

# **Government of the District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B**



## **RESOLUTION #4B-25-1004**

### **In Support of Demolition of Addition and Concept Approval of New Addition at Whittier Elementary School**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B (The Commission) takes note of the following:

- Whittier Elementary School is located within the Brightwood Neighborhood and is an elementary school to be modernized.
- The small lot is fully occupied with a playground and school buildings built in 1926 (main building), 1931 (eight rooms) and 1937 (auditorium).
- ANC 4B is requesting that the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) undertake a feasibility study to explore how program goals and standards could be achieved at the site while respecting the historic buildings and the surrounding residential neighborhood.
- ANC 4B is requesting that the study focus on cost-effective remodeling focused on providing the projected program needs, namely providing adequate space for the future growth of the campus and its student population.
- ANC 4B is requesting support to demolish the 1937 auditorium addition as necessary to the public interest of providing additional classroom space and modern amenities for the updated library. While the current preservation would only allow for one large gym/theater space to be turned into a library reading room. A new space would allow for the library space, as well as two additional floors of classroom and/or administrative space to expand the school.
- ANC 4B recognizes that removing the gym/theatre space could create new design opportunities, the site remains highly constrained, and DCPS must still meet certain on-site parking requirements. At the same time, green space and outdoor play areas have consistently been at the top of Whittier families' priorities. Unfortunately, one of the few places where we could gain additional outdoor or green space would be by repurposing some of the current parking areas.

- ANC 4B suggests that DCPS explore creative approaches to balance parking needs and outdoor space, such as:
  - Constructing underground parking,
  - Adding structural decking over parking areas to create raised play spaces, or
  - Partnering with DDOT to allow teachers to use zoned street parking or nearby public parking (e.g., the Takoma Recreation Center).
- ANC 4B supports restoration to historic features of the 1926 building and 1931 classroom addition, including the entrance doors, surrounds and canopies, and to maintain view sheds to the buildings.

**RESOLVED:**

- ANC 4B deems it imperative that the 1926 building be preserved and restored where possible, and that it would be in the public interest and consistent with the purposes of preservation law to demolish the 1937 addition in order to adapt the program to current educational standards and goals.
- ANC 4B supports a modern architectural addition that would be compatible with the character of the neighborhood and urges the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) to guide the applicant to represent the strong and consistent rhythm of the older buildings' facades in the new structure's facades.
- ANC 4B urges the HPRB to work with the applicant to reduce the number of sheathing materials and to avoid using any brick-colored material since that is the predominate palette of the older buildings and the ANC has heard from many of the school's neighbors that they would prefer a more neutral palette.
- ANC 4B strongly supports this project and wants to ensure that the evolution of the design recognize the prominence of the older buildings, the very small lot size, and the proximity of the new structure to the residential neighborhood.
- The Commission designates Commissioner Keenan Courtland, ANC 4B03, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution.
- That in the event the designated representative Commissioners cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matter relating to this Resolution; 5 6. That consistent with DC Code § 1-309, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight; and 7. That the actions, positions, and opinions of individual commissioners, insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted resolution

or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered as in any way associated with the Commission.

**ADOPTED** by voice vote at a regular public meeting (notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of \_ members was present) on October 27, 2025, by a vote of \_ yes, \_ no, \_ abstentions.

Respectfully submitted,

Keenan Courtland, ANC 4B03  
Secretary ANC 4B

Shamina Christian, ANC 4B02  
Chair ANC 4B