

TO: Mayor Fenty, Chancellor Rhee, Principal Cahall:

I would like to add my voice to those calling for the reinstatement of Dr. Arthur Siebens as a Wilson High School biology teacher. I've already signed the petition, but that was as a parent. Here, I would like to speak from my perspective as a fellow Wilson teacher.

I feel confident that whatever issues led to Dr. Siebens' termination, they could be dealt with by discussion and change. To take this fine teacher out of the classroom, for the reasons both stated and implied, strikes me as a complete overreaction.

Dr. Siebens and I share many of the same students. He's strict. Me, not so much. Yet I've felt from our mutual students the enormous respect they accord him, as a serious, devoted teacher. He holds lunchtime review sessions. He goes to their sporting events, their plays and musicals. It is quite distressing to me, as his colleague, that his excellence as a teacher would be disregarded so completely in his dismissal. It sends the message that what is important at Wilson isn't the quality of a person's teaching, but the ability to avoid getting others upset. Ugh.

I am urging you to reconsider your decision. Wilson students will benefit greatly from Dr. Siebens returning to the classroom. This ought to be the highest priority.

Yours truly,

Joe Riener

English teacher

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