



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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June 13, 2024

Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee, Chancellor
District of Columbia Public Schools
1200 First Street, NE – 12th Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Chancellor Ferebee:

The Nalle Elementary School community was made aware on Friday, June 7th, that they would lose their athletic field to a modular campus for at least five years to serve as a swing space for Ward 7 elementary schools undergoing modernization. In other words, at least through SY28-29, Nalle students and families will not have access to their field for recess, school events, or afterschool activities like flag football or DC Scores. This loss is unacceptable and the lack of notice to the community is worse.

Please explain why there is no alternative. Moreover:

1. How did this oversight occur?
2. Provide a timeline of communication and engagement with the schools scheduled to use the Nalle swing space regarding their modernization and usage of the swing space. Please provide copies of any letters sent.
3. How will outdoor recreation space be provided to Nalle students?
4. Why was the Nalle field selected as a site for the modular campus? List other locations considered, and for each explain why they were not selected.
5. Nalle serves a community that is often failed by systemic institutions and thus disengaged from them. Given Nalle's high at-risk population I cannot help but view DCPS' actions and plan in the poor light of equity. I note that two other modernization projects in more affluent communities have been revised this year because of school community advocacy. What steps is DCPS taking to standardize engagement with school communities regarding their swing spaces?

We strongly encourage you to pause any construction on or degradation of the field space until a plan is communicated to, and worked with, the Nalle ES community that details how their students will have access to outdoor recreation space.

Sincerely,



Phil Mendelson

PM/bv