

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau,

I'm a Hobart Street resident in Mount Pleasant, as well as a parent - my wife and I were joined by our daughter Avery in early November. We moved to Mount Pleasant to be part of a diverse community with lots of families, so Avery would have friends, classmates, and neighbors of her own age nearby. Mount Pleasant is truly a wonderful neighborhood, and Bancroft Elementary is also unique - an amazing bilingual school with great teachers, a diverse student body, and strong educational results.

I'm writing to ask that the Mayor request sufficient funds for a bilingual pre-K building that would include Bancroft students in the upcoming budget proposal for FY 2025. I know this would also require the Deputy Mayor to support and work towards including this building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. And finally, I'm asking Council Chair Mendelson to support this building through the City Council Budget process. I'm also writing to strongly oppose changing Bancroft's boundaries as part of the Boundary Study.

Part of the reason Bancroft is a success story is it's truly a neighborhood school for Mount Pleasant, so I was concerned to learn that the District is considering splitting the neighborhood and reassigning some streets to another elementary school. A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of responses (1,249) and 85% voted for finding a new building for Pre-K, voting against reducing the size of the boundary. Keeping the current boundary intact maintains predictability and continuity, a key Boundary Study principle, for Mount Pleasant families. Mount Pleasant is a very geographically distinct neighborhood, with the "cliff" to the south, the park to the west and north, and 16th street to the east. Additionally, looking at the Boundary Explorer tool, it doesn't seem like changing the boundaries would address Bancroft's overcapacity issue - only reducing the population by 34 students.

The Boundary Study process is an opportunity for the District to identify and understand resident and neighborhood needs and adjust to meet them. There are no neighborhood concerns or complaints driving the consideration of changing the boundary. Instead, it's being driven by the fact that Bancroft is a success - its popularity. D.C. has an opportunity to build on that success and, in the process, provide high quality education to a growing group of students in the neighborhood. It would be a shame to instead reduce access to the school. I hope you're able to find a way to invest in our neighborhood school and keep our neighborhood together, rather than splitting it apart.

Sincerely,

Matt Traldi
1753 Hobart St NW

January 14, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau

I have lived on Hobart Street for almost 30 years (since 1996). I raised a child here. I have played a leading role in organizing our street's annual Porchfest block party. I am a founding member of the Hobart Street book club.

Moreover, I am a member of the Mount Pleasant Artists Collective and have worked with the Collective and Mt Pleasant Farmers Market to organize regular craft markets at Lamont Plaza and with District Bridges to organize Mt Pleasant's Art All Night events. I am also a member of the Mount Pleasant Village and the City Garden Coop and have a wealth of friends and colleagues of all ages among the residents and business owners throughout Mount Pleasant. My sister and brother-in-law even moved to the neighborhood ten years ago at my recommendation!

I'm sharing all this because I want you to know that I understand the importance of neighborhood and deeply value the incredible community that Mount Pleasant is. And that is why I cannot fathom the decision to exclude Irving, Harvard and Hobart Streets from the Bancroft school boundary. What a needless disruption to a thriving community!

I urge the Mayor to consider the overcrowding solution that would NOT remove students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from Bancroft, their neighborhood school, and NOT reduce ECE classrooms.

This means including in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a bilingual ECE building that would include Bancroft students. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a bilingual ECE building to include Bancroft students in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the bilingual ECE building through the City Council Budget process.

An ECE building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community. Anything else will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Children walk to school together and parents support each other through school events. Splitting this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and ties between families. Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Barbara Stauffer

1650 Hobart Street

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau

I am a concerned Mount Pleasant resident writing to urge the Mayor to maintain the cohesiveness of the Mount Pleasant community by keeping the current Bancroft school boundary intact. I live on Hobart Street and have neighbors, many of them Spanish speaking, with children currently in Bancroft. I have neighbors, many of them Spanish-speaking, whose now-adult children went to Bancroft. I am a member of the Mount Pleasant Village, which has members who volunteer at Bancroft. Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Children walk to school together and parents support each other through school events. Senior citizen neighbors volunteer at Bancroft. Schools have historically been the heart of thriving communities, and splitting Irving, Hobart and Harvard Streets from this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and weaken ties among families.

In addition, Mt. Pleasant is uniquely separated from adjacent neighborhoods by geography, including major thoroughfares, a national park, and a geological cliff. Routing Mt. Pleasant students to a school in Adams Morgan will create new traffic safety problems that would then need to be solved. Students will have to walk along and cross Columbia Road, a major 4-lane thoroughfare with frequent traffic violations. Why put students at risk when the overcrowding issue can be addressed by using a school building within Mt. Pleasant that can house the ECE and is currently available for sale or lease? The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity.

Please preserve the integrity of the Mount Pleasant community by including in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a bilingual ECE building that would include Bancroft students. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a bilingual ECE building to include Bancroft students in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the bilingual ECE building through the City Council Budget process.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure - without solving the overcapacity problem.

Thank you,

Brian Maney

1650 Hobart Street, NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau,

My wife and I are Mt. Pleasant residents, and parents of a child slated to attend Bancroft Elementary in 2028. We have been DC residents for over 15 years, and we scrimped and saved for years to buy a house in Mt. Pleasant so that our child would be able to get a good education in DC. We want to remain DC residents, but are dismayed by the current DME proposals to remove Bancroft from the Deal/JR feeder and/or cut our half of Mt. Pleasant out of the Bancroft boundary.

I urge the Mayor to **include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a bilingual ECE building that would include Bancroft students**. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a bilingual ECE building to include Bancroft students in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the bilingual ECE building through the City Council Budget process.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that can house the ECE and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity.

An ECE building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of respondents (1,249 residents) and the overwhelming majority (85%) voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats. Keeping the current boundary intact maintains predictability and continuity, a key Boundary Study principle, for Mt. Pleasant families.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. **We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.**

Sincerely,

Aaron Kunz and Katherin Santoro

1703 Harvard St. NW, DC

Dear Mayor Bowser,

I am writing to advocate for and to seek your support for the FY 2025 budget to include needed funding for a bilingual ECE building that would include Bancroft students. A Bancroft community poll had many neighbor/community (1,249 residents!) and the vast majority (85%) voted to “relocate PK to a new location” as the top, most appropriate choice.

Why do I care? Mount Pleasant is a really wonderful community and Bancroft Elementary School is a treasure. I have lived and worked in the District of Columbia for over 30 years and have been a resident of Mount Pleasant for 19 years. I live at 1757 Park Road with my husband. I retired in the past few years and I’m active in Mount Pleasant Village.

I tutor at Bancroft Elementary School. Last year, I tutored a 5th grade student, Jayden, who comes from El Salvador, and is now a student at Deal Middle School. This year, I tutor a 5th grade student, Josue, who also comes from El Salvador. The experience of working with these two really great kids has been humbling and so rewarding. The experience of tutoring in the school, seeing the diversity and energy of the student body and school staff, and feeling the positive spirit and camaraderie in this elementary school is amazing.

I support this ECE building because it will help maintain all those positives about Bancroft. It will keep the Mount Pleasant community together and maintain and enhance the English/Spanish education and language program, along with the broad characteristics of diversity (socio economic and cultural) that are hallmarks of Mount Pleasant. Why break something that is a strength and a positive and is working well? Alternatives to the ECE building will serve to break apart this highly positive dynamic in our neighborhood.

Bancroft is a success story as an elementary school. It is a connecting institution of our neighborhood. It brings a lot of different people in our neighborhood together. Let’s work to help maintain that. An ECE building will do that. As a solution to the longer term population growth of this school and neighborhood, an ECE building does that as well.

Cutting Bancroft’s boundary or its PK will also compromise its community engagement programs, like Bancroft’s Safe Street Initiative. Over 35 volunteers (from Mount Pleasant Village and the Bancroft PTO) each give an hour or more per week for an entire year to ensure safety in front of the school. Why put that support and community effort at risk with other alternatives?

Geographically, Mt. Pleasant is separated from adjacent neighborhoods by major thoroughfares, a national park, and a geological cliff. Routing Mt. Pleasant students to a school in Adams Morgan will create new traffic safety problems that would then need to be solved. Students will have to walk along and cross Columbia Road, a major 4-lane thoroughfare with frequent traffic violations.

I’ve learned from neighbors that there is a school building within Mt. Pleasant that can house the ECE and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park

Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity.

In closing, investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will provide opportunities for growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. That would be great! The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We are a community and neighborhood that strongly supports our neighborhood elementary school. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

John Burnim

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau:

I live on the corner of Mt. Pleasant and Hobart Streets, NW. I've been in Mt. Pleasant since 2012 and on Hobart Street since 2016. My children are five years old and two years old. Gemma, my oldest, is Bancroft-bound this fall. She has friends that live north of Irving Street. She made these friendships through her parents, daycare, dance classes, and the soccer classes offered through DC Parks and Recreation. These friends have younger siblings; Nolan, our youngest, is beginning to form friendships with these children.

Due to the boundary study underway, Nolan's primary school is in question. There are other families on Irving, Hobart and Harvard Streets in the same predicament; their youngest child may be forced to go to a different school than their sibling. Additionally, these children will be separated from some of the first friendships they are making. Will these children still live in the same neighborhood? Yes. But going to different schools will adversely affect those friendships. The cross-neighborhood family friendships that are developing, and so important to community integrity, will be strained as well.

In 2014, the streets now proposed for rezoning were added to Bancroft's boundary to "better encompass the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood." Over the last decade, families have been shifted from one school to another, shuttling children of different ages to schools in different neighborhoods. We deserve stability.

An early childhood education (ECE) building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and Bancroft's dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community. Families living on Irving, Hobart, and Harvard Streets have current ties to South America, Central America, Ethiopia, the Netherlands, and Hong Kong.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed - either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school or reducing ECE classrooms - will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, *without* solving the overcapacity problem.

I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a bilingual ECE building that would include Bancroft students. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a bilingual ECE building to include Bancroft students in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the bilingual ECE building through the City Council Budget process.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Mara Mordini

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau,

I am a current resident of Mt. Pleasant, having recently moved to 1717 Hobart Street NW in December 2022. I'm a parent of two children, aged four years and eight months, and a hopeful future member of the Bancroft community.

I'm a lifelong DC area resident and am proud to have lived in DC for over a decade. I hope to raise my family in the city and chose to move to Mt. Pleasant in large part because of the chance to join a community as strong, cohesive, and historically diverse as Bancroft. The news that our street may be excluded from that community was saddening, to say the least.

I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget Process.

The removal of three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school will jeopardize Bancroft's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community without solving the overcapacity problem. I was excited to bring my family into the special community that is Mt. Pleasant, and sincerely hope that these three streets can stay a part of that community.

Thank you,

Geoff Brown
1717 Hobart Street NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau,

My name is Michelle Behrens, and I am a current resident of Hobart Street in Mt. Pleasant. My family moved to 1717 Hobart Street NW in December 2022, in large part because we hoped to send our two children (aged four years and eight months) to Bancroft Elementary. I am also a former elementary school teacher and deeply value the importance of public education. I have seen the positive impact of strong community schools and was thrilled to join what is truly a DCPS success story.

In moving to Hobart Street, we hoped our family could join a community as strong, cohesive, and historically diverse as Bancroft. The news that our street may be excluded from that community was saddening, to say the least. Mt. Pleasant is a truly special place, and we have felt so welcomed into this community. My daughter has already formed friendships with current Bancroft students, and we so looked forward to her and my son attending Bancroft.

I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget Process.

The removal of three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school will jeopardize Bancroft's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community without solving the overcapacity problem. I was excited to bring my family into the special community that is Mt. Pleasant, and sincerely hope that these three streets can stay a part of that community.

Thank you,

Michelle Behrens
1717 Hobart Street NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau

I am a parent of a current Bancroft student and a hopefully future Bancroft student. Our family has lived on Hobart Street since 2019. While we have been happy living on Hobart Street, it was our daughter's entry into Bancroft that made us feel like full members of the Mt. Pleasant community. Bancroft truly is the tentpole for the neighborhood and has truly made this neighborhood home for us.

I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds to secure a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process. An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft, as reducing the size of the boundary would be inadequate to curing the overcrowding issue. It is also the only proposed solution that would not rend the Mt. Pleasant community in half or reduce ECE access. It would also ensure the preservation of the dual-language program, which is essential to the character of the school.

Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. I know that personally, our family's relationship with the community is inextricably linked to our ties to the school. Ensuring that Bancroft is open to families in the entire Mt. Pleasant community ensures that the neighborhood stays cohesive, while splitting the community will fragment the neighborhood and eliminate many of the ties that bind the families in the neighborhood. Moreover, keeping the boundary intact maintains predictability and continuity, which are key Boundary Study principles. It also ensures that children within the neighborhood have a safe commute, particularly for those children who walk to school themselves, rather than having to cross heavily trafficked intersections along Columbia Road many of which lack traffic lights, pedestrian protecting measures, or speed calming road designs. Eliminating a safe route to school at a time when the City is having substantial difficulties enforcing traffic violations and preventing pedestrian injuries (<https://www.axios.com/local/washington-dc/2023/11/30/traffic-pedestrian-deaths>) concerns me greatly as a parent.

Finally, I understand that the overwhelming majority of the Bancroft community supports the Annex as the best solution to the overcrowding issue. That is a testament to the neighborhood's understanding that Bancroft is the connective tissue for the neighborhood.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Chetan Patil

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau,

I am a 20 year resident of Mount Pleasant in Washington DC and a Bancroft Elementary School Parent.

I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a **Bancroft Early Child Education Annex** building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.

I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study.

I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

- An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.
- All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.
- There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

Sincerely,

Michael Horr
1864 Monroe St NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau:

My name is Dr. B. Ryan Phelps, and I am a pediatrician working for CNMC's Community Health Center in Columbia Heights. Before that I worked at Mary's Center. I also support global HIV programming for USAID and the Department of State. I have lived in Mt. Pleasant since 2013, when I purchased a rowhouse on upper Hobart Street (near Mt Pleasant Street).

I have provided medical care for the children and families of this community for nearly 15 years. I bought the house (after renting nearby) because, given my background as a native bilingual Texan, I wanted to be part of Mt. Pleasant. And I wanted my children to grow up speaking Spanish. I wanted to live in the community where I practiced medicine.

I am now married and a parent of a two year-old (Nolan) and a five year-old (Gemma). Both kids are bilingual. My family has a close relationship with the Latino communities of DC (i.e. my patients and my friends), Central America, and, for reasons that I will not go into in this letter, Hispaniola, esp. Haiti.

The Hippocratic Oath, as you know, is an ethical standard calling on medical professionals to first "do no harm". As a pediatrician, acting in my young patients' interests is priority number one. I trust that, when looking at decisions that affect children, you are driven by the same ethical principle.

As such, when it comes to the Bancroft overcrowding issue, **I strongly urge the Mayor to do no harm**, especially when such harm simply does not solve the problem at hand. It is well known that Bancroft's overcrowding is not solved by fracturing Mt. Pleasant. It is as simple as that.

And yet there is very good news: The least harmful approach is both the only true long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft, and also as I see it the most straightforward.

Better still, **Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn and Chair Mendelson**, you are well-positioned to see this three-fold process through, as follows: (a) include sufficient funds in the upcoming February budget proposal for a bilingual ECE building that would include Bancroft students; (b) actively pursue a bilingual ECE building to include Bancroft students in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study; and (c) usher the budget addition through the City Council Budget process. There may be other steps, but these are the key ones as I understand them.

While there may be building options that I am unaware of, the Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd have an ideal layout and could not only accommodate Bancroft's ECE, but also expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are near capacity.

Bancroft Elementary is our neighborhood school. We, the Mt. Pleasant community, want to help solve the overcapacity problem, and do it together -- as one community. PK3 and PK4 capacity needs a thoughtful, intentional plan. Arbitrarily cutting students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, is not only **harmful**, it simply does not solve the problem, much less prepare the community for the decade ahead.

Mayor and Team: Please incorporate a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget. Investing in an ECE building is a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding and appropriately anticipates the continued growth of the DCPS student population while boosting higher-quality bilingual education for more students.

Let's look ahead to what will truly serve the needs of our community into the future. Let's do so without splitting our beloved, cohesive neighborhood. **That is harmful.** Let's do it together in a way that puts our entire community's needs first.

Respectfully,

B. Ryan Phelps MD, MPH

1605 Hobart St NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau,

I hope this letter finds you well. My wife Nancy and I have lived on Hobart Street in Mt. Pleasant with our two children since last year. We previously rented in Columbia Heights since 2014. I'm a physician at Georgetown Hospital and Nancy is an Ecologist who works for the USDA Forest Service. Our 5-year-old is in kindergarten at Bancroft and our 3-year-old attends preschool at Barbara Chambers Children's Center in Columbia Heights.

We were surprised to learn that re-zoning Bancroft Elementary School to exclude Hobart / Irving / Harvard is being considered. This proposed change is highly disruptive for multiple reasons. For one, those streets are culturally and geographically part of the Mt. Pleasant community with relationships built in large part through the school. The proposed rezoning would sever these deep-rooted connections, isolating families and children from their familiar community ties, eroding the sense of stability and continuity that has been cultivated over years. Additionally, if siblings are not exempt from the boundary change, parents would be faced with the logistic nightmare of taking their children to different schools in different areas for the duration of their childhood (since DCPS doesn't provide transportation) – which is incompatible with most professional work schedules. The unique geography of Mt. Pleasant, bordered by significant roads, a national park, and a cliff, means redirecting students to a school in Adams Morgan could lead to new traffic hazards, including navigating Columbia Road, a busy four-lane street. This separation would also mean that siblings would have disparate educational experiences for elementary, middle and high school from the teaching staff to the resources and activities offered, complicating after-school logistics and placing excessive financial and time burdens on families dedicated to public schooling.

In addition, this proposal doesn't solve the overcapacity problem (it will only eliminate 34 students from Fall 2025 enrollment). A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of respondents (1,249 residents) and the overwhelming majority (85%) voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats.

We are sympathetic to the challenges of providing equitable access to high quality education for families throughout the city. There are undoubtedly broader considerations that we are not privy to, and we understand that changes of this magnitude involve multiple layers of complexity and a range of perspectives. However, if student enrollment continues to grow at the current rate, only a new Annex building (to include PK and additional classes if needed) provides a middle and long-term solution. None of the other options provide a solution even for the short term. Therefore, we call on the

Mayor to allocate adequate funds for a Bancroft Annex in the February budget proposal for FY 2025, which will resolve the school's overcrowding throughout the 10-year span of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. We urge the Deputy Mayor to advocate for and prioritize a Bancroft Annex in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. We also implore Council Chair Phil Mendelson to endorse the Annex in the City Council Budget process. An Annex is the sole enduring remedy for Bancroft's capacity issues, one that maintains the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program, while upholding its socio-economic and cultural diversity.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Rajiv and Nancy Sonti

1711 Hobart Street NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau

I am Andrea Ajello, father of a six year old, resident of Mount Pleasant.

I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.

I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study.

I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

- An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.
- All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.
- There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.
- Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Children walk to school together and parents support each other through school events. Splitting this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and ties between families. It is discouraging that school leadership currently has no other choice than to actively discourage new parents from considering the school because it is overcrowded.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Andrea Ajello

andrea.ajello@gmail.com

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau,

As residents of Mount Pleasant, my family and I are deeply invested in our community and Bancroft Elementary. With young children set to join Bancroft's student body in the coming years, we are directly impacted by the potential boundary changes and the school's current overcrowding.

We urge the city leadership to allocate funds in the FY 2025 budget for a Bancroft Annex. This facility is essential for addressing the school's capacity issues while maintaining the dual-language program and the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our community. Alternative solutions, such as rezoning or reducing ECE classrooms, do not adequately solve the overcrowding and threaten the integrity of our community.

The availability of the Henderson Buildings for adaptation to school use presents a timely solution to this problem. The recent community poll shows overwhelming support for this approach over other proposals, highlighting the community's desire for continuity and stability.

Investing in an ECE building will not only resolve the overcrowding at Bancroft but also promote higher-quality bilingual education and foster growth in the DCPS student population. We trust in your commitment to making decisions that reinforce the strength and unity of our community.

Sincerely,

Sean Lewis-Faupel

1731 Hobart Street NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau

I am the mother of a 3rd grader that attends Bancroft. Despite living a block away from Bancroft (at 1845 Monroe Street NW, Washington DC 20010), we never got into PK3 or 4 through the lottery, we both recognize the importance of the PK program as well as the importance of keeping Mt Pleasant as one cohesive neighborhood. We have benefited greatly from living in the Mt Pleasant (we have lived there since our son was one years old and he is now almost 9) community and from attending a bilingual school. I myself learned ENGLISH as a second language and Spanish as third language. This has opened the world to me and now I work as an attorney at the US Department of State.

I understand that Bancroft is the currently the victim of its own success. Because spanish dual language education is so popular and sought after and because Mt Pleasant is such a popular neighborhood. Bancroft is currently suffering from overcrowding. To solve this issue, I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

- An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.
- All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.
- There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Children walk to school together and parents support each other through school events. Splitting this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and ties between families.

A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of respondents (1,249 residents) and the overwhelming majority (85%) voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats.

Keeping the current boundary intact maintains predictability and continuity, a key Boundary Study principle, for Mt. Pleasant families. In 2014, the streets now proposed for rezoning were added to Bancroft's boundary to, "better encompass the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood." Over the last decade, families have been shifted from one school to another, shuttling children of different ages to schools in different neighborhoods. They deserve stability. In 2023, ANC1D passed a unanimous resolution in support of predictability and continuity, and keeping Bancroft's current boundaries.

The overcapacity issue at Bancroft is a large and growing problem. If student enrollment continues to grow at the current rate, only a new Annex building (to include PK and additional classes if needed) provides a middle and long-term solution. None of the other options provide a solution for even the short term.

Bancroft is 63 students over capacity (109% utilization) as of December 2023. DCPS projects that Bancroft will be 100 students over capacity in Fall 2024 (114% utilization). The DME's Interactive Boundary Explorer tool projects that the school's overall enrollment will only be reduced by 34 students by cutting the boundary, phased in gradually starting in Fall 2025. This does not address the overcapacity issue even today, let alone in the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. Not fully addressing overcapacity will mean that Bancroft will have to reduce current school resources and programs to accommodate in-bound students in K-5, compromising the quality of the school's programming and education. Bancroft has already cut many resources for student learning to accommodate current students, including library space and the science classroom. Next year the school will lose parent and intervention rooms that support students with acute needs. Bancroft's remaining PK3 and likely the PK4 classrooms will eventually need to be cut. PK is essential to preserving Bancroft's dual language Spanish-speaking student body and provide families in need with wrap-around family services. Bancroft currently provides some of the few Spanish-language special education stand-alone classrooms in DC, serving students from across the city. This critical service would also be in jeopardy if overcrowding is not addressed.

Mt. Pleasant is separated from adjacent neighborhoods by major thoroughfares, a national park, and a geological cliff. Routing Mt. Pleasant students to a school in Adams Morgan will create new traffic safety problems that would then need to be solved. Students will have to walk along and cross Columbia Road, a major 4-lane thoroughfare with frequent traffic violations.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Lanaand Philip Vahab

1845 Monroe Street NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau, I have lived on Park Road in Mount Pleasant, just a block from Bancroft Elementary School, for 24 years and over that time have always been aware of the school's central place in the community.

For the past 5+ years, I have had the additional privilege of seeing my two grandchildren advance from kindergarten through 5th grade at Bancroft and am so grateful for the education they have received and the friendships they have made there. Like their peers, they feel a tremendous pride in attending the neighborhood school. They wear their "Bancroft Bengals" sweatshirts frequently, and identify strongly with their schoolmates from across Mount Pleasant. The school and the neighborhood have created for them a special sense of safety and belonging that I know is shared by many of their schoolmates. I believe it is recognition of that sense that has fueled the remarkable outpouring of support for retention of Bancroft's current boundaries and development of an ECE annex to relieve the overcrowding the school now faces.

Grounded in this experience, I am writing now to urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.

Similarly, I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study.

And I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and his colleagues to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

In truth, an Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mount Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

As I have mentioned, Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Children walk to school together and parents support each other through school events. Splitting this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and ties between families. A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of respondents (1,249 residents) and the overwhelming majority (85%) voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats. In 2023, ANC1D passed a unanimous resolution in support of predictability and continuity, and keeping Bancroft's current boundaries. Mount Pleasant residents are very clear in their preferences regarding this issue.

Cutting Bancroft's boundary or its PK would compromise its community engagement programs, like Bancroft's Safe Street Initiative. This is an initiative that, frankly, stands as an example for many DC schools to follow. Over 35 volunteers from the community, including many like me, who are members of Mount Pleasant Village, and the Bancroft PTO each give an hour or more per week for an entire year to ensure safety in front of the school. Not fully addressing overcrowding will put that goodwill in jeopardy.

Mount Pleasant's unique geographic footprint cannot be overlooked in arriving at a solution to Bancroft's overcrowding. The neighborhood is separated from adjacent neighborhoods by major thoroughfares, a national park, and a geological cliff. Routing Mt. Pleasant students to a school in Adams Morgan would create new traffic safety problems that would then need to be solved. Students would

have to walk along and cross Columbia Road, a major 4-lane thoroughfare with frequent traffic violations. It only makes sense to recognize these realities in the planning process.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative would be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school.

Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

William Emmet
1755 Park Road NW

(c) 401-578-1529

January 21, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau,

We are Edward Wong and Tini Tran, parents in Mt. Pleasant. Our family moved into 1826 Irving St. in August 2021. We are part of an engaged, diverse, and supportive community of parents and children seeking to keep the neighborhood whole by having all the children in Mt. Pleasant who want to attend Bancroft school be able to go there. Our daughter Aria Wong is a potential future student.

We urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. We urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. We urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the solution that achieves equity: It preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, without solving the overcapacity problem. Bancroft is a DCPS success story that should be enhanced.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

A Bancroft community poll showed the overwhelming majority of those surveyed voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats. That would lessen opportunities and divide our community.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Edward Wong and Tini Tran

1826 Irving St. NW, Washington, DC 20010

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau

I am a longtime resident of Mt. Pleasant, having lived on Hobart St for the last 25 years. There are many things that I have loved about Mt. Pleasant, including seeing Bancroft grow as a hub that has brought the community together. Schools serve as an essential component of our local community and our sense of cohesion, so I am writing to all of you today to ask that you continue to support Bancroft in that capacity.

Specifically, I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. It is critical to the future of Bancroft and to the future of a thriving successful community. I hope the Council will advocate for and support this approach.

An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community. We are intensely opposed to the alternative solutions that would remove students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school. That will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Children walk to school together and parents support each other through school events. Splitting this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and ties between families.

As you know, this is a topic on which our community is unified. Keeping the current boundary intact maintains predictability and continuity, a key Boundary Study principle, for Mt. Pleasant families. In 2014, the streets now proposed for rezoning were added to Bancroft's boundary to, "better encompass the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood." Over the last decade, families have been shifted from one school to another, shuttling children of different ages to schools in different neighborhoods. They deserve stability. In 2023, ANC1D passed a unanimous resolution in support of predictability and continuity, and keeping Bancroft's current boundaries.

Mt. Pleasant is separated from adjacent neighborhoods by major thoroughfares, a national park, and a geological cliff. Routing Mt. Pleasant students to a school in Adams Morgan will create new traffic safety problems and will diminish the community that we have worked so hard to create here in Mt. Pleasant.

I urge prompt resolution of this issue in the manner requested virtually unanimously by the Mt. Pleasant community.

Sincerely,

Ken Stern
1649 Hobart St NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau

We are 8-year residents of Mt. Pleasant and nearly 20-year residents of the city, living on Hobart St., with a daughter in kindergarten at Bancroft Elementary School and another who will begin Pre-K in the fall and whom we hope will eventually attend Bancroft, as well. We identify strongly with our neighborhood, and love it for reasons that are too many to list in this letter. For us, Bancroft has served as the major link that binds us to our community, encouraging engagement with our neighbors and investing us in the place where we live. This is why we live in the city, and why we love living here. It will remain so after our children have graduated.

We understand that the drawing of new school boundaries involves complicated, difficult tradeoffs. What we believe to be best for our daughters may not be the best outcome for other children, and we accept that in some cases our children, who enjoy many advantages, may have to cede some so that others may have greater opportunity.

We just ask that our part of Mt. Pleasant remain a part of our neighborhood school. Mt. Pleasant is a coherent neighborhood - bounded by the park, Columbia Rd., and 16th St. We can walk to Bancroft without crossing major roads. HD Cooke is outside of those boundaries, and would require crossing Columbia Rd., a major thoroughfare with high traffic in the mornings.

We know that resources are tight, but by including funding in the February budget proposal for FY 2025 for a Bancroft Annex building large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding, the Mayor would preserve the cohesion of this neighborhood, strengthen the community at Bancroft, and provide an important resource for dual-language pre-school students.

- All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.
- There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

We ask that you consider these factors when allocating resources for the FY 2025 budget. There exists a clear option that presents a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding, preserves important community ties, benefits the culturally and socio-economically diverse population that attends Mt. Pleasant, and may provide surplus capacity for other dual-language pre-K students. We think this is a worthy cause for DC and DCPS.

Thank you,

Joe Bertini and Claire Wack
1601 Hobart St. NW APT 1
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau

I am Adriana Valencia, an immigrant from Colombia and a resident of 1725 Hobart Street. Our family has proudly called the Mt Pleasant community home for the past two years. I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposed redrawing of boundaries for Bancroft Elementary, as it directly impacts my Spanish-speaking family and our community.

I urge you to allocate sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025. Additionally, I request the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a large enough space that will effectively alleviate Bancroft's overutilization problem for the entire 10-year horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.

An annex building stands out as the only viable long-term solution to Bancroft Elementary's overcapacity issue. It not only addresses the real problem but also preserves the Mt Pleasant community and its dual-language program, maintaining the integrity of our diverse neighborhood. Other proposed alternatives, particularly the exclusion of three neighborhood streets from the boundary, pose a significant threat to Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for Mt Pleasant, without providing an effective long-term solution.

Our active community has identified a potential school building within Mt. Pleasant that can fully absorb Bancroft's projected overutilization. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd, already laid out as classrooms, offer a viable solution. If necessary, they could accommodate not only Bancroft's ECE but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools nearing capacity. I urge you, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to expedite the purchase of the Henderson Buildings to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

Investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will result in growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative would be a reduction in Bancroft's programming quality and the creation of divisions within our tight-knit community. Our community has never been more united and supportive of our neighborhood school. I implore you to include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Adriana Valencia

January 21st, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chairman Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

My name is Mark Simon, I have lived in the Mt. Pleasant area for 50 years, sent our daughter to DC Public Schools, from kindergarten through 12th grade, and I was very active as a parent on multiple LSATs and principal search teams. As a parent and education policy analyst I have also testified frequently on the DC budget and on other policy topics like teacher evaluation and the need for an independent research entity. Currently I serve as the community representative on the Bancroft LSAT.

I am writing today to ask the mayor to please consider including money in the upcoming budget and in the Master Facilities Plan to purchase a building to be used as an annex by Bancroft ES and other Ward 1 schools with excess demand, particularly for bi-lingual Pre-K programs. Bancroft is a Gem, very much in demand leading to overcrowding in the current space. All of the other solutions to the overcrowding fail to fix the problem and risk jeopardizing community support for our school. A perfect space, the Henderson building, is available at 16th St. and Park Road. I can't think of a better investment in DCPS' future, capitalizing on Bancroft's current success as a beloved school with a socioeconomically diverse student population.

The other advantage of the Henderson Building at 16th and Park Road is that it contains three distinct sections that have each been used for classrooms in schools or education related services and so will need very little renovation. If the city owned the whole building, there are multiple configurations for its use. Bancroft needs at least six classrooms for its Pre-K classes now. But there are other schools that could use space. Powell ES also has an overcrowding problem and is a dual language school. Its Pre-K classes could be housed there. CHEC, directly across the street, has a Pre-K program for its HS students who have kids. There are other schools, DCPS and charter, that could use the space. And Bancroft will soon potentially need additional space for other grades. The DME's office told us that the overcrowding will continue to increase at Bancroft for the foreseeable future.

The alternative proposed solutions are worse than they seem. Changing the boundary feeding into Bancroft so that the southern blocks are pulled out of the Bancroft catchment would divide our very united community, pitting one segment of the community against the other. It would also not lower the overcrowding pressure on the school much below 100% capacity. In other words the overcrowding crisis would just be delayed by a year or two. The other alternative of eliminating some and then all of the Pre-K classes would destroy the dual language program. You can call Spanish language classes "dual language," but if a significant percentage, over 50%, of the student population is not native Spanish speakers, you do not have an authentic dual language program. Bancroft reserves 85% of its Pre-K 3 student slots for native Spanish speakers so that 50% of kindergartners are native Spanish speakers. Cutting Pre-K classes puts the dual language program we love in jeopardy.

It is an understatement to say that the Mt. Pleasant community is united behind the Pre-K annex as the option we support. When the DME conducted a poll of our community in advance of a public meeting to discuss the options, my recollection is that an astounding 1,483 people responded and 85% of them supported the Pre-K annex option. To your credit, Deputy mayor Kihn and his staff have spent time getting to know the problem of overcrowding at Bancroft and the advantages and disadvantages of all the specific options. The Deputy Mayor took the time to witness just how united and enthusiastic our parent and Mt. Pleasant Village communities are about the current school. He came at 8:20 in the morning to see community volunteers "man the barricades" of our Safe Street Initiative in which we have partnered with DDOT to close the street each day in front of the school during arrival and

departure times. He seemed impressed with the sense of community spirit. Over 35 volunteers have committed to this effort one day each week for the entire year. I'm willing to bet that no other school has this degree of demonstrated commitment and enthusiasm behind their neighborhood DCPS school. The Chancellor even gave Bancroft an award for "community engagement" two years ago. I am asking you not to put that in jeopardy.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including at least six classrooms for Bancroft's current Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Mark Simon

markasimon@gmail.com

Phone:240-603-6450

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau

I am a parent and a resident of Mount Pleasant. I've lived in the neighborhood for a decade and have grown to appreciate the closeness of the community and the relationships that my children have developed with their neighborhood peers. We anticipated that our children, who are currently in a heritage language dual language charter school, would join their neighbors for middle and high school. The potential boundary changes for Bancroft could eliminate that possibility.

To manage Bancroft's over-utilization without reducing the boundary, I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I also urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend the Bancroft Annex building in the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. Finally, I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or provide space for expansion of other bilingual Ward 1 schools. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of respondents (1,249 residents) and the overwhelming majority (85%) voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats. Keeping the current boundary intact maintains predictability and continuity, a key Boundary Study principle, for Mt. Pleasant families. In 2023, ANC1D passed a unanimous resolution in support of predictability and continuity, and keeping Bancroft's current boundaries.

The overcapacity issue at Bancroft is a large and growing problem. If student enrollment continues to grow at the current rate, only a new Annex building (to include PK and additional classes if needed) provides a middle and long-term solution. None of the other options provide a solution for even the short term. Bancroft is 63 students over capacity (109% utilization) as of December 2023. DCPS projects that Bancroft will be 100 students over capacity in Fall 2024 (114% utilization). The DME's Interactive Boundary Explorer tool projects that the school's overall enrollment will only be reduced by 34 students by cutting the boundary, phased in gradually starting in Fall 2025. This does not address the overcapacity issue even today, let alone in the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in a thriving neighborhood school, a higher-quality bilingual education for more students, and the cohesion of a wonderful and diverse community. Mount Pleasant is united as a community in support of this critical request. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including space for a Bancroft annex, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Deena Fox
1820 Irving St NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau,

I am a parent of a future DCPS student who will start kindergarten at Bancroft ES in 2024. Our family has lived at 1662 Irving St in Mt. Pleasant since 2018 and in Ward 1 since 2009. We are a mixed race family and cannot be more excited to bring our own piece of diversity to a school that is so beloved in our multicultural community.

I want to add my voice to those of my neighbors and urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd have been brought up as a potential space for this Annex. I also urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

The overcapacity issue at Bancroft will not be solved by cutting a few streets or a few classrooms out of the community. Student enrollment continues to grow in our community and throughout the District (October 26, 2023, Washington Post reports D.C. releases 'highest ever' school enrollment figures); a new Annex building is the only proposed forward-thinking idea that provides a middle and long-term solution. None of the other options provide a solution for even the short term.

- Bancroft is 63 students over capacity (109% utilization) as of December 2023. DCPS projects that Bancroft will be 100 students over capacity in Fall 2024 (114% utilization).
- The DME's Interactive Boundary Explorer tool projects that the school's overall enrollment will only be reduced by 34 students by cutting the boundary, phased in gradually starting in Fall 2025. This does not address the overcapacity issue even today, let alone in the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Natalie Chen Rosanelli

1662 Irving St NW

January 22, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau

We are Mt. Pleasant residents and future parents of a Bancroft Student living at 1740 Irving St NW.

I urge the mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process. An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

- Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Children walk to school together and parents support each other through school events. Splitting this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and ties between families.
 - In 2014, the streets now proposed for rezoning were added to Bancroft's boundary to, "better encompass the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood." Over the last decade, families have been shifted from one school to another, shuttling children of different ages to schools in different neighborhoods. They deserve stability.
- The overcapacity issue at Bancroft is a large and growing problem. If student enrollment continues to grow at the current rate, only a new Annex building (to include PK and additional classes if needed) provides a middle and long-term solution. None of the other options provide a solution for even the short term.
 - Bancroft is 63 students over capacity (109% utilization) as of December 2023. DCPS projects that Bancroft will be 100 students over capacity in Fall 2024 (114% utilization).
 - The DME's Interactive Boundary Explorer tool projects that the school's overall enrollment will only be reduced by 34 students by cutting the boundary, phased in gradually starting in Fall 2025. This does not address the overcapacity issue even today, let alone in the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. Bancroft's remaining PK3 and likely the PK4 classrooms will eventually need to be cut. PK is essential to preserving Bancroft's dual language Spanish-speaking student body and provide families in need with wrap-around family services.
- Mt. Pleasant is separated from adjacent neighborhoods by major thoroughfares, a national park, and a geological cliff. Routing Mt. Pleasant students to a school in Adams Morgan will create new traffic safety problems that would then need to be solved. Students will have to walk along and cross Columbia Road, a major 4-lane thoroughfare with frequent traffic violations.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Eva Lipiec and Stephen Norton

1740 Irving St NW

January 21, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau

I am Roberto Ramirez, concerned citizen, Mt. Pleasant resident and current parent. We live at 1630 Park RD NW. We are a new family with 2 young children 6 and 4 years old, new immigrants to this great country since 2 years ago. I'm from Honduras and my wife is from Poland and a substitute teacher in Bancroft Elementary and actively engages in various community activities. We have grown to love our community here at Mt. Pleasant and appreciate the great job that Bancroft Elementary does.

I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Children walk to school together and parents support each other through school events. Splitting this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and ties between families.

A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of respondents (1,249 residents) and the overwhelming majority (85%) voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats.

Keeping the current boundary intact maintains predictability and continuity, a key Boundary Study principle, for Mt. Pleasant families.

In 2014, the streets now proposed for rezoning were added to Bancroft's boundary to, "better encompass the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood." Over the last decade, families have been shifted from one school to another, shuttling children of different ages to schools in different neighborhoods. They deserve stability.

In 2023, ANC1D passed a unanimous resolution in support of predictability and continuity, and keeping Bancroft's current boundaries.

The overcapacity issue at Bancroft is a large and growing problem. If student enrollment continues to grow at the current rate, only a new Annex building (to include PK and additional classes if needed) provides a middle and long-term solution. None of the other options provide a solution for even the short term.

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Not fully addressing overcapacity will mean that Bancroft will have to reduce current school resources and programs to accommodate in-bound students in K-5, compromising the quality of the school's programming and education.

Bancroft has already cut many resources for student learning to accommodate current students, including library space and the science classroom. Next year the school will lose parent and intervention rooms that support students with acute needs.

Bancroft's remaining PK3 and likely the PK4 classrooms will eventually need to be cut. PK is essential to preserving Bancroft's dual language Spanish-speaking student body and provide families in need with wrap-around family services.

Bancroft currently provides some of the few Spanish-language special education stand-alone classrooms in DC, serving students from across the city. This critical service would also be in jeopardy if overcrowding is not addressed.

Cutting Bancroft's boundary or its PK will also compromise its community engagement programs, like Bancroft's Safe Street Initiative. Over 35 volunteers from the community (Mt. Pleasant Village) and the Bancroft PTO each give an hour or more per week for an entire year to ensure safety in front of the school. Not fully addressing overcrowding will put that goodwill in jeopardy.

Mt. Pleasant is separated from adjacent neighborhoods by major thoroughfares, a national park, and a geological cliff. Routing Mt. Pleasant students to a school in Adams Morgan will create new traffic safety problems that would then need to be solved. Students will have to walk along and cross Columbia Road, a major 4-lane thoroughfare with frequent traffic violations.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,
Roberto Ramirez Irias
RobertoARamireIrias@gmail.com

January 21, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau

I am Patrycja Dzierzanowska, concerned citizen, Mt. Pleasant resident and current parent. We live at 1630 Park RD NW. We are a new family with 2 young children 6 and 4 years old, new immigrants to this great country since 2 years ago. I'm from Poland and my husband is from Honduras. I work as a substitute teacher in Bancroft Elementary and I am actively engaged in various community activities. We have grown to love our community here at Mt. Pleasant and appreciate the great job that Bancroft Elementary does.

I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Children walk to school together and parents support each other through school events. Splitting this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and ties between families.

A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of respondents (1,249 residents) and the overwhelming majority (85%) voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats.

Keeping the current boundary intact maintains predictability and continuity, a key Boundary Study principle, for Mt. Pleasant families.

In 2014, the streets now proposed for rezoning were added to Bancroft's boundary to, "better encompass the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood." Over the last decade, families have been shifted from one school to another, shuttling children of different ages to schools in different neighborhoods. They deserve stability.

In 2023, ANC1D passed a unanimous resolution in support of predictability and continuity, and keeping Bancroft's current boundaries.

The overcapacity issue at Bancroft is a large and growing problem. If student enrollment continues to grow at the current rate, only a new Annex building (to include PK and additional classes if needed) provides a middle and long-term solution. None of the other options provide a solution for even the short term.

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Not fully addressing overcapacity will mean that Bancroft will have to reduce current school resources and programs to accommodate in-bound students in K-5, compromising the quality of the school's programming and education.

Bancroft has already cut many resources for student learning to accommodate current students, including library space and the science classroom. Next year the school will lose parent and intervention rooms that support students with acute needs.

Bancroft's remaining PK3 and likely the PK4 classrooms will eventually need to be cut. PK is essential to preserving Bancroft's dual language Spanish-speaking student body and provide families in need with wrap-around family services.

Bancroft currently provides some of the few Spanish-language special education stand-alone classrooms in DC, serving students from across the city. This critical service would also be in jeopardy if overcrowding is not addressed.

Cutting Bancroft's boundary or its PK will also compromise its community engagement programs, like Bancroft's Safe Street Initiative. Over 35 volunteers from the community (Mt. Pleasant Village) and the Bancroft PTO each give an hour or more per week for an entire year to ensure safety in front of the school. Not fully addressing overcrowding will put that goodwill in jeopardy.

Mt. Pleasant is separated from adjacent neighborhoods by major thoroughfares, a national park,

and a geological cliff. Routing Mt. Pleasant students to a school in Adams Morgan will create new traffic safety problems that would then need to be solved. Students will have to walk along and cross Columbia Road, a major 4-lane thoroughfare with frequent traffic violations.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Patrycja Dzierzanowska

pdzierzanowska@gmail.com

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and and SBOE member Williams,

I am Arthur Sode, a Mt Pleasant resident living in Hobart Street and father of three young children (8, 5 and 2 years old). We have lived in Mt Pleasant for the last 6 years and build our family in this neighborhood. Our two oldest daughters, Zoe and Jeanne are going to Bancroft. We really hope Mathilde our third daughter will also benefit from the quality of the education at Bancroft and will be able to share the same school as her sisters.

As many other Mt Pleasant resident, I urge the Mayor to the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Children walk to school together and parents support each other through school events. Splitting this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and ties between families.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Arthur Sode
1705 Hobart Street
202 460 8306

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau

My spouse and I have been living on Hobart Street since June 2020, we have two small kids. We believe the proposed boundary change, excluding a part of Mount Pleasant from Bancroft, is highly problematic. We wish to express our strong opposition to it.

I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

- An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.
- All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.
- Mt. Pleasant is separated from adjacent neighborhoods by major thoroughfares, a national park, and a geological cliff. Routing Mt. Pleasant students to a school in Adams Morgan will create new traffic safety problems that would then need to be solved. Students will have to walk along and cross Columbia Road, a major 4-lane thoroughfare with frequent traffic violations.
- There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.
- Many families think alike, a Bancroft community poll generated many respondents (1,249 residents) and the overwhelming majority (85%) voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats.
- Keeping the current boundary intact maintains predictability and continuity, a key Boundary Study principle, for Mt. Pleasant families. In 2014, the streets now proposed for rezoning were added to Bancroft's boundary to, "better encompass the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood." Over the last decade, families have been shifted from one school to another, shuttling children of different ages to schools in different neighborhoods. They deserve stability. In 2023, ANC1D passed a unanimous resolution in support of predictability and continuity and keeping Bancroft's current boundaries.
- The overcapacity issue at Bancroft is a large and growing problem. If student enrollment

continues to grow at the current rate, only a new Annex building (to include PK and additional classes if needed) provides a middle and long-term solution. None of the other options provide a solution for even the short term. Bancroft is 63 students over capacity (109% utilization) as of December 2023. DCPS projects that Bancroft will be 100 students over capacity in Fall 2024 (114% utilization).

- The DME's Interactive Boundary Explorer tool projects that the school's overall enrollment will only be reduced by 34 students by cutting the boundary, phased in gradually starting in Fall 2025. This does not address the overcapacity issue even today, let alone in the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.

- Not fully addressing overcapacity will mean that Bancroft will have to reduce current school resources and programs to accommodate in-bound students in K-5, compromising the quality of the school's programming and education.

To conclude, Mount Pleasant is a neighborhood with a strong identity and unity. Its natural border in the south is Harvard Street. Changing the school boundaries amounts to cut-off the excluded streets from their own neighborhood. It would imply a clear net loss for the whole Mt. pleasant community. We hope our voice and suggestion will be reconsidered for the long-term wellbeing of our community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Eleonora Cavagnero & Jerome Lahaye
1738 Hobart ST. NW.

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

My husband and I have lived in DC for three years, and we were so excited to move to Mount Pleasant last year. Mt P is a beautiful, inclusive, welcoming, and creative community, and we have enjoyed meeting neighbors while volunteering for events like Art All Night, Bancroft tutoring, and the annual lantern walk. We live at 1849 Irving St and we moved to start a family. We are pregnant and due in a few months! The opportunity for our future child or children to attend Bancroft Elementary School was a key reason to move to Mt P.

We urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process. An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community. All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem. There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

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that the school's overall enrollment will only be reduced by 34 students by cutting the boundary, phased in gradually starting in Fall 2025. This does not address the overcapacity issue even today, let alone in the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. Not fully addressing overcapacity will mean that Bancroft will have to reduce current school resources and programs to accommodate in-bound students in K-5, compromising the quality of the school's programming and education. Bancroft has already cut many resources for student learning to accommodate current students, including library space and the science classroom. Next year the school will lose parent and intervention rooms that support students with acute needs. Bancroft's remaining PK3 and likely the PK4 classrooms will eventually need to be cut. PK is essential to preserving Bancroft's dual language Spanish-speaking student body and provide families in need with wrap-around family services. Bancroft currently provides some of the few Spanish-language special education stand-alone classrooms in DC, serving students from across the city. This critical service would also be in jeopardy if overcrowding is not addressed. Cutting Bancroft's boundary, or its PK, will also compromise its community engagement programs, like Bancroft's Safe Street Initiative. Over 35 volunteers from the community (Mt. Pleasant Village) and the Bancroft PTO each give an hour or more per week for an entire year to ensure safety in front of the school. Not fully addressing overcrowding will put that goodwill in jeopardy. Mt. Pleasant is separated from adjacent neighborhoods by major thoroughfares, a national park, and a geological cliff. Routing Mt. Pleasant students to a school in Adams Morgan will create new traffic safety problems that would then need to be solved. Students will have to walk along and cross Columbia Road, a major 4-lane thoroughfare with frequent traffic violations.

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Thank you for reading and considering these points.

Sincerely,

Katherine Clifton & Garrett Lam

1849 Irving St NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau,

I am a longtime Mount Pleasant resident and parent of a Bancroft Elementary 4th grader. I am writing to urge Mayor Bowser to include in her upcoming FY 2025 budget proposal funding for an Early Childhood Education building for Bancroft's Pre-K program. I urge Deputy Mayor Kihn to recommend such a building in both the Masters Facility Plan and the Boundary Study. Finally, I urge Council Chair Mendelson to support the funding of this building through the City Council's budget process.

Having participated in discussions about this topic since last spring, I have come to believe that moving Bancroft's Pre-K to an annex is the best and only viable solution for the overcapacity issue. Please allow me to share why.

I moved to Mount Pleasant in 2002 with no thought of how long I might stay in the neighborhood. It seemed like a nice location, close to public transportation and Rock Creek Park. Over the years, I came to appreciate the neighborhood for the diverse, welcoming and broad-minded place that it is. In 2012, my husband and I bought our house. Five years later, we were lucky enough to get a Pre-K3 spot for our son at Bancroft, and it was like discovering all over again how wonderful this community is.

Our son is now 9 and in his seventh year at Bancroft and thriving. He knows kids and parents on every street. A number of his teachers from over the years live in the neighborhood. We feel safe in this neighborhood because there are friends and trusted grownups at every turn. Bancroft has kept us in Mount Pleasant and in DC. This is a neighborhood school success story, one that should be a model for the city.

We do realize there needs to be a solution for the overcrowding. However, the numbers show that reassigning three streets, including ours, to a different elementary school will not be sufficient to relieve the overcrowding. I would be distressed to see the city pursue a solution that hurts the neighborhood while not solving the problem.

Instead, creating extra capacity by moving Bancroft's Pre-K into an annex would keep intact both the neighborhood and Bancroft's beautiful dual-language environment. We've seen firsthand how having a balance of Spanish- and English-dominant students contributes to learning. Every day, students get to see how both languages are so highly valued.

I was excited to hear that Bancroft parents, with the support of our school's administration, have identified a suitable school building within our community that is currently available for sale or lease. Given its size, it could potentially help with demand for Pre-K at other dual language schools as well. I hope you are taking 3224 16th St NW under serious consideration.

Early in this process, I realized that our son is unlikely to be affected by whatever changes are coming from the current studies since he'll graduate from Bancroft next year. However, given our incredible experience at the school over these many years, I feel compelled to fight for an inclusive solution that would benefit the incredible community and neighborhood that I am proud to be a part of.

Thank you for your consideration and for your dedication and service to our city.

Sincerely,

Andrea Hsu
1838 Irving St NW
(202) 251 0284

January 22, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

I have been a resident of Mt. Pleasant since 1972. My husband, Rick Reinhard and I raised our two daughters here at our house at 1910 Park RD NW. These adult daughters are proud graduates of Bancroft Elementary School and the DCPS schools of Deal, now Jackson Reed, and School Without Walls. Currently, we co-house with our younger daughter and her family in this same house. Our grandson, who is 9 ½, began Bancroft as a kindergartener and is now a fourth grader. Since the days when our daughters were growing up and now, as my grandson flourishes at Bancroft, and as my husband and I actively participate in The Mount Pleasant Village, Bancroft has always defined what it means to be a community.

With the structure of Bancroft and MtP in jeopardy, my experiences of the past and the present cause me to raise my voice to share my passionate belief that preserving the continuity of the Bancroft school structure of PreK through 5 is essential to ensuring the quality of life of both young and old in Mount Pleasant.

Therefore, I urge the Mayor:

- **to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.** I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.
- **An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft.** It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.
- **There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms.** If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

Please embrace and value and work to save our neighborhood. Bancroft is where we all come together, regardless of income, nationality or advantage. Let Mount Pleasant continue to be a DC neighborhood that emphasizes the quality of life for all its residents, rather than allow it to become splintered and disconnected in the name of efficiency and financial savings.

Sincerely,

Judy Byron
1910 Park RD, NW
202-422-2307

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and and SBOE member Williams,

I am a Mt. Pleasant resident and future Bancroft parent; my daughter will enroll there for Kindergarten next year, and we have a baby who we hope will attend when he's old enough. I am writing to ask the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I also urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

Our community has engaged in research and organizing and has determined that an Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is also the only solution that preserves the the socio-economic and cultural diversity of the Mt. Pleasant community and Bancroft's dual-language program.

Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Splitting this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and ties between families.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, including either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem. Keeping the current boundary intact maintains predictability and continuity, a key Boundary Study principle, for Mt. Pleasant families.

The overcapacity issue at Bancroft is a large and growing problem. If student enrollment continues to grow at the current rate, only a new Annex building (to include PK and additional classes if needed) provides a middle and long-term solution. Bancroft is already over capacity and the DME's Interactive Boundary Explorer tool projects that the school's overall enrollment will only be reduced by 34 students by cutting the boundary, phased in gradually starting in Fall 2025. This does not address the overcapacity issue even today, let alone in the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. And not fully addressing overcapacity will hurt Bancroft as a bastion of the community, including reducing current school resources and programs to accommodate in-bound students in K-5, compromising the quality of the school's programming and education. None of the other options provide a solution for even the short term.

From what I understand, the Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd is laid out with classrooms and has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. If needed, that facility could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and

City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Anna Altman, 1759 Lamont St NW

January 22, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

I am a Mount Pleasant resident and parent of a rising kindergartener and a preschooler who will be eligible for PREK3 in a year and a future Bancroft kindergartner.

I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

As you all well know, research shows the importance of early childhood education, especially for low-income students. It is imperative that this remain an option for student success and to reduce large classroom sizes for K-5 grades. An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

Not fully addressing overcapacity will mean that Bancroft will have to reduce current school resources and programs to accommodate in-bound students in K-5, compromising the quality of the school's programming and education. Bancroft has already cut many resources for student learning to accommodate current students, including library space and the science classroom. Next year the school will lose parent and intervention rooms that support students with acute needs.

Bancroft's remaining PK3 and likely the PK4 classrooms will eventually need to be cut. PK is essential to preserving Bancroft's dual language Spanish-speaking student body and provide families in need with wrap-around family services. Bancroft currently provides some of the few Spanish-language special education stand-alone classrooms in DC, serving students from across the city. This critical service would also be in jeopardy if overcrowding is not addressed.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-

knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,
Abra Lyons-Warren
1918 Park Road NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and and SBOE member Williams,

I am a Mt. Pleasant resident, homeowner, and future parent. I live at 17th and Irving and we specifically chose to make Mt. Pleasant our long-term home, when we moved to DC from Philadelphia three years ago because of the neighborhood's engaged, kind, and diverse community. I have been an active participant of the Bancroft hosted food drives, even though we do not currently have a child enrolled because we have such strong connections with families throughout the neighborhood.

In the upcoming February budget proposal for FY2025, I urge the Mayor to include sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Children walk to school together and parents support each other through school events. Splitting this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and ties between families.

Mt. Pleasant is separated from adjacent neighborhoods by major thoroughfares, a national park, and a geological cliff. Routing Mt. Pleasant students to a school in Adams Morgan will create new traffic safety problems that would then need to be solved. Students will have to walk along and cross Columbia Road, a major 4-lane thoroughfare with frequent traffic violations.

For the safety of our children, preservation of our vibrant and diverse neighborhood and community, I urge you all to maintain the high-quality of Bancroft's programming quality and keep our tight-knit community together and include a new bilingual Annex building for Bancroft in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Andrea Chu
1682 Irving St NW
Washington, DC 20010
andreachu09@gmail.com

January 22, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and and SBOE member Williams,

I am a Mount Pleasant resident with two children that I hope to have attend Bancroft in the next few years - one starting Kindergarten in Fall 2024. I live at 1811 Ingleside Terrace.

I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without a long-term solution for the overcapacity problem.

A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of respondents (1,249 residents) and the overwhelming majority (85%) voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,
Maxwell Ballenger
1811 Ingleside Terrace NW, Washington DC 20010

January 22, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

I have been a Mount Pleasant Latino resident and tax payer for 32 years and two of my children attended Bancroft and are fully bi-lingual. I am also a member of the Mount Pleasant Village that is a partner of Bancroft. I live at 3341 18th Street NW.

I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community. All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Children walk to school together and parents support each other through school events. Splitting this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and ties between families. A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of respondents (1,249 residents) and the overwhelming majority (85%) voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats.

The overcapacity issue at Bancroft is a large and growing problem. If student enrollment continues to grow at the current rate, only a new Annex building (to include PK and additional classes if needed) provides a middle and long-term solution. None of the other options provide a solution for even the short term. Bancroft is 63 students over capacity (109% utilization) as of December 2023. DCPS projects that Bancroft will be 100 students over capacity in Fall 2024

(114% utilization). The DME's Interactive Boundary Explorer tool projects that the school's overall enrollment will only be reduced by 34 students by cutting the boundary, phased in gradually starting in Fall 2025. This does not address the overcapacity issue even today, let alone in the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Eduardo A. Perez

3341 18th Street NW
Washington, DC, 20010
telephone/text message: 202-667-5096

January 22, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

I am a decade-long resident of Mount Pleasant, a single parent of an elementary school student with deep connections to the neighborhood community and a strong commitment to the bilingual education path my fellow parents and I have embraced.

I live on the corner of Walbridge and Klinge Rd. NW, but I consider my neighbors on Harvard, Hobart, and Irving Streets to be an integral part of our community fabric. Children walk to school together and parents and neighbors support each other through school events. Cutting these streets off from Bancroft ES and bilingual education would tear this fabric and damage the close-knit school community we have all worked so hard to build.

The strength of Mount Pleasant as a diverse and cohesive neighborhood and the success of Bancroft as a local public school have led to overcrowding at the school. There is, however, an excellent solution to this overcrowding: an annex building that would absorb some classrooms currently housed at Bancroft.

I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only long-term solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either cutting off students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected overflow and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

Please consider the following points:

- A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of respondents (1,249 residents) and 85% of them voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats.

- The overcapacity issue at Bancroft is a large and growing problem. If student enrollment continues to grow at the current rate, only a new Annex building (to include PK and additional classes if needed) provides a middle and long-term solution. None of the other options provide a solution for even the short term.
 - Bancroft is 63 students over capacity (109% utilization) as of December 2023. DCPS projects that Bancroft will be 100 students over capacity in Fall 2024 (114% utilization).
 - The DME's Interactive Boundary Explorer tool projects that the school's overall enrollment will only be reduced by 34 students by cutting the boundary, phased in gradually starting in Fall 2025. This does not address the overcapacity issue even today, let alone in the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.
- Not fully addressing overcapacity will mean that Bancroft will have to reduce current school resources and programs to accommodate in-bound students in K-5, compromising the quality of the school's programming and education.
 - Bancroft has already cut many resources for student learning to accommodate current students, including library space and the science classroom. Next year the school will lose parent and intervention rooms that support students with acute needs.
 - Bancroft's remaining PK3 and likely the PK4 classrooms will eventually need to be cut. PK is essential to preserving Bancroft's dual language Spanish-speaking student body and provide families in need with wrap-around family services.
 - Bancroft currently provides some of the few Spanish-language special education stand-alone classrooms in DC, serving students from across the city. This critical service would also be in jeopardy if overcrowding is not addressed.
- Mt. Pleasant is separated from adjacent neighborhoods by major thoroughfares, a national park, and a geological cliff. Routing Mt. Pleasant students to a school in Adams Morgan would create new traffic safety problems that would then need to be solved. Students would have to walk along and cross Columbia Road, a major 4-lane thoroughfare with frequent traffic violations.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative would be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Tara Bahrapour

2000 Klinge Rd. NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau

I'm a DC native who lives in Mt. Pleasant on Hobart Street.

My wife and I moved to Mt. Pleasant so that we could send our son to Bancroft Elementary. My wife is an immigrant from South America, and educating our family in Spanish is deeply important to us.

The proposed changes to the school boundary would have a negative impact not only on our family, but many other Spanish-speaking households in our surrounding blocks, and the fabric of our neighborhood.

We've been involved in the ANC and Department of Education conversations about what could be done to keep the current boundaries intact and the community together.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that can house the ECE and is available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity.

We urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a bilingual ECE building that would include Bancroft students. We urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a bilingual ECE building to include Bancroft students in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. We urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the bilingual ECE building through the City Council Budget process.

This will help to build upon the success of Bancroft and preserve the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the linguistic, socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified neighborhood.

The result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community.

We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school.

Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Michael Hastings-Black

1725 Hobart Street

January 22, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

I am a 20 year resident of the District and 14 year homeowner at 1877 Ingleside Terrace NW. I am a parent of a 3rd and 1st grader at Bancroft Elementary School and a PTO Board Member. I greatly value the education my children are receiving at Bancroft. Much of the reason our family has chosen to live in Mt. Pleasant and continues to stay in DC is the supportive neighborhood and broader community of which Bancroft plays a central role.

- I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.
- I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study.
- I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. **The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd** are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

Not fully addressing overcapacity will mean that Bancroft will have to reduce current school resources and programs to accommodate in-bound students in K-5, compromising the quality of the school's programming and education.

- Bancroft has already cut many resources for student learning to accommodate current students, including library space and the science classroom. Next year the school will lose parent and intervention rooms that support students with acute needs.
- Bancroft's remaining PK3 and likely the PK4 classrooms will eventually need to be cut. PK is essential to preserving Bancroft's dual language Spanish-speaking student body and provide families in need with wrap-around family services.
- Bancroft currently provides some of the few Spanish-language special education stand-alone classrooms in DC, serving students from across the city. This critical service would also be in jeopardy if overcrowding is not addressed.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school.

Please include a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Andrea Foss, 1877 Ingleside Terr NW

January 22, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

I have been a resident of Mt. Pleasant since 1972. My wife, Judy Byron, and I raised our two daughters here at our house at 1910 Park RD NW. These adult daughters are proud graduates of Bancroft Elementary School and the DCPS schools of Deal, Wilson (now Jackson Reed), and School Without Walls. Currently, we co-house with our younger daughter and her family in this same house. Our grandson, who is 9 ½, began Bancroft as a kindergartener and is now a fourth grader. Since the days when our daughters were growing up and now, as my grandson flourishes at Bancroft, and as my wife and I actively participate in The Mount Pleasant Village, Bancroft has always defined for us what it means to be a community.

With the structure of Bancroft itself and its catchment area in jeopardy, my experiences of the past 40 years as well as the present cause me to raise my voice to share my passionate belief that preserving the continuity of the Bancroft school structure of PreK through 5 is essential to ensuring the quality of life of both young and old in Mount Pleasant.

Therefore, I urge the Mayor:

to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street NW and Park Rd NW are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, City Council Chair, and Councilmember to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

Please embrace and value and work to save our neighborhood. Bancroft is where we all come together, regardless of income, nationality or advantage. Let Mount Pleasant continue to be a DC neighborhood that emphasizes the quality of life for all its residents, rather than allow it to become splintered and disconnected in the name of efficiency and financial savings.

Sincerely,

[Rick Reinhard](#)

1910 Park RD, NW

[202-494-4447](tel:202-494-4447)

January 22, 2024

Mayor Muriel Bowser
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

My name is Margaret Brown, and I am Mount Pleasant resident and hopeful future Bancroft parent. My family and I live at 1721 Harvard Street.

About a year ago and very shortly after our daughter was born, my husband and I moved from New York City, where we each lived for our entire adult lives, to be close to community and family here in Washington, DC.

We specifically chose Mount Pleasant for the diverse and welcoming nature of the neighborhood, the walkability, and because of our excitement about Bancroft. And with Bancroft in mind, we enrolled our daughter in a Spanish immersion daycare just a few days before she turned five months old.

My husband and I have both committed our lives to nonprofit work - me on environmental issues and him in arts and media. Buying our home in Mount Pleasant was the single largest investment we have ever made and one we did not take lightly. We hope to live in our home for many decades.

We have been blown away by the deliberate and beautiful acts of connection and community building that take place throughout Mount Pleasant - from Porchfest on Hobart Street, to Franko Jazz on Kilbourne Place, to the Farmers Market and Lantern walk at the Lamont Plaza.

But by far my favorite neighborhood experience is each morning when I walk our two dogs up from Harvard Street to Ingleside Terrace and back. On our way up, we admire the beautiful trees and neighbor's plantings or holiday decorations, we pass the Bancroft crossing guards at the corner of 18th and Newton, and we turn towards home. For the remainder of our walk, we are greeted by families from the neighborhood streaming toward Bancroft – big groups of kids all laughing together, kids on scooters, kids in Bancroft Bengals tee-shirts. It is a daily source of joy and hope.

Mount Pleasant and Bancroft are wonderful communities that offer true resources for families to thrive. And the success of Mount Pleasant and Bancroft are tied up in one another.

With these communities' continued success in mind, I respectfully request that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Council members take the following steps, respectively:

- Include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan;

- Recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study; and
- Support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and Bancroft's dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

The alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school.

Please include a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Margaret Brown
1721 Harvard Street NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

My name is Caitlin McCusker and I live at 1743 Hobart Street NW in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood with my husband and two daughters. My older daughter currently attends first grade at Bancroft ES and my other daughter will begin kindergarten at Bancroft this fall.

I write to encourage the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, and the Council to take the necessary steps to support a Bancroft Annex building in order to provide a long-term solution to overcrowding at Bancroft while also maintaining the school's dual-language program and the cohesion and diversity of our community. Other solutions that have been proposed, including changing the school boundaries to exclude portions of the neighborhood or reducing the early childhood education classes, would undermine the many successes of the school and the neighborhood.

As a Hobart Street resident, I am particularly discouraged by the proposal to exclude our street (as well as north Harvard and south Irving) from the Bancroft boundary. Just nine years ago, the city concluded through the very same boundary process that these streets were a part of Mount Pleasant and should be included in the Bancroft boundary as such. Now, the city seems to be considering their exclusion again. This kind of whiplash is exactly what the city says it wishes to avoid when it emphasizes the values of predictability and continuity. It makes even less sense that the city would consider this proposal when its own data makes clear that it would not provide a real solution to the overcrowding it is designed to redress.

We are a multiracial family that has long hoped to stay in the city and educate our children in the public school system. When we invested in our home in Mount Pleasant, we thought we had found the perfect place to do that. Mount Pleasant is an energetic, diverse, and close-knit community thanks to investment on the part of the city, the neighbors, local businesses and the school. We love so much about the neighborhood, including the local businesses, playgrounds, and library, as well as its accessibility, which allows us to use public transportation to commute to our jobs in downtown DC and to access the city's restaurants and museums and events with our children on weekends. Bancroft was one of the primary reasons we decided to move to Mount Pleasant and it is a key consideration in whether we will be able to remain.

The proposals to Bancroft's boundary and feeder pattern, however, jeopardize our commitment to the neighborhood and the city, as does the sense that we will be in the same position yet again during the next boundary study and facilities planning process. We urge you to celebrate the successes of Bancroft and Mount Pleasant and to invest in a solution that will foster their continuation. Please take the necessary steps to support a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK classes and any other appropriate classes as needed.

Sincerely,
Caitlin McCusker
1743 Hobart Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20009

**1659 Hobart Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009**

January 22, 2024

Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor
Executive Office of the Mayor
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Bancroft Elementary School Overcrowding

Dear Mayor Bowser:

I am a 40-year resident of the Mount Pleasant neighborhood. Recently I became aware of issues concerning Bancroft Elementary School, including a proposal to modify the existing boundary for attendance there. The purpose of this letter is to seek your support to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft Elementary School for the duration of the 10-year period of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.

An annex building is the only long-term solution to address the existing and anticipated overcrowding at Bancroft. It also preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community. All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing Early Childhood Education classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We have never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Gail Lamont

cc:

Paul Kihn, Deputy Mayor for Education
Philip H. Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
Brienne Nadeau, Councilmember, Council of the District of Columbia
Omar Parbhoo, ANC-1D

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

I am a Bancroft parent and Mt Pleasant homeowner. We live at Newton & Brown Streets NW and have long been focused on the preserving and feeding the unique culture and interaction of the our neighborhood and community. We are a family of Dc professionals, second gen immigrants, and PoCs.

I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community. This is very important as this was what we paid, and are paying, a premium in DC for, alongside continuing to build life into a long standing MtP community culture and history.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding.

Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Children walk to school together and parents support each other through school events. Splitting this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and ties between families.

A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of respondents (1,249 residents) and the overwhelming majority (85%) voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats.

Keeping the current boundary intact maintains predictability and continuity, a key Boundary Study principle, for Mt. Pleasant families. Friends bought homes in the neighborhood so we could send our children to the same schools and be the chosen family in the city.

The overcapacity issue at Bancroft is a large and growing problem. If student enrollment continues to grow at the current rate, only a new Annex building (to include PK and additional classes if needed) provides a middle and long-term solution. None of the other options provide a solution for even the short term.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Thank you for reading and looking forward to your support.

Best,
Meredith

Meredith-Clarissa E. Mark
meredith.clarissa@gmail.com

January 23, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

I am a resident of Hobart Street, and the parent of a Kindergarden student at Bancroft.

My family lives at 1617 Hobart Street. We've lived here since 2020. Our eldest son Léo has attended Bancroft since 2021. Every year, I organise the Halloween street closure in Hobart.

I am writing to urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft. Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Children walk to school together and parents support each other through school events. Splitting this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and ties between families.

A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of respondents (1,249 residents) and the overwhelming majority (85%) voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats. Keeping the current boundary intact maintains predictability and continuity, a key Boundary Study principle, for Mt. Pleasant families.

Bancroft is 63 students over capacity (109% utilization) as of December 2023. DCPS projects that Bancroft will be 100 students over capacity in Fall 2024 (114% utilization).

Not fully addressing overcapacity will mean that Bancroft will have to reduce current school resources and programs to accommodate in-bound students in K-5, compromising the quality of the school's programming and education.

Bancroft has already cut many resources for student learning to accommodate current students, including library space and the science classroom. Next year the school will lose parent and intervention rooms that support students with acute needs.

Bancroft's remaining PK3 and likely the PK4 classrooms will eventually need to be cut. PK is essential to preserving Bancroft's dual language Spanish-speaking student body and provide families in need with wrap-around family services.

Bancroft currently provides some of the few Spanish-language special education stand-alone classrooms in DC, serving students from across the city. This critical service would also be in jeopardy if overcrowding is not addressed.

Cutting Bancroft's boundary, or its PK, will also compromise its community engagement programs, like Bancroft's Safe Street Initiative. Over 35 volunteers from the community (Mt. Pleasant Village) and the Bancroft PTO each give an hour or more per week for an entire year to ensure safety in front of the school. Not fully addressing overcrowding will put that goodwill in jeopardy.

Mt. Pleasant is separated from adjacent neighborhoods by major thoroughfares, a national park, and a geological cliff. Routing Mt. Pleasant students to a school in Adams Morgan will create new traffic safety problems that would then need to be solved. Students will have to walk along and cross Columbia Road, a major 4-lane thoroughfare with frequent traffic violations.

Investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Ben Magarik

1617 Hobart Street

Ben Magarik / DC / 917.371.8266

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

I am a Mt. Pleasant resident and current parent of 2 Bancroft students (kinder and 2nd grade). I live at 19th and Lamont St.

I urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, City Council Chair, and Brianne Nadeau to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

Bancroft is a DCPS success story due in large part to its strong and cohesive community. Its historically diverse family-oriented community revolves around its neighborhood school. Children walk to school together and parents support each other through school events. Splitting this community will fragment our neighborhood connections and ties between families.

A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of respondents (1,249 residents) and the overwhelming majority (85%) voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats. Keeping the current boundary intact maintains predictability and continuity, a key Boundary Study principle, for Mt. Pleasant families. In 2014, the streets now proposed for rezoning were added to Bancroft's boundary to, "better encompass the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood." Over the last decade, families have been shifted from one school to another, shuttling children of different ages to schools in different neighborhoods. They deserve stability. In 2023, ANC1D passed a unanimous resolution in support of predictability and continuity, and keeping Bancroft's current boundaries.

The overcapacity issue at Bancroft is a large and growing problem. If student enrollment continues to grow at the current rate, only a new Annex building (to include PK and additional classes if needed) provides a middle and long-term solution. None of the other options provide a solution for even the short term. Bancroft is 63 students over capacity (109% utilization) as of December 2023. DCPS projects that Bancroft will be 100 students over capacity in Fall 2024 (114% utilization). The DME's Interactive

Boundary Explorer tool projects that the school's overall enrollment will only be reduced by 34 students by cutting the boundary, phased in gradually starting in Fall 2025. This does not address the overcapacity issue even today, let alone in the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.

Not fully addressing overcapacity will mean that Bancroft will have to reduce current school resources and programs to accommodate in-bound students in K-5, compromising the quality of the school's programming and education. Bancroft has already cut many resources for student learning to accommodate current students, including library space and the science classroom. Next year the school will lose parent and intervention rooms that support students with acute needs. Bancroft's remaining PK3 and likely the PK4 classrooms will eventually need to be cut. PK is essential to preserving Bancroft's dual language Spanish-speaking student body and provide families in need with wrap-around family services. Bancroft currently provides some of the few Spanish-language special education stand-alone classrooms in DC, serving students from across the city. This critical service would also be in jeopardy if overcrowding is not addressed.

Mt. Pleasant is separated from adjacent neighborhoods by major thoroughfares, a national park, and a geological cliff. Routing Mt. Pleasant students to a school in Adams Morgan will create new traffic safety problems that would then need to be solved. Students will have to walk along and cross Columbia Road, a major 4-lane thoroughfare with frequent traffic violations.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Courtney Matson

3149 19th St. NW

Washington DC 20010

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and and SBOE member Williams,

I hope this email finds you well and that your 2024 is off to a great start. My name is Megan Conway. I am a Bancroft parent to 2 kids (1st grade and 4th grade) and mother to a PK3 child who is currently at Rosemount who I very much hope will attend the same school as his siblings. I am a 5th generation Washingtonian, my husband is also a native Washingtonian and grew up in Mount Pleasant where his parents still reside. My family currently resides on Klinge Road and will be moving to Harvard Street to a home we are restoring in just a few short weeks. We love this neighborhood and our community so much and Bancroft is the central force of our community here. My husband and I also work as real estate agents to many families who have moved to Mount Pleasant over the years specifically for the Bancroft community. We are highly engaged in continuing to better our community, my in-laws were part of the force that made the neighborhood historic, and we feel truly passionate about keeping this neighborhood together. I know you are receiving many letters and date points and I just wanted to add a personal note as well.

I am writing to implore that the DME include the budget for a Bancroft (or broader Ward 1 ECE) Annex building in the 2025 budget.

Mount Pleasant is a unique, cohesive neighborhood with the most clear and distinct boundaries in the city

Mount Pleasant is one of the most tight knit communities in the entire city - it is truly special. With such clear geographic boundaries of Rock Creek Park, 16th St, and Harvard St, there is nothing else like it. There are multiple generations in the neighborhood who support this school, many of whom never had kids even go there. We are truly a village and many of us made life plans around being here for Bancroft, the pattern that has been here for as long as I can remember as a DC native. Changing this boundary cleaves the neighborhood in half and forever changes this community that has fought for years and years to get to where we are.

Changing the Boundary would destroy residents faith in this city as a whole and is completely contrary to the DME principles of predictability and stability

The city has core values of predictability and stability with education and some of the streets under consideration had boundary changes a mere 10 years ago, all the more reason for constituents to steadfastly believe they won't change again and to invest there. Bancroft = Mount Pleasant and Mount Pleasant = Bancroft in a way unique to this city. This school is what it is because of the neighborhood as a whole. Community involvement has changed this school drastically over the last 41 years. I have watched it happen my entire lifetime. And similarly, the neighborhood is what it is because the school ties us all together. The neighborhood as a whole has driven the improvement of our school and safety of our streets. How do we have faith in a city that flip flops this suddenly with a lack of long term planning. Why would anyone invest their time or their money in this city after this? Bancroft was built 5 years ago. The city didn't plan for the numbers correctly and now we as a neighborhood might be punished. If this happens, people who are invested in improving the neighborhood and city and devote their time and passion will leave. Especially with crime on the rise and no plans in place or traction that is changing that. To have our kids walk to different neighborhoods, cross dangerous streets, and

leave their community is so sad. My kids have been in tears over this listening to our conversations. This kind of upheaval and decision making by the city and our leaders will be a final straw that I just know people will not and can not bear. I also really fear for what this will do to this neighborhood. I have had many people reach out to me to bluntly say they will leave the city altogether and move to MD if this becomes reality.

The neighborhood must be served first

Right now 180 students at Bancroft are out of boundary students out of 720. That is 25%. A huge percentage. For the city to be discussing cleaving a neighborhood in half and not serving the population in the actual neighborhood before discussing the out of bound numbers is just not something I understand as a community member. We know that the principal can fill her spanish dominant numbers by in bound kids alone and as time goes on the out of bound numbers should decrease. Preschool is something that is hugely important to the Bancroft community but it does not have to be at the current location. Preschool at the neighborhood school is not a guarantee and should be moved to an annex before half of the neighborhood loses their by right school they planned their lives and largest investments around

This discussion as a whole seems to show a lack of understanding of our community and the school options

These conversations make all of us feel that the city leaders do not understand the dynamics of the school or the neighborhood. It feels as if this is being done backwards and there should be no conversation of chopping and discussing moving people before fixing broader issues and creating better, equitable school options to present to constituents. I beg of you to include the annex as part of a master facilities plan. Even cleaving the neighborhood will not fix the overcrowding and we need to think long term about a safe building for preschool and potentially kindergarteners down the road.

The entire neighborhood supports the annex which shows just how passionate and cohesive we are on this issue. Please listen to our voices.

At the end of the day this is a neighborhood school and the thought of the neighborhood that is so clearly defined and such a village being divided is almost unbearable to think about. Please serve the community that this school has been zoned for and please do not make this change.

All the best,
Megan Conway

January 26, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams:

We write as enthusiastic Bancroft parents and community members. We've enjoyed living in Ward 1 for the last 15 years, including the last 8 years in Mt. Pleasant (on the 1800 block of Monroe St). We have two kids attending Bancroft (second grade and kindergarten) and a toddler at home who will be ready for PK3 next year. Our younger daughter was lucky to lottery into PK3 when her older sister was in Kindergarten in 2021-22 and we have had just the best experience at Bancroft for both kids over the last 2+ years. I am on the PTO board (secretary-elect) and am fortunate to be part of such a vibrant, diverse, and passionate community.

We write to strongly encourage the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. We urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. We urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only long-term and inclusive solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socioeconomic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

The alternative solutions that have been proposed are both problematic: Removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school artificially bisects a neighborhood that truly enjoys a "village" feel and community. But reducing ECE classrooms will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual-language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem. As the parents of a student who attended both PK3 and PK4 at Bancroft, we know how valuable having BOTH of those grades is to so many families in the neighborhood and in the broader community. We understand that Bancroft is also the only elementary school in Ward 1 to offer PK3. It would be a shame to see that capacity further reduced, given the benefits of early classroom learning for so many families.

An Annex building seems the most effective way to fully address the growing overcapacity problem at Bancroft. If it isn't solved, the additional crowding will mean that Bancroft will have to reduce current school resources and programs to accommodate in-bound students in K-5, compromising the quality of the school's programming and education.

Bancroft has already cut many resources for student learning to accommodate current students, including library space and the science classroom. Next year the school will lose parent and intervention rooms that support students with acute needs. Bancroft's remaining PK3 and likely the PK4 classrooms will eventually need to be cut. PK is essential to preserving Bancroft's dual language Spanish-speaking student body and provide families in need with wraparound family services. Bancroft currently provides

some of the few Spanish-language special education stand-alone classrooms in DC, serving students from across the city. This critical service would also be in jeopardy if overcrowding is not addressed.

The success of Bancroft is owed, in large part, to the supportive school community. A new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, would allow it to remain as cohesive as ever, providing the strongest start for all our kids. We thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Jessie Brown & Chris Fanelli
1816 Monroe Street NW

January 30, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

Our multi-national family lives on Hobart Street in Mt. Pleasant, and our daughter Nina attends Kindergarten at Bancroft. We planned for our 5-month old son Felix to attend as well. We were shocked to hear that Hobart Street might be excluded from the Bancroft boundary following the Boundary & Student Assignment Study, and strongly oppose this change. Aligning to the study's guiding principles to preserve our diverse and inclusive community's access to quality bi-lingual education, it's strong connective fibers with the neighborhood school at its center, and the predictability and continuity that families depend on in making life decisions impacting their children's education, we urge you to not change Bancroft's boundary, but fund a more sustainable solution to Bancroft's overutilization.

We urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. It is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, City Council Chair, and Brianne Nadeau to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a new Bancroft Annex building in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Luther (Jamie) Barden & Elitza Barden
1748 Hobart St NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE Member Williams:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed elementary school boundary change for residents living on the north side of Harvard, all of Hobart, and the south side of Irving Streets in Mount Pleasant.

We are a multi-cultural family of four made up of a mother and daughter from Ethiopia and a father and a bi-racial son from the US. We moved into the neighborhood in 2018 specifically so we could be part of the diverse Bancroft Elementary community. At the time, our son was entering kindergarten, and our daughter was in pre-K3. We did a lot of research and visiting of schools prior to moving, and when we visited Bancroft, we immediately fell in love with the rich diversity and strong sense of community that both the school and the neighborhood represented. Finding an affordable house in the neighborhood was definitely a challenge, but we were able to barely purchase a home on Hobart Street because it was smaller than many of the other houses in the neighborhood closer to the school.

We spent the 2018-2019 school year walking our son into the neighborhood to Bancroft while walking our daughter out of the neighborhood to H.D. Cooke with the latter feeling totally unnatural to us. Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, our daughter started attending Bancroft as well which allowed us to finally be fully part of the neighborhood where we lived.

Today our son is in 5th grade and our daughter is in 3rd grade at Bancroft, and we could not be happier with the experience we have had here. Not only have our children had the benefit of a bilingual education, but we as a family have been able to live in a neighborhood with a strong sense of community that is a direct outgrowth of the local elementary school. We have been active members of the school community and the neighborhood as a whole while walking our children to and from school each day, participating in the school PTO, helping to organize as well as attending school fundraisers, and using the Bancroft playground on the weekends with other families from Mount Pleasant. In short, our family has been able to build strong, lasting friendships with other parents and children from all over the neighborhood where we live which would not have happened if we had been excluded from Bancroft.

The redistricting change in 2014 to include the southern part of the neighborhood in the Bancroft boundary was a huge success as evidenced by the fact that the school is now full. It is why we moved here. To now consider going back to the old boundary would be a huge mistake which would divide the neighborhood and eliminate all the community has gained over the last 10 years. Bancroft's central role in bringing the neighborhood together should be maintained as a model for other communities across the District rather than going backward to a time when families on these blocks consistently moved out of the neighborhood to find a suitable school option for their children. Such turnover is not good for the stability of a community, and in this case in particular, it also makes absolutely no sense geographically.

Cutting out the southern end of the neighborhood from the Bancroft boundary will only bring temporary relief to the capacity challenges at Bancroft. Given the success of its dual language program, there will continue to be more families who will want their children to attend Bancroft, and they will buy houses that are in bounds no matter what, even if the boundary is shrunk. We attended two ANC Meetings and a town hall on this issue in the fall, and as evidenced by the results of a large neighborhood poll, an overwhelming majority (85%) of the neighborhood residents favored a plan to secure additional space to accommodate the pre-K3 and pre-K4 classes.

Our understanding is that the Henderson Buildings at 3224 16th Street, NW are currently for sale or lease. They offer the perfect solution. They are close to Bancroft and are also the site of a former school, so there are classrooms already in place. The city needs to move to either purchase the buildings or enter a long-term lease. Securing this property will immediately alleviate overcrowding issues at Bancroft and will also allow Bancroft's dual-language program to be expanded not reduced. We strongly urge you to pursue this solution expeditiously as it is the one that makes the most sense for the school and the neighborhood and is also the one that an overwhelming number of constituents favor.

Our children and we as a family have benefited immensely from our experience at Bancroft as well as by being connected to the neighborhood as a whole, and we hope that future families on these blocks will have the same opportunity.

Sincerely,
The Spier-Getachew Family
1629 Hobart Street, NW

January 31, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

I am writing to urge you to maintain the existing boundaries for Bancroft Elementary School, via the “equitable access strategy” as outlined in the Boundary Study, and to open a new ECE annex building to address overcrowding at the school.

As the parent of two children who had very different elementary school experiences, I have witnessed first-hand the difference it makes to attend a true neighborhood school. Our family moved to Hobart Street shortly after the last boundary changes were implemented, when the street was rightly added into the Bancroft zone. Like many, we chose the neighborhood for its vibrant community, walkability, proximity to public transportation, and access to excellent public schools. Our older daughter was in 4th grade, and we were thrilled to find that there were 5 other kids in her grade on the block. However, none of them attended their previously-zoned school, Cook, and none switched to Bancroft post-boundary change. Each attended a different public school they had accessed through the lottery, and as a result, we noted that there was very little interaction between these kids on a daily basis. We also chose to keep our daughter in a charter school as it was too late to begin bilingual education at Bancroft. This cohort all later attended Deal Middle School, but they never really connected in any meaningful way, as their friends and activities were scattered in all directions outside the neighborhood.

Our younger daughter started first grade at Bancroft several years later when the renovated building reopened. As a bilingual household we were happy that she would have the chance to learn her father’s first language; and we were even more happy with the wonderful community we joined. This daughter has grown up going to school with friends who live within walking distance, and it has made such a difference in her connection to the neighborhood. She knows many people, from other kids and their parents, to dogwalkers, to store owners and employees. She feels comfortable walking to the library or local shops. She started Deal this year with a close group of friends, which has made the transition to middle school much easier.

Bancroft is truly our neighborhood school. Unlike many other DC neighborhoods, Mt. Pleasant has clear geographic boundaries, and these southernmost streets feel very much a part of it. A cliff separates us from Lanier Heights/Adams Morgan to the south, navigable by either a steep staircase or a circuitous route through heavy-traffic intersections. I and many of my neighbors have been heavily involved with Bancroft, volunteering many hours to help make the school what it is today. Removing these streets from the Bancroft zone would exact pain and inconvenience on us without solving the real issue of overcrowding.

Creating an annex building for Early Childhood Education seems like the perfect solution to the overcrowding at Bancroft, one that would preserve the unity of the neighborhood and help to bolster the dual language mission of the school. Many, many residents are turned down for pre-K slots due to lack of space. Beginning language immersion at as early an age as possible is crucial for fluency, and having more kids on the same page before kindergarten could benefit the school greatly. The Henderson Building at Park and 16th St. would be an excellent spot for this. Coincidentally, our older daughter spent a year there when her charter school used the building, and we found the facility to be more than adequate and the location excellent. I urge the City to allocate the funds to lease or purchase this space.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Argetsinger

1762 Hobart St., NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

My name is Patricio and, by way of introduction, I want to highlight that 1) I live in Mt Pleasant and I am happy member of the local community, 2) I am Latino and a native Spanish speaker, and 3) I am a father of two young boys, the oldest of whom currently attends PK4 Bancroft Elementary and the youngest of whom should, hopefully, be able to join his brother once old enough. I have also had the privilege of coordinating some of the community's grassroots efforts to engage with the DME's Boundary Study and the MFP.

During the Spanish-language town hall held back in Nov. 2023, I mentioned to the moderators what I want to re-emphasize here: it is heart-breaking to us, as it is to many members of our communities (Latino, local residents, prospective Bancroft parents) to learn that the go-to solution for high demand of what is an incredible school is not to expand, not to be inclusive and ensure more folks can get access to it, but rather to reduce, to exclude, to cut. In our particular situation, the Boundary Study's proposed solutions could mean that our sons would not only be separated from each other, but that we would no longer have access to the primary reason why we live where we live: dual language education shared with students from a rich diversity of backgrounds.

I, alongside other members of these communities, have engaged with the DME highlighting that exclusionary solutions are not what we want or expect. Instead, we have tried to support the DME's efforts by identifying properties that could serve as an Annex to host ECE, thus avoiding the need to cut services and do irreparable harm to Bancroft's and Mt Pleasant's social fabric.

I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, City Council Chair, and Brianne Nadeau to pursue the purchase of property well-suited for an Annex, such as the Henderson Buildings on 16th Street, as quickly as possible. This would not only alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft, but would also demonstrate to our communities that the administration listens to its constituents and that it can embrace a bold vision to make quality education available to all, without pitting our communities against each other.

Sincerely,

Patricio Zambrano

1745 Irving St NW

February 8, 2024

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

I am a Mount Pleasant resident, parent of Aleksander (third grader) and Liam (first grader) at Bancroft Elementary School. Our family has been part of the fabulous Mount Pleasant community for over a decade. My husband serves on the school LSAT committee.

I am writing to urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I also urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study, and I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only mid- and long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. The overcapacity issue at Bancroft is a large and growing problem. If student enrollment continues to grow at the current rate, only a new Annex building (to include PK and additional classes if needed) provides a middle and long-term solution. We have experienced first hand the overcrowding problem at the school as our kids lost their dedicated science room this year, and it is likely the school will have to continue reducing current school resources and programs to accommodate in-bound students in K-5, compromising the quality of the school's programming and education. Next year the school will lose parent and intervention rooms that support students with acute needs. An Annex building is the only sustainable and viable solution that solves the overcrowding problem while preserving the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program and maintaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, City Council Chair, and Brianne Nadeau to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem. None of the other options provide a solution for even the short term. Bancroft is 63 students over capacity (109% utilization) as of December 2023. DCPS projects that Bancroft will be 100 students over capacity in Fall 2024 (114% utilization). The DME's Interactive Boundary Explorer tool projects that the school's overall enrollment will only be reduced by 34 students by cutting the boundary, phased in gradually starting in Fall 2025. This does not address the overcapacity issue even today, let alone in the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.

A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of respondents (1,249 residents) and the overwhelming majority (85%) voted to “relocate PK to a new location” as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats. Keeping the current boundary intact maintains predictability and continuity, a key Boundary Study principle, for Mt. Pleasant families. In 2023, ANC1D passed a unanimous resolution in support of predictability and continuity, and keeping Bancroft’s current boundaries.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft’s overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft’s programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We’ve never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Marianne El-Khoury,
1810 Kilbourne Place NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBOE member Williams,

I am a Mount Pleasant resident and parent of a first- and third-grader at Bancroft Elementary School. I have lived in the District since 1999 and in Mount Pleasant since 2003--20 years. I served on the SIT (School Improvement Team) during the planning for Bancroft's expansion, and now serve on Bancroft's LSAT. Suffice it to say that I have heard and seen a lot of the issues that have faced Bancroft as it has grown into the stellar neighborhood school it is today.

I am writing to urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I also urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study, and I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Nadeau to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

An Annex building is the only mid- and long-term solution to the overcapacity issue at Bancroft. The overcapacity issue at Bancroft is a large and growing problem. If student enrollment continues to grow at the current rate, only a new Annex building (to include PK and additional classes if needed) provides a middle and long-term solution. We have experienced first hand the overcrowding problem at the school as our kids lost their dedicated science room this year, and it is likely the school will have to continue reducing current school resources and programs to accommodate in-bound students in K-5, compromising the quality of the school's programming and education. Next year the school will lose parent and intervention rooms that support students with acute needs. An Annex building is the only sustainable and viable solution that solves the overcrowding problem while preserving the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program and maintaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, City Council Chair, and Brianne Nadeau to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing ECE classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the

socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem. None of the other options provide a solution for even the short term. Bancroft is 63 students over capacity (109% utilization) as of December 2023. DCPS projects that Bancroft will be 100 students over capacity in Fall 2024 (114% utilization). The DME's Interactive Boundary Explorer tool projects that the school's overall enrollment will only be reduced by 34 students by cutting the boundary, phased in gradually starting in Fall 2025. This does not address the overcapacity issue even today, let alone in the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.

A Bancroft community poll generated a large number of respondents (1,249 residents) and the overwhelming majority (85%) voted to "relocate PK to a new location" as their top choice, and voted against both reducing the size of the boundary and reducing PK3 and/or PK4 seats. Keeping the current boundary intact maintains predictability and continuity, a key Boundary Study principle, for Mt. Pleasant families. In 2023, ANC1D passed a unanimous resolution in support of predictability and continuity, and keeping Bancroft's current boundaries.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Erik Hoffland
1810 Kilbourne Place NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau,

I am a Mount Pleasant resident and mom, living at 1717 Irving St. NW. After years of saving and extensive research, my husband and I purchased our home in Mount Pleasant three years ago because we were ready to start a family. The Mount Pleasant community is family-oriented, incredibly supportive, diverse across many definitions of the term, and the neighborhood in many ways revolves around its dual-language elementary school. All of these considerations drew us to Mount Pleasant and kept our family enthusiastically inside the District.

I am writing to urge the Mayor to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a bilingual Early Childhood Education building that would include Bancroft students. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a bilingual ECE building to include Bancroft students in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. And lastly, I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the bilingual ECE building through the City Council Budget process.

The overcapacity issue at Bancroft is a large and growing problem. If student enrollment continues to grow at the current rate, only a new ECE location provides a middle and long-term solution:

- DCPS projects that Bancroft will be 100 students over capacity in Fall 2024 (114% utilization), whereas the DME's Interactive Boundary Explorer tool projects that cutting the boundary will only reduce the school's overall enrollment by 34 students.
- Cutting the boundary would mean fragmenting our beloved neighborhood community, and it would not address the overcapacity issue even today, let alone in the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.

Not fully addressing overcapacity will mean that Bancroft will have to reduce current school resources and programs to accommodate in-bound students in K-5, compromising the quality of the school's programming, education, and wraparound services:

- Bancroft's remaining PK3 and likely the PK4 classrooms will eventually need to be cut. PK is essential to preserving Bancroft's dual language Spanish-speaking student body and provide families in need with wrap-around family services.
- Bancroft currently provides some of the few Spanish-language special education stand-alone classrooms in DC, serving students from across the city. This critical service would also be in jeopardy if overcrowding is not addressed.

There is a school building within Mt. Pleasant that can house the ECE and it is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity.

We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school.

Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,
Molly Cox
1717 Irving St. NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau

As our elected leaders in the District I urge you to support the upcoming February FY 2025 budget proposal for FY 2025 providing sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. I urge the Deputy Mayor to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. I urge Council Chair Phil Mendelson to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

There are a great many reasons why this approach makes the most sense for addressing the issues at Bancroft school in a positive and productive way. I am sure these reasons will be articulated in detail in letters and communications from parents of Bancroft children and from residents of the greater Bancroft community. Rather than add to that discussion I would like to share a more personal view.

I have lived in Mount Pleasant for 46 years. My son, born and raised in the neighborhood, lives two blocks away and has two children at Bancroft and one at Rosemont. As a three generation Mount Pleasant family we are devoted to the community and the District as a whole. I can attest to the near half century of the hard work this community has expended and the struggles it has endured to maintain its unique economic, cultural and racial diversity. I can also say that there are precious few institutions in our society as a whole and in our neighborhoods individually that foster consensus, dialogue and constructive community engagement. Neighborhood schools can, and in the case of Bancroft do, preform that critical role.

So I ask you to please recognize Bancroft as something more than a set of finite classrooms. Rather than trim it back to fit an administrative profile, build on it as an extraordinary success story that features education at the center of community life.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades, and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at or near capacity. I urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions within our tight-knit community. We've never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a bilingual ECE building, including for Bancroft students, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,

Tom Conway

1833 Park Rd NW

Dear Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, and Councilmember Nadeau,

As residents of Mount Pleasant, my family and I are deeply invested in our community and Bancroft Elementary. With young children set to join Bancroft's student body in the coming years, we are directly impacted by the potential boundary changes and the school's current overcrowding.

We urge the city leadership to allocate funds in the FY 2025 budget for a Bancroft Annex. This facility is essential for addressing the school's capacity issues while maintaining the dual-language program and the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our community. Alternative solutions, such as rezoning or reducing ECE classrooms, do not adequately solve the overcrowding and threaten the integrity of our community.

The availability of the Henderson Buildings for adaptation to school use presents a timely solution to this problem. The recent community poll shows overwhelming support for this approach over other proposals, highlighting the community's desire for continuity and stability.

Investing in an ECE building will not only resolve the overcrowding at Bancroft but also promote higher-quality bilingual education and foster growth in the DCPS student population. We trust in your commitment to making decisions that reinforce the strength and unity of our community.

Sincerely,
Emily Walden
1731 Hobart Street NW

Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn, Chair Mendelson, Councilmember Nadeau, and SBoE Member Williams,

Please show your commitment to the children of DC and invest in growing and strengthening the exceptional Bancroft community. I'm a concerned parent in one of the streets being considered for boundary reduction and strongly support adding a pre-K Annex to the budget instead.

When a school is high performing, a neighborhood tight-knit, and one of few pathways to diversity to Deal/JR, one shouldn't seek to break what's working but build on that foundation. The city needs more Bancroft, more slots for bilingual education, and more inclusion.

There's nothing I won't do to ensure my child a quality public school education—it's why I chose Mount Pleasant for our home. This will influence my choices come election time and whether to stay a resident. If the District won't invest in itself long-term, how can I?

Sincerely,
Joanna Schwartz
Irving St

To: Mayor Bowser

CC: Councilwoman Nadeau
Council Chair Mendelson
Deputy Mayor for Education Kihn

Dear Mayor Bowser,

We are the parents of a one-year-old and a four-year-old in Mt. Pleasant. Our children both go to Barbara Chambers and our four-year-old will start at Bancroft in the fall. We both grew up in Takoma Park, MD and attended public schools including Rolling Terrace (Jack), a bilingual elementary school in Silver Spring. We feel we are both the direct products of strong, diverse public schools. We stretched our budget and bought our forever house in Mt. Pleasant because we saw the same values in Mt. Pleasant we saw growing up in Takoma Park.

We have been diligently advocating against changing Bancroft's boundary for a number of reasons. When Nora was growing up in Takoma Park a small portion of the city was in Prince George's County, including her block. She was divided from her friends who lived just blocks away and sent to different schools until 7th grade when the city was unified into one county. Most of her closest neighbors with young kids moved out of the neighborhood once their kids started school. Some parents sent their kids to private school which also created additional distance. The consideration of rezoning Bancroft has really hit home for Nora as we don't want our kids to go through the same thing she went through.

Our kids currently attend Barbara Chambers because it's Spanish immersion like Bancroft and because neighborhood kids across economic backgrounds attend. We feel diversity and true integration are a critical part of the school experience. Even the slightest possibility that our 1-year-old son might not be able to join our daughter at Bancroft is disheartening. Many other Mt. Pleasant families would find themselves in similar situations. Aside from the threat of our children attending different schools – which is a major concern on its own – this potential change threatens the community bonds we've built and are continuing to build here in Mt. Pleasant. Harvard, Hobart and Irving Streets are geographically and culturally part of the Mt. Pleasant community with relationships frequently built around the Bancroft school district. The proposed rezoning would fragment these connections, isolate families and children from their community ties and support networks, and erode the sense of stability and continuity Mt. Pleasant residents have worked hard to cultivate over the years.

The alternative plan of sending three streets to HD Cooke would mean that our children's friends would not only go to a different elementary school but also to a different middle and high school. This would not only impact those of us with children under 4 by threatening to split up our kids, but would also split us apart from the rest of the neighborhood. This is a split we not only philosophically oppose but also doesn't make sense geographically. The walk to Bancroft from our house on Irving St is a .4 mile walk that is slightly uphill. The walk to HD Cooke is .7 miles. It requires us to cross Harvard, walk up a very steep hill on 18th St, and then cross Columbia Rd – a very busy road, particularly during rush hour – where a number of

pedestrian deaths have occurred in recent years. This change would go against the Boundary Committee's principle of increasing safety for our kids.

Regardless of what happens, we are dedicated to living in DC and sending our kids to public school. But many neighbors we've spoken to on Irving, Hobart and Harvard Streets have raised the possibility of moving out of the neighborhood – and possibly out of DC all together – if they are asked to send their kids to an elementary school in a different neighborhood and/or one sibling goes to Bancroft and the other is zoned for HD Cooke. We feel this is counterproductive to DC's overall mission for fostering equitable neighborhoods. We are strongly advocating for the best alternative solution for overcrowding at Bancroft: an Annex building. This is the only solution that preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socioeconomic and cultural diversity of our unified community.

We urge you to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate Bancroft's overcrowding for the duration of the 10-year time horizon of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan. We urge the **Deputy Mayor for Education** to recommend and actively pursue a sufficiently large Bancroft Annex building in both the Master Facilities Plan and the Boundary Study. We urge **Council Chair Phil Mendelson** and **Councilmember Nadeau** to support the Bancroft Annex building through the City Council Budget process.

There is currently a school building within Mt. Pleasant that has capacity to fully absorb Bancroft's projected over-utilization and is currently available for sale or lease. The Henderson Buildings at 16th Street and Park Rd are already laid out as classrooms. If needed, they could accommodate not just Bancroft's ECE, but also other Bancroft grades and/or expand bilingual ECE for other Ward 1 schools that are at/near capacity. We urge the Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Education, and City Council Chair to pursue the purchase of the Henderson Buildings as quickly as possible to alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft.

We are sympathetic to the challenges of providing equitable access to high quality education for families throughout the city. There are undoubtedly broader considerations that we are not privy to and we understand that changes of this magnitude involve multiple layers of complexity and a range of perspectives. We note that the top priority in citywide town halls regarding school redistricting are "safety" and "predictability and continuity." Therefore, we urge you to pursue the Annex.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nora Toiv and Jack Eisen-Markowitz
1832 Irving St. NW

1659 Hobart Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

January 22, 2024

Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor
Executive Office of the Mayor
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Bancroft Elementary School Overcrowding

Dear Mayor Bowser:

I am a 40-year resident of the Mount Pleasant neighborhood. Recently I became aware of issues concerning Bancroft Elementary School, including a proposal to modify the existing boundary for attendance there. The purpose of this letter is to seek your support to include in the upcoming February budget proposal for FY 2025 sufficient funds for a Bancroft Annex building that is large enough to fully alleviate overcrowding at Bancroft Elementary School for the duration of the 10-year period of the Boundary Study and Master Facilities Plan.

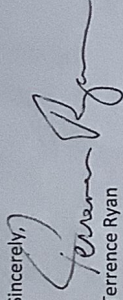
An annex building is the only long-term solution to address the existing and anticipated overcrowding at Bancroft. It also preserves the Mt. Pleasant community and its dual-language program while sustaining the socio-economic and cultural diversity of our unified community. All alternative solutions that have been proposed, either removing students that live on three Mt. Pleasant streets from their neighborhood school, or reducing Early Childhood Education classrooms, will jeopardize Bancroft Elementary's central role as the neighborhood school for the Mt. Pleasant community, undermine the dual language program, and undermine the socioeconomic and cultural diversity and community engagement we treasure, without solving the overcapacity problem.

The net result of investing in an ECE building as a long-term solution to Bancroft's overcrowding will be growth in the DCPS student population and higher-quality bilingual education for more students. The alternative will be to reduce Bancroft's programming quality and create divisions

Letter to Mayor Muriel Bowser
January 22, 2024
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within our tight-knit community. We have never been more united as a community and supportive of our neighborhood school. Please include a new bilingual Annex building to include Bancroft PK students, and additional classes as needed, in the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

Sincerely,



Terrence Ryan

cc:

Paul Kihn, Deputy Mayor for Education
Philip H. Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
Brienne Nadeau, Councilmember, Council of the District of Columbia
Omar Parbhoo, ANC-1D