

Dear Reinstate Dr. Siebens Listserv Subscriber,

1. **Reinstatement Petition.** Yesterday, the students' Petition to Reinstate Dr. Art Siebens crossed over 550 signatories — 550 past and present Wilson students and their parents calling for his reinstatement to Wilson. That's a lot of people who are not being listened to. Please continue to spread the word and make certain that Wilson alums, students and their parents learn of this opportunity to show their support for Dr. Art. The comments they have left behind say it all. The petition may be accessed at:

<http://gopetition.com/petitions/reinstate-dr-art-siebens/signatures.html>

2. **Other Wilson Teachers.** I feel badly for teachers at Wilson. If Dr. Siebens — with “exceeds expectations” annual reviews, data-driven performance and no blemishes in his personnel record (I have seen it) — can be summarily dismissed after 18 years under the pretext of a No Child Left Behind restructuring (more about that to come in a future update), then no teacher is safe at Wilson.

One teacher said “It could have happened to any of us”.

If the best teachers are not supported and protected in DCPS, and if secret lists are compiled of teachers who “don't fit in”, just what is the future of DCPS? Are scared teachers good teachers for our children?

Joe Riener is an English teacher at Wilson, and is one of those teachers who makes Wilson special. He advises the Wilson Players drama program, the Beacon newspaper and coaches the varsity girls soccer team, along with many other roles that keep him very visible in the Wilson community. Although the administration says that every Wilson teacher was interviewed to keep their position as part of the restructuring, he was never interviewed. Joe Riener didn't see eye to eye with Dr. Siebens on many issues. But Joe Riener knows that while it takes all kinds of teachers to make a school a great place to be and to learn, the best schools keep their best teachers.

Joe Riener is also not afraid to stand up and support Dr. Siebens. Attached is a letter he sent to the Powers That Be. He says, ***“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.”*** His letter is attached, and is also available on our website,

<http://www.reinstatedrart.com>

Best,

Paul

Paul Mahon

Wilson Parent of Maddie ('07) and Hanna ('09)

Maddie had Anatomy & Physiology with Dr. Siebens

Hanna had AP Biology with Dr. Siebens

Please visit our website <http://www.reinstatedart.com> to learn more about our cause and to access resources in support of the students' petition.