

All,

As signers to the petition continue to grow — we're over 350 now, please continue to reach out to Wilsonian students and parents — I wanted to take a moment to highlight Dr. Siebens' performance in these data-driven times.

According to College Board Summary Reports:

- 74% of Dr. Siebens' students earned scores of 3 - 5 (eligible for college credit) on the AP Biology exam over the last ten years.
- On the 2007 AP Biology Exam, 41 of the 43 (95.3%) students with scores of 3 - 5 throughout DCPS were students of Dr. Siebens. 65% of the DCPS students who earned a 2 (learned a substantial amount, but not enough for college advanced placement credit) were taught by Dr. Siebens.
- 29% of Dr. Siebens' AP Biology students received a score of 5, or 1.7 times the national average of 17%.

(Of course Dr. Siebens teaches many non-AP courses, but the AP test provides a robust metric.)

Whatever he does in his classroom, it is working very well and students are learning. Reading the comments petition signers have left — these pop up if you click on SIGNATURES at the top right of the petition and then move your cursor over the COMMENT section — you can see the impact his teaching has had on his students and their parents, including former students are now pursuing careers in medicine and research because of him.

Which is why the recent letter of support copied below is all the more on point.

We're going to get Dr. Siebens back to his classroom, but if we don't have him back yet for the first day of school 39 days from now, I feel badly for all the students who will lose, and all the parents who will have to pay for more college classes.

If you have not done so yet, we would be grateful if you would kindly take a moment to express your thoughts and support for Dr. Siebens to those who can reverse the decision to remove Dr. Siebens:

adrian.fenty@dc.gov
mayor@dc.gov
amfenty@hotmail.com
Michelle.Rhee@dc.gov
petecahall@hotmail.com
Pete.Cahall@dc.gov
VGray@DCCOUNCIL.US

MCheh@DCCOUNCIL.US
yalexander@DCCOUNCIL.US
jrauch@DCCOUNCIL.US
victor.reinoso@dc.gov

Please send a copy to me so that we can add your letter to the record we are building.

Best,

Paul

Here's the recent support letter emphasizing the importance of great teachers to a school:

From: Christopher Patusky <patusky@comcast.net>

Date: Sat, 19 Jul 2008 14:32:17 -0400

To: <adrian.fenty@dc.gov>, <mayor@dc.gov>, <amfenty@hotmail.com>, <Michelle.Rhee@dc.gov>, <petecahall@hotmail.com>, <Pete.Cahall@dc.gov>, <VGray@DCCOUNCIL.US>, <MCheh@DCCOUNCIL.US>, <yalexander@DCCOUNCIL.US>, <jrauch@DCCOUNCIL.US>, <schwartzc@dccouncil.us>, <dcatania@dccouncil.us>, <pmendelson@dccouncil.us>, <kbrown@dccouncil.us>, <jgraham@dccouncil.us>, <victor.reinoso@dc.gov>, <mbowser@dccouncil.us>

Subject: Dr. Siebens

Dear Sirs/Madams:

I am writing to add my voice and experience to the chorus of individuals who have suggested that the Wilson High School administration find a way to keep Dr. Siebens in the classroom.

As the former Executive Director of the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government, I had the opportunity to serve as the co-founder and Project Director for the Philadelphia SchoolStat performance management program. During its peak two years, the program involved 40 meetings per month attended by all 270 of the district's principals. At the meetings, groups of principals reviewed and discussed their schools' monthly performance based on key indicators and derived strategies for driving improvement (e.g., attendance, violent incidents, test scores and other measurable factors that indicate the ongoing success or challenges faced by each school). For a summary of the program, see <http://www.businessofgovernment.org/index.asp>

I attended many SchoolStat sessions with the principals and developed strong opinions regarding the qualities that a principal needed to run a school successfully. In addition to being good administrators, the effective principals had a passionate

devotion to their best teachers because they knew that the most sure way to get results from their students was to have a good teacher in the classroom. They saw it as part of their administrative duties to find ways to keep these teachers happy, a difficult task when you cannot reward them with more money, and they mourned whenever they lost one to retirement or to a job change.

Based on this experience and what I have learned about Dr. Siebens, I would recommend that the school find a way to keep this rare gem of a teacher. These are the ones that you fight to keep and to accommodate because that is the best way to ensure a successful reconstitution of the school.

Thank you for considering this message. I wish you all the best in your difficult and important responsibilities.

Very truly yours,

Christopher Patusky