

Resolution  
R-04-57

Clean School Initiative to the improvement of bathroom facilities in DC Public High Schools

WHEREAS, the D.C. Board of Education is committed to providing clean, safe, and sanitary learning environments for all its students, staff, and communities;

WHEREAS, each student is guaranteed the right to safe and sanitary school buildings and facilities by the 2002 District of Columbia Municipal Regulations;

WHEREAS, in 2001, the Youth Education Alliance (YEA) conducted a survey of 350 students in DCPS high schools. Many issues were found to be dissatisfactory to students: lack of guidance counselor support, poor school lunches, lack of resources needed for learning, and dirty facilities. NOTE: Dirty facilities ranked second in the survey among the most pressing problems in the schools.

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2003, YEA began to organize for clean, safe, sanitary restrooms in the District. YEA members collected 900 signatures in support of listed demands, and coordinated a Public Dialogue between students, parent, community members and school board members. The dialogue was attended by School Board President Peggy Cooper-Cafritz, School Board Member Dwight Singleton, and then Deputy Director (Operations & Maintenance) with the DCPS Office of Facilities Management (OFM) Gregory Williams.

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2004, YEA began conducting monthly inspections of high school bathrooms. YEA in conjunction with OFM staff, visited 12 high schools and inspected 144 bathrooms. YEA conducted interviews with custodians and OFM staff, to gain a thorough understanding of restroom conditions and challenges. As a result of these inspections, YEA produced "*Scary Toilets & Broken Stalls: A Comprehensive Report on DCPS High School Restrooms.*"

***BE IT RESOLVED***, in buildings equipped with at least one women's and men's student restroom on each floor, principals are required to give students full access to those bathrooms during school hours by the start of the 2004-2005 academic year.

***BE IT RESOLVED***, schools will conduct a student survey on bathroom conditions during the first month of the new school year, and on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> advisory period during the current school year (YEA will provide student survey). Results of the survey will be reported to DC Board of Education, the Facilities Service Center, the LSRTs and will be open to the public.

***BE IT RESOLVED***, schools will maintain a log that is posted outside each bathroom that shows when bathrooms were cleaned, repaired & damages reported (OFM will provide log sheet). Bathrooms must be cleaned, at a minimum, once at lunch and once after school, with 100% spot checks for damages, cleanliness & availability of supplies after each period.

***BE IT RESOLVED***, the maintenance of bathrooms, including but not limited to, the requirements listed above shall be implement within DC Public High Schools starting September 1, 2004 (it is highly recommended that these responsibilities be added into senior high school principal evaluations).

***BE IT RESOLVED***, the Office of Facilities Management shall develop and implement a Custodial Maintenance Academy course for all senior high school custodians, during Summer 2004. Attendance shall be mandatory for all senior high school custodians. Course shall emphasize school based maintenance, cleaning, and youth sensitivity training.

***BE IT RESOLVED***, the D.C. Board of Education will review cleaning standards given to custodial staff and ensure that they either meet or exceed California's 2004 standards by July 14, 2004.

***BE IT RESOLVED***, the Superintendent of Schools will centrally fund, procure, and distribute custodial supplies, through the Office of Facilities Management, to all schools starting FY05. The Board of Education shall protect these funds from cuts.

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Date Adopted

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Attest