

All,

1. New Member. A big parents listserve welcome to Elissa Free who has written Cahall and Rhee several times. Elissa, one of the things that we try to do is to send our support letters to the following list, and encourage our friends to do so as well:

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

Feel free to resend your earlier email, or an updated version, to this full list, as it's essential that the Mayor sees the growing support.

2. Student Update. Here's an update from Hanna Mahon concerning the status of the students efforts:

Hello all!

It is Hanna Mahon, a soon to be senior at Wilson. Just to update you, the student campaign is pretty busy at this point, and we are making progress.

I am sure all of you heard about our hearings in front of the City Council, and we would like to report that we believe they went well and that the Councilmembers were amazingly open to our thoughts; they truly heard what we had to say and we believe they will do everything in their power to help us.

With the success of these hearings, we don't want to stop pushing!

One of the things we were doing is confirming our supporters ahead of launching our online petition drive to reinstate Dr. Siebens within the next few days. It is quite difficult to gauge how many supporters are out there, what with students being on vacation or unavailable, but after only one day we have just under 100 student supporters who have identified themselves as such. Our petition drive will be open to parents and other supporters and not just students. We will have an update on the petition shortly.

Here is just a sampling of statements students have made after declaring their support for Dr. Siebens:

(From a 2006 Wilson grad)

"I support the rehiring of Dr S. And had him for AP Biology Senior year and it was one of the most informative and inspiring classes that I had a Wilson. He was, without a doubt, one of my two favorite teachers at Wilson, he managed to inspire his students to love the subject that he was teaching, and really took all of us under his wing, and I still use his BioRhythm songs to this day to study, because he is such a thorough teacher"

(From a student Dr. Siebens taught in 1994)

"It's hard to forget about good people who take an interest in your education-- Dr. Siebens took a couple of us sailing on his dad's boat in Baltimore as a reward and encouragement for all of our hard work. You don't turn your back on teachers who care that much, even if decades have passed!"

(From a student who took his Botany class last year)

"I definitely thought about taking AP BIO just cause of how good a teacher he was and I'm not really a big advocate of science which is funny. He definitely made sure that everyone did their best, even letting people retake tests and giving lots of extra credit."

(From a 2005 Wilson grad)

"I never took his classes, but i use his bio songs for Bio101. They are catchy, memorable, and helpful. Oh did i mention i'm getting an A? yeah. thanks Dr. Art ;)"

We are also attempting to reach Mayor Fenty, Michelle Rhee, and Mr. Cahall in every way that we can, so keep up the good work!

Thank you all so much for your support! We will keep pushin'!

Hanna :D

3. Media Update. Thanks to Cherita Whiting, the students have received their first local television news inquiry to interview a group of Art's students and tell the story, which we expect to happen within the next several days.

4. Support Letters. Our campaign to obtain letters from concerned people beyond the Wilson community is producing results. Watch this space for new support letters from prominent national and international scientists. Again, your efforts to bring support for Art from any friends and contacts concerned with his treatment are encouraged!

Best,

Paul