

**Sponsors:** Commissioner Yannik Omictin (2A01)

**Introduced:** April 16, 2024

**Title:** A Resolution Regarding Teacher Funding at the School Without Walls High School.

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1 **WHEREAS**, School Without Walls High School (SWWHS) is a highly-rated public high school  
2 within ANC 2A, serving students from around the District;

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4 **WHEREAS**, given SWWHS' location, we have advocated alongside its staff and students on  
5 many occasions, most recently [passing a resolution in 2020](#) to advocate for the reinstatement of  
6 Principal Trogisch and the following of reasonable COVID safety standards;

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8 **WHEREAS**, Mayor Bowser's FY 2025 budget for SWWHS is \$235,000 less than the prior year,  
9 meaning that two teachers will have to be fired (most likely the heads of the theatre and  
10 Chinese departments, eliminating those departments entirely);

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12 **WHEREAS**, students at SWWHS have been fiercely fighting these budget cuts, [circulating a](#)  
13 [petition](#) with 810 signatures so far and testifying in the dozens at the [Office of the School](#)  
14 [Superintendent of Education hearing](#) on April 4th, 2024;

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16 **WHEREAS**, petition comments and testimony from the April 4th hearing includes glowing  
17 reviews of the teachers whose jobs are on the line, such as:

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- 19 • "The arts are IMMENSELY important and I had never even considered a profession in  
20 them without Ms. Z's guidance."
- 21 • "As a Walls student, I am lucky to have the opportunity to take Mandarin Chinese. As  
22 Mandarin is one of the most spoken languages worldwide, and the most spoken  
23 language in China, it is crucial that US students continue to learn it. If the cuts take

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24 place, there is a chance that the entire Chinese program will be cut...DCPS schools  
25 being forced to cut multiple teachers and entire departments will do nothing but  
26 accelerate the rapid decline of education across the city and the mentality of the  
27 teachers who remain.”

28 • “The current plan is that Walls’ administration will have to let go of a language teacher,  
29 impacting many students no matter which language is affected...I was really eager to  
30 continue my language learning career, and now I feel uncertain about that.”

31 • “I see the privilege I have by going to the school without walls but what would I be  
32 without the connection I made with my drama teacher? She has supported me through  
33 many hardships and always had a shoulder to lean on or a listening ear when I needed  
34 it.”

35 • “I am unsure how to react to this situation because I had begun my high school journey  
36 here and I want to explore a little more for what this school may have to offer. I cannot  
37 do that, obviously, if serious cuts will have to take place. Here is my inquiry. Is there a  
38 solution to keep the school’s departments while still staying track of the budget? In other  
39 words, can there be a way to not make too many cuts?”

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41 **WHEREAS**, [wide-ranging budget cuts to public education](#) in DC may result in the laying off of  
42 as many as 200 full-time equivalent teachers and essential educational staff;

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44 **BE IT RESOLVED** that ANC 2A urges the DC Council and Chairman Mendelson to fill the  
45 \$235,000 budget gap for SWWHS to retain two teachers, in support of the demands of students  
46 of SWWHS.

**Resolution number:** CR-24-021

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48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ANC 2A urges the DC Council and Chairman Mendelson to

49 stop all cuts to public schools across the city in this budget and fully fund asks for basic

50 maintenance, teacher and staff retention, and educational programming.