 16. Is there any precedent in the pipeline for under-used commercial space to be used for modernization swing space?
 17. Has DCPS completed a test fit model for the Amidon-Bowen swing space decision, and will DCPS share the results with the ANC and the Swing Space Committee?
 18. A large number of children who go to Amidon-Bowen live below the poverty level. Parents are struggling. DCPS's swing space location is going to put additional burdens on those students and families, especially with regard to travel time. How will vulnerable ABES families and children be protected and supported during the swing, not just where travel time is concerned, but where all the additional burdens DCPS is creating are concerned?

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 6D07@anc.dc.gov.

Sincerely,

Fredrica Kramer,
Chair, ANC 6D

Cc: Dep. Chancellor Patrick Ashley
Councilmember Charles Allen