



Media Advisory

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Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser releases statement about dismissal of Shepherd Elementary School principal and principal selection process

(Washington, DC) –Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser issued a statement today to the Shepherd Elementary School community about the lack of leadership continuity at Shepherd Elementary School.

“I was very disappointed to learn last Friday that there had been an abrupt change in leadership at Shepherd Elementary School in Ward 4. The unrest caused by such an action concerns parents and the entire community that this may signal a school year of further disruptions. Leadership stability is paramount in our schools if we are going to usher in the changes we’ve promised DCPS children and families,” she added.

The Chancellor may have good reasons for her personnel action, but no one can be satisfied with the manner and timing of these actions. Reasonable people understand that personnel actions are sensitive by nature and that the Chancellor is in the best position to make them, but they also expect that an orderly and transparent process is used when making these decisions,” Councilmember Bowser said.

If media reports are true, and had DCPS shown due diligence in the hiring process, this disruptive episode may have been avoided. The principal’s departure raises questions about the school system’s vetting process and the great weight given to the community’s recommendation in the selection process. Councilmember Bowser is committed to making sure that these processes are thorough and transparent.

Shepherd Elementary School is a great school on the brink of excellence with good test scores, a diverse student body and an active parent community. What it has lacked has been consistent, engaged leadership and needed support from the central administration.

Chancellor Rhee will address the school community tonight to discuss her plan to restore stability to Shepherd Elementary School. Above all, Councilmember Bowser will join the school community in demanding that administrative processes are fixed and that the appropriate resources are assigned to Shepherd Elementary to make this great school an excellent school.

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