



Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Brandon T. Todd  
Councilmember, Ward 4

**Committee Member**  
Business, Consumer & Regulatory Affairs  
Education  
Transportation and the Environment

December 14, 2015

Dr. Nathaniel Beers  
Chief Operating Officer  
District of Columbia Public Schools  
Office of Chief Operating Officer  
1200 First St NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Director Christopher Weaver  
Department of General Services  
2000 14th Street, NW,  
8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20009

Dr. Beers and Director Weaver:

It is my understanding that as Murch Elementary School prepares for renovation, DCPS and DGS are considering different locations that could be used as swing space for Murch students. I was recently made aware of one proposal that would affect a school in Ward 4 and that is the suggestion that the trailer complex at Lafayette Elementary School be used as the swing space. I am writing this letter to express my strong opposition to that option because I, along with many parents in the Lafayette community, have serious concerns about this proposal.

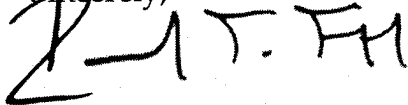
As you are aware, there are currently 697 students enrolled at Lafayette. Under the proposal to use the Lafayette trailers, that enrollment would increase significantly to approximately 1,400 students. This is concerning to both the school and the community for several reasons. First, having so many students concentrated in one area could have significant traffic and safety implications. This includes the doubling of traffic and

parking in and around the school. Second, the Murch renovation is scheduled to take over two years, which coincides with the construction of the new Lafayette field house. Given the logistics of the neighborhood, allowing for the commute of over 600 new students coupled with major construction could be very disruptive to the neighbors.

Moreover, many parents of the Lafayette community believed that this particular option was not a consideration based on previous conversations with DCPS and DGS. Yet, just recently – and without discussion – these individuals were told that both agencies have decided that using Lafayette as swing space for Murch was a consideration after all.

Given the many potential problems that could happen under a proposal to move Murch students to Lafayette, I cannot support the option to use Lafayette as swing space. I believe that because DCPS and DGS should consider what is best for both Lafayette and Murch students, the agencies should remove this option from consideration and find a swing space that is more appropriate for the needs of everyone. Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at (202) 724-8052.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon T. Todd". The signature is stylized, with the first name being the most prominent.

Brandon T. Todd  
Councilmember for Ward 4

cc: Chancellor Kaya Henderson  
Dr. Carrie Broquard  
Janine Boyle  
Shannon Behm