

Dear Reinstate Dr. Siebens Listserv subscribers,

I wanted to provide you with an update as our mission continues to expand.

1. **Petition at 532 Signatures**. We're well across the 500 mark, with 532 current and former students and their parents supporting the reinstatement of Dr. Art. While the passionate comments signatories have left may be seen on the online petition website, attached for your convenience is a representative sampling. What a remarkable tribute to Dr. Siebens and a DCPS education. What a shame that the administration does not want him to continue doing what he does so well at Wilson for our students. Please continue to spread the word about this petition so that we reach as many Wilson students as possible: <http://gopetition.com/petitions/reinstate-dr-art-siebens.html>. **If you have not seen a posting about the petition on your neighborhood listserv, we would be grateful if you would post it. Please email me to me know if you would like to do so: paul@unither.com.**

2. **Meeting with Mr. Cahall**. Last Wednesday, four past and current Wilson students met with Mr. Cahall, Wilson's new principal, and presented him with the petition and the 514 signatures they had at that point, copy attached, along with representative comments left by the signatories. The students provided this summary: *"We explained to him why we supported the petition and talked for over an hour about why Dr. Siebens should be rehired. It was a very frank discussion in which we presented our views and Mr. Cahall presented his. While he made no commitments regarding the reinstatement of Dr. Siebens, he made it clear that he is open to student input, that he often revisits his decisions, and that he will be considering what we had to say. We expressed our view that this issue will not go away on its own and thanked him for his time. We also followed that up with a 'thank you letter."*

The four students who attended the meeting were Hanna Mahon ('09), Sarah Cox-Shrader ('09), Mike Jayes ('06), and Jennifer Jiggetts ('02).

3. **School Board Testimony**. Also last Wednesday, four past and current Wilson students testified before the DC State Board of Education at its Public Hearing on Proposed Regulations Governing Teacher Certification. The theme of the hearing was teacher quality and a proposed change to the teacher licensing and certification rules so that DCPS can get "effective" teachers in every classroom, rather than rely on the current metric of having "qualified" teachers, a definition that relates to the number of education courses or hours of professional development a candidate has taken. The DC State Board of Education is interested in assessing a teacher's positive impact on student achievement and learning. The students testified about Dr. Siebens' removal from the Wilson faculty, noting how effective he is in the classroom and questioning the absence of standards applied in the evaluation that led to his dismissal. They also submitted to the DC State Board of Education the Petition to Reinstate Dr. Siebens along with representative comments left by signatories to the Petition, and statistics supporting the quality of Dr. Siebens' teaching. A copy of their testimony is attached.

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

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