

All,

Here is an email I sent to the three councilmembers who were so supportive at today's hearing.

----- Forwarded Message

From: Paul Mahon <[paul@unither.com](mailto:paul@unither.com)>

Date: Sat, 12 Jul 2008 15:23:48 -0400

To: <[vgray@dccouncil.us](mailto:vgray@dccouncil.us)>, <[mcheh@dccouncil.us](mailto:mcheh@dccouncil.us)>, <[yalexander@DCCOUNCIL.US](mailto:yalexander@DCCOUNCIL.US)>

Cc: hanna mahon <[hanna.mahon@gmail.com](mailto:hanna.mahon@gmail.com)>, Annie Mahon

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Conversation: Wilson SHS -- Dr. Art Siebens

Subject: Wilson SHS -- Dr. Art Siebens

Dear Chairman Gray and Councilmembers Cheh and Alexander,

As the father of one of the Wilson singers before you at today's meeting, I want to thank you for your interest, support and sincerity in helping find a solution to returning Dr. Art Siebens to his classroom, where he belongs.

I believe an important lesson to teach our kids is that "you don't fit in" is not a valid basis to remove anyone, let alone a gifted and inspiring teacher.

And if the basis for removing Dr. Siebens is an NCLB restructuring, what is the process and criteria by which he was judged? And how is removing a celebrated and gifted teacher like Dr. Siebens going to (a) promote achievement, (b) encourage families to send their children to DCPS, and (c) encourage highly effective teachers to join DCPS?

While I understand that the Council does not have the power to hire, fire or assign DCPS teachers, isn't it still true that it has oversight responsibility over the DC Public Schools? When school officials can assert that arbitrary unpublished practices, such as a 10-minute interview by people new to a school, provide a greater understanding of a teacher's instructional skills and overall performance than the achievements of the teachers' students and formal evaluations, and then can then implement the subjective results, can't the Council use its oversight authority and procedures at its disposal to halt the practice?

Just a thought I had as I listened to the hearing today.

With gratitude and admiration,

Paul

Paul Mahon

3703 Northampton St, NW

----- End of Forwarded Message