



**S.H.A.P.P.E.**  
**Senior High Alliance of Parents, Principals, and Educators**  
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December 19, 2019

Lewis Ferebee  
Chancellor of the DC Public Schools

Dear Chancellor Ferebee,

We urge you to reverse your proposal to close Washington Metropolitan as described in your letter of November 26, 2019. Closing Wash Met reduces DCPS to three Opportunity Academies and Roosevelt STAY is not accepting any new students due to the limitations on space that both Roosevelt HS and Roosevelt STAY face sharing the same building as their enrollment has grown.

These students of Wash Met are students who have been rejected or failed and students whom we as a society have failed. This closing and the limited options available for these students is another setback for students who are already facing substantial challenges. The closing subjects each of them to uncertainty and takes away adults and a community they have come to depend on. We believe that DCPS can do better than this.

This is your one year anniversary, Chancellor Ferebee. You are starting a strategic budget planning process. You have the opportunity to pull this decision back and incorporate the challenges of this student cohort and the Opportunity Academies into a larger DCPS education planning initiative that you can undertake in tandem with the budget planning process. It will enable DCPS to avoid divisive and damaging conflicts like what we saw in the spring for the Shaw and Banneker families.

This would send the signal that you heard the concerns on transparency and equity; that you value a partnership with the community and that you understand the absolute necessity of a plan. It would not leave another DCPS building vacant when there is so much need. We understand that planning will require compromises and that it will be challenging. However, entering into that process and working with DCPS is far better than the sense of helplessness and anger many are experiencing now with the announcement of a closing.

As the Chancellor of DCPS, your role in our city is critical. DCPS is the system of right; its job is to ensure that there are schools and programs that serve all of the young people of the District. While the charter sector champions choice, and closes schools replacing them with an almost unlimited supply of new schools and new operators, DCPS can invest and improve schools that are part of its system. These schools and students are not alone; they are part of a larger supportive system.

We believe in a strong DCPS. On the heels of the good news on enrollment gains and better test scores, partner with your resourceful community and **rescind this proposal** so that it can be part of a planning process that will give you more creative and better strategies. Your ability to listen and adjust will increase trust in you and in DCPS.

Sincerely,

Cathy Reilly  
Executive Director  
S.H.A.P.P.E.