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MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT FROM COUNCILMEMBER MURIEL BOWSER
ON WARD FOUR SCHOOL CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT
TODAY BY DCPS CHANCELLOR MICHELLE RHEE**

(Washington, DC) Mayor Fenty and Chancellor Rhee announced the final plan this morning to direct school resources. The revised plan takes into account two months of public input, community meetings, and feedback from Councilmember Bowser and the Ward 4 Education Compact.

We insisted that:

- 1) Academic performance matters in evaluating the closing and receiving schools;
- 2) Safety is key when determining the ability of students to walk to school and the overall school environment;
- 3) Timelines for staffing and physical infrastructure improvements be strictly adhered to for opening day 2008.

Clark and Rudolph Elementary schools are still on the closure list.

Clark students will be received by Powell Elementary, Raymond Elementary Schools and MacFarland Middle School. There will be enhanced staffing models and a Pre-K through 8th grade configuration. All facilities will be enhanced to receive these students.

Rudolph Elementary students will be received by Whittier and Truesdell Elementary Schools. Both schools will have an enhanced staffing model, Pre-K through 8th grade configuration and a facility blitz.

There are no major changes to Barnard Elementary school nor will it become a receiving school.

Councilmember Bowser has also insisted on a detailed plan for our school system's most physically vulnerable school, Sharpe Health School, which is no longer slated for closure.

Backus Middle School students in Ward 5 will be received by LaSalle Elementary School. "While LaSalle Elementary school will have an enhanced staffing model, a Pre-K through 8th grade format and a facility blitz, the recommendation to move all of the nearby middle school students to LaSalle was not initially envisioned nor fully vetted

with the community, ” said Councilmember Bowser. “I will be calling for a full briefing from the Chancellor and the Executive Director of Facilities Modernization,” she added.

“Additionally, the Mayor and the Chancellor have assured me that the promised enhancements to the receiving schools will be completed before the students are relocated,” said Councilmember Bowser. “I will carefully monitor this progress and insist on the best outcomes for our students. Their safety and ability to perform academically are my biggest priorities.”

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