



*The following resolution passed by unanimous vote of the Palisades Citizens' Association general membership in June 2017. An identical resolution was subsequently passed by unanimous vote at the June 2017 meeting of the Key Elementary School's Parent Teacher Organization.*

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## **A RESOLUTION**

In support of preserving the old Hardy School as an option for public education.

*Whereas,*

The Hardy School, located at 1550 Foxhall Road, served the Palisades community as a public elementary and middle school for sixty years;

*Whereas,*

The old Hardy School lies within the boundaries of the Palisades Citizens Association;

*Whereas,*

A task force has been formed by DC Public Schools and the Ward 3 Councilmember to study and address the issue of crowding in the public schools that feed Woodrow Wilson High School

*Whereas,*

The DC Office of Planning is projecting that the city's under-18 population will grow by 28% from 2014 to 2020, adding over 32,000 children, and the neighborhoods abutting the old Hardy School are expected to add over 3,500 children by 2022;

*Whereas,*

DCPS has announced that in 2018 it will discontinue the Fillmore Arts Center, which provides out-of-school arts and music instruction to 1,600 children at five nearby public schools, in favor of in-school instruction, but no facilities have been identified at already-crowded schools for this additional programmatic mandate;

*Whereas,*

The Deputy Mayor for Education has stated that DCPS will produce a Master Facilities Plan sometime in 2018 which will address the issue of school crowding and population growth;

*Whereas,*

The old Hardy School is the only DCPS-owned property west of Rock Creek which is not currently being used for public education;

*Whereas,*

On March 3, 2017, Mayor Bowser submitted to the Council of the District of Columbia a bill entitled the “Hardy School Disposition and Lease Amendment Act of 2017,” which if passed would remove the old Hardy School from public use for the next fifty years; yet to date there has not been opportunity for public input nor has the city followed its own process for the disposition of public owned property;

*Whereas,*

The Palisades community is committed to the importance of public education, in the words of Horace Mann, “the great equalizer of the conditions of men - the balance-wheel of the social machinery,” and agrees with Mann that “the public school is the greatest discovery made by man,”

*Therefore, be it resolved,*

To recommend to the Council and Mayor of the District of Columbia that no action be taken to dispose of or otherwise encumber the old Hardy School until such time as a DCPS Master Facilities Plan has been created which provides solutions to the issues of school crowding and plans for the growth in the school-age population of the city.