

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 4A) RESOLUTION 4A-20-1104-4, SUPPORTS ANC 2A, ANC 2B, and ANY OTHER ANC RESOLUTIONS SUPPORTING THE REINSTATEMENT OF RICHARD TROGISCH AS PRINCIPAL OF SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS HIGH SCHOOL (SWWHS) AND SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS AT FRANCIS-STEVENSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SWW@FS)

WHEREAS, pursuant to applicable District laws, each Advisory Neighborhood Commission ("Commission") may advise the Council of the District of Columbia, the Mayor and each executive agency, and all independent/t agencies, boards and commissions of the government of the District of Columbia with respect to all proposed matters of the District government policy including, but not limited to, decisions regarding planning, streets, recreation, social services programs, education, health, safety, budget and sanitation which affect that Commission area [D.C. Official Code 1-309.10(a)];

WHEREAS, proposed District government actions include actions of the Council of the District of Columbia, the executive branch, or independent agencies, boards, and commissions. In addition to those notices required in D.C. Official Code 1-309.10(a), each agency board and commission shall before the award of any grant funds to a citizen organization or Committee, before the transmission to the Council of a proposed revenue bond issuance, or before the formulation of any final policy decision or guideline with respect to grant applications, comprehensive plans, requested or proposed zoning changes, variances, public improvements, licenses, or permits affecting said Commission area, the District budget and city goals and priorities, proposed changes in District government service delivery, and the opening of any proposed facility systems, provide to each affected Commission notice of the proposed action as required by D.C. Official Code 1-309.10(b);

WHEREAS, the issues and concerns raised in the recommendations of the Commission shall be given great weight during the deliberations by the government entity, and great weight requires acknowledgement of the Commission as the source of the recommendations and explicit reference to each of the Commission's issues and concerns [D.C. Official Code 1-309.10(c)(3)(A)];

WHEREAS, the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANCs) are the bodies of government with the closest ties to the people and they are expected to advise the city on issues, including fees, taxes, zoning, social services programs, health, emergency preparedness, economic development, transportation, and infrastructure issues;

THE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 4A TAKES NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING:

The School Without Walls High School: U.S. News and World Report, 10/27/2020

- Highest Performing HS in DC
- Advanced Placement participation rate – 100%
- Minority Enrollment – 57%
- #2 Ranking – DMV
- Graduation Rate – 99%

School Without Walls High School	School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens Education Campus
2130 G St., NW	2425 N St., NW
Washington, DC 20037	Washington, DC 20037
ANC Commission 2A	ANC Commission 2B

-#73 National Ranking out of 17,792 Nationally ranked schools and 35 schools ranked in DC

-a 2-time Blue Ribbon Award School: a U.S. Dept. of Education award program that recognizes exemplary public and non-public schools on a yearly basis, or recognizes overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

Richard Trogisch is a visionary educator responsible for building SWWHS, the magnet HS since 2006. He turned it into an academic powerhouse despite constant budget pressure – Dana Milbank, The Washington Post, 10/9/2020

The School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens Education Campus:

Richard Trogisch took over leadership in 2012. It was barely saved from Closure, with only 190 students, and Falling Test Scores.

He has led the pre-K to 8 school to a remarkable turnaround. 600 students from all 8 wards. A waiting list of 800. Vastly improved Test Scores. Increased Academic Rigor.

Whereas, on October 5, 2020, Mayor Muriel Bowser announced plans to re-open schools starting November 9<sup>th</sup>.

\*During the DCPS Chancellor's Meeting to discuss the school openings, Principal Richard Trogisch had many questions concerning the safety of opening (SWW@FS) and some other schools. As principal of

the 93- year old, unrenovated School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens Education Campus, Richard Trogisch was very concerned about the safety of returning students, teachers, and staff.

SWW@FS has poor ventilation, no HVAC, mold problems, window air condition units, some with no filters. Rodents and roaches are common.

The student body includes students with disabilities, respiratory problems such as Asthma, many adult faculty and staff are in high-risk categories.

Muriel Bowser will have NO TESTING for the schools.

The Center for Disease Control revised its guidance to acknowledge that COVID 19 is spread not just by droplets, but in aerosolized form in closed, indoor spaces with poor ventilation. That regular exchange of fresh air is imperative for spaces to be safe, especially where people (such as students and teachers in classrooms) stay in those spaces for more than just a few minutes at a time.

\*After no specific answers were given to Principal Trogisch regarding his questions, he later told his staff and parents that "School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens would not open unless he was certain that students, teachers, and all other personnel would be safe . . ." Less than 48 hours after Principal Trogisch questioned the safety of opening SWW@FS, he was fired.

Whereas, a DCPS spokesperson released a statement saying Trogisch was dismissed because of an "enrollment anomaly" and that his "departure is unrelated to any issue associated with school reopening, health or safety." – 10/8/2020

Richard Jackson, president of the Council of School Officers, a union that represents principals, said he believes the explanation was merely an excuse to dismiss a principal who was willing to challenge decisions by school system leaders. The "enrollment anomaly" refers to a situation LAST YEAR when Trogisch placed a child into a pre-K class at the School, ahead of a long waiting list, because the child's pregnant mother was a Speech Therapist who taught at the school, and would not have been able to continue working if her daughter did not get that spot. It was mid-year. Trogisch thought the teacher was excellent. He knew her students needed her. He felt it would be difficult mid-year to find a good replacement.

The majority of DC charter schools provide enrollment and other preferences to retain quality faculty. Now, during the pandemic, DCPS recently announced that children of DCPS teachers would be GUARANTEED SOME OF THE LIMITED SEATS in reopened schools as one of the 5 priority groups for in-person classes.

\*The instance was known by DCPS leadership prior to RENEWAL of Principal Richard Trogisch's 2020-2021 contract.

An action that did not prevent his contract renewal suddenly became a fire-able offense 2 days after the Principal expressed concerns about DCPS plans to reopen his school, which was not safe.

BE IT RESOLVED, that ANC 4A agrees and supports the resolutions of 2A, 2B, and other ANCs that require DCPS to use Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines regarding air quality standards and ventilation to be sure that when our students, teachers and staff return to school, they will be safe. DCPS should engage parents, students, educators and others working in schools on the standards that will be measured, and how they will be enforced, Before any schools are allowed to reopen.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the DC Council hold hearings on Remediation work conducted at every DC Public School as a step toward health and public trust. This will provide residents with a feeling of trust and wellbeing.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ANC 4A supports commissions 2A and 2B, and all other ANC Commissions that believe that Principal Richard Trogisch be Reinstated at once to his duties. The fact that he was willing to put the health and welfare of his school family first, should be an example to everyone. He is a person with such knowledge, understanding, compassion and expertise, that he has been able to help children grow. He has helped them want to do their best, has helped them love to learn, and to love their school. He is a treasure. He should be seen as such, and understood as someone who can help even more.

The School Without Walls faculty, students and families are calling for an immediate reinstatement of Richard Trogisch as Principal of our respective schools.

ADOPTED BY 7 votes at a regular public ANC 4A meeting, for which notice was properly given and at which a quorum of 7 of seven Commissioners were present, by a vote of 7 yes, 0 no and 0 abstentions.

Gale B. Black (signed manually)

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Gale Black, Chair, ANC 4A (signed)