

From: Ramona Burton

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Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 12:33:12 PM EST

Subject: CHCS School Budget Advocacy

Good Afternoon,

We are reaching out as the LSAT for the Capitol Cluster Schools. I am the chair of the LSAT (which serves Peabody, Watkins, and Stuart Hobson) and want to raise to you that in spite of DCPS' promises that we would not experience staff cuts, we are in fact experiencing them at two of our campuses.

Stuart Hobson, along with several other middle schools in DCPS, had had the SEM (school-wide enrichment model) program cut from its budget. The other schools experiencing this loss include Brookland MS, H.D.Cooke ES, Hardy MS, Ida B. Wells MS, John Lewis ES, Kelly Miller MS, Kramer MS, Langley ES, S-H MS, and Whittier ES. The SEM model allowed schools to hire personnel and we have done so for several years under this program. The loss of funding means we will have to cut a teacher and lose important support for students.

More information can be found here: <https://dcps.dc.gov/page/schoolwide-enrichment-model-sem-faqs>.

With this cut to funding, we, along with these other schools, lose personnel funding that was not adjusted for in our personnel budgets this year. In a year when DCPS has an abundance of federal funding, and when the Chancellor and the Mayor are stating that no school's budget had personnel cuts, we are asking that you please assist us in restoring personnel to our budget.

At Watkins, we are losing one of our four special education teachers. This is apparently based on a prediction that we will have fewer students with IEP hours next year. However, we have many students awaiting delayed special education evaluations (evaluations that were due as long ago as September). Had those students been evaluated in a timely manner, we believe that it is likely we would need the fourth special education teacher next year. We should not be penalized due to the fact that DCPS has failed to evaluate students in a timely manner, and we worry we will not be able to serve students next year if we do not have this position restored.

Please let us know when we can speak with you further about the next steps regarding this critical funding for positions at our schools.

Sincerely,

Ramona Burton, Ed.D.

Chairperson of the Capitol Hill Cluster LSAT