

# COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Office of At-Large Councilmember Kwame R. Brown

Chairperson, Committee on Economic Development

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### PRESS RELEASE

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## **Mayor Fenty, Chancellor Rhee and Deputy Mayor Reinoso Reveal Final School Consolidation Plan**

*Hearing scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> at McKinley Tech*

(Washington, DC) –Today, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, Chancellor Michelle Rhee and Deputy Mayor for Education Victor Reinoso released a final school consolidation plan that revises what schools will be closed. According to the Mayor’s press release, the following changes were made to the original consolidation plan:

- Smothers Elementary School will remain open and become a receiving school for Benning Elementary School, which will close “after the 2007/2008 school year.”
- Shaw Middle School will remain open and become a receiving school for Garnet Patterson Middle School, which will close “no earlier than 2011.”
- Ronald H. Brown Middle School will remain open and become a receiving school for Merritt Middle School, which will close “after the 2007/2008 school year.”
- Bruce-Monroe Elementary School will remain open and become a receiving school for Park View Elementary School, which will close “no earlier than 2011.”

The Mayor’s plan also calls for enhanced staffing for all receiving schools depending on the individual need for each school. The models vary but the main enhanced staffing models are:

- Academic Support;
- Wellness Support;
- Enrichment Support; or
- Administrative and Facility Support.

Last month, At-Large Councilmember Kwame R. Brown introduced the “Creative Learning Program Act of 2008” (B17-592), which would require the Mayor and the Chancellor to add Music, Visual Arts, and Physical Education classes for all elementary schools in the District starting in the next school year. The “Enrichment Support” enhanced model proposed by the Mayor would create staff for Visual Arts, Music, Health & Life Skills (MS & HS), and Physical Education classes, included Before and Aftercare programs.

When Brown introduced the legislation he asked, “How is it that we can spend over a \$1 billion on education and fail to provide a music teacher in every school in the District? Schools shouldn’t have to hold fundraisers to pay for music and arts programs.”

The Mayor will hold a public hearing on the newly proposed closings to take place February 27, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at McKinley Tech High School, 151 T Street, NE, Washington, DC.

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