

All,

In reflecting on our strategy, it is very important that we work diplomatically to have the support of Mary Froning and Mary Giffin to ensure that they support reinstatement of Art with Cahall.

I recommend that each of us should individually email them with our heartfelt appeal for their support so that they will be willing to say to Cahall that we should stop the impending conflict. Or call them if you know them. And let's get other parents involved through your kids.

Attached is an email I just sent to Mary Giffin — who has been on our informal listserve and reached out to me — with a copy to Mary Froning. Please join in with individual emails. Does anyone know Chuck and Marlene, the former Chairs, to know if they will support Art in conversations with Cahall?

The time is now.

Onward!

Best,

Paul

----- Forwarded Message
From: Paul Mahon <paul@unither.com>
Date: Thu, 10 Jul 2008 18:30:37 -0400
To: Mary F Giffin <GiffinM@gao.gov>
Cc: <MaryFroning@compuserve.com>
Conversation: 2007 AP scores
Subject: Re: 2007 AP scores

Hello, Mary. I did leave you a voicemail yesterday afternoon when I returned to DC.

Art Siebens is passionate about teaching and is one of those teachers who makes a difference in students' lives -- after all, it's not about the adults or the system -- schools are about teaching students. Do you remember the teachers who profoundly changed your view of the world? There are so few of these, let's not lose one.

Engaging. Supporting. Inspiring. In short, exactly the sort of "fire in the belly" dead poet's society memorable teacher of a lifetime that Chancellor Rhee talks about all the time at various education conferences. Yet when the rubber meets

the road, Art is tossed under the NCLB bus -- that's the excuse with no reasons given and procedures violated -- which is wrong for many legal reasons, but mostly for the loss of what he brings to teaching Wilson students. And it is still preventable. I think it's very important that the impending conflict be prevented for Wilson's sake, while it still can be.

May we count on your unequivocal support with Mr. Cahall? You of all people know that another unnecessary and very visible division within our school is not going to benefit anyone.

Best,

Paul

On 7/10/08 5:26 PM, "Siegler, Ellen <TSA OCC>" <Ellen.Siegler@dhs.gov> wrote:

[Here's what I just sent to Mr. Cahall----](#)

Dear Mr. Cahall:

I am the parent of a former Wilson student--Ethan Barnes 2006. I and a friend, Andrea Rosen (also parent of a former Wilson student) stopped by yesterday to see if we could express to you our concerns about Dr. Siebens' dismissal. I was not at my office because my husband had undergone minor surgery, so we took the opportunity to stop in. You were not available, but Andrea and I had a very enjoyable impromptu meeting with Ms. Butler, the new Assistant Principal who obviously will be a great asset to Wilson HS.

Many present and former Wilson parents and students are disturbed by your decision about Dr. Siebens and believe that Dr. Siebens' departure would be extremely detrimental to Wilson HS. His teaching skills and excellent results, particularly on AP Biology, are well-established. In the view of many, including us, Dr. Siebens personifies academic excellence at Wilson. No doubt some have raised issues of which we are not aware, but it is difficult to imagine that they are significant enough to warrant Dr. Siebens' dismissal.

We urge you to undertake a thorough review of this decision, and we hope you will reverse it. With such a promising group of new

leaders at Wilson, including yourself, it would be unfortunate if you were to begin the new year with continuing controversy over this decision.

We would be pleased to meet with you to discuss our concerns if you have time in your busy schedule. We wish you great success at Wilson.

Ellen Siegler

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

Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 4:58 PM

To: Art Siebens; Sarah Whitener; Paul Mahon; Mary Giffin; Margot Berkey; John Lawrence; Joe Riener; Jeanie Wogaman; James Leonard; Feldmann, Linda (Wash. D.C.); Erich Martel; Ellen Siegler; Chuck Samuels; Charles Turner; Cathy Reilly; Abby Allen; Mark Simon; Kerry Sylvia

Cc: George Parker; Mary Collins; Annie Mahon

Subject: Re: 2007 AP scores

All,

Here is the email I have sent to Cahall, copying Rhee as she was on the email chain too, along with one of Art's songs.

Feel free to contact him to meet as well and tell your friends!

Best,

Paul

----- Forwarded Message

From: Paul Mahon <paul@unither.com>

Date: Thu, 10 Jul 2008 15:55:58 -0400

To: <petecahall@hotmail.com>, "Cahall, Pete (SHS)" <Pete.Cahall@dc.gov>

Cc: Hanna Mahon <hannamenice55@yahoo.com>, Maddie Mahon <angelgirlie119@yahoo.com>, "Rhee, Michelle (OOC)"

<Michelle.Rhee@dc.gov>, Annie Mahon <annie@circleyoga.com>

Conversation: Dr. Seibens

Subject: Re: Dr. Seibens

Dear Mr. Cahall,

Welcome to your first day at Wilson!

My wife and two of my daughters who were taught by Dr. Siebens - one for anatomy and one for AP bio -- think it would be helpful for the five of us to meet and have a chance to talk about why so many of us care about Dr. Siebens, and why we're so troubled by a decision to reassign one of the best teachers at your school.

You have a great deal to learn about Wilson, of course, and we don't need much of your time. However, given that the situation with Dr. Siebens is still developing, we believe it is important to meet with you sooner than later. Will you be available to meet on Monday afternoon?

You may know that Dr. Siebens performs songs on his guitar about biology to engage his students and help them learn. This is one aspect that makes him stand out and makes Wilson a better place. For background, I am attaching one of his songs about why he teaches. He is the real deal.

May we hear from you about a chance to meet on Monday afternoon/early evening?

Best,

Annie, Paul, Maddie and Hanna Mahon