

## ISSUES REGARDING CHILDREN DISMISSED AT WMST

1. Notices not mailed in sufficient time for parents to plan placements for their children. Notices were mailed out 9/25 & 9/26/98, some parents not notified at all.
2. No emergency meeting called to inform parents of this crisis situation that was being forced upon our children
3. There was an abrupt dismissal of the children.
4. The errors made in the audit. Students applications dates were erroneously made by the auditors. How will it be rectified. There are children on the rolls who registered after children who have been taken off the rolls. There are students who came from Ballou who were promised that would be given priority, but were still dropped from the roll.
5. Children enrolling in other schools are being told they must catch up with the classes in the their studies who have been transferred to another school.
6. Students who have been dropped off the rolls, are still not enrolled in schools. Schools are not readily accepting the children being transferred from WMST.
7. There has been emotional and mental stress caused by this situation for both students and parent.
8. Students have missed Stanford 9 Tests.
9. School curriculum our students were in at WMST is not being offered at other schools children are being transferred to.
10. Administration needs to be organized. Records are missing.
11. Students are forced to register in schools after these schools have opened six weeks, causing our children to be placed at a disadvantage by having to catch up in all classes .

THESE ARE OUR DEMANDS

1. We want these students reinstated effective tomorrow morning, Thursday October 8, 1998 8:30 a.m.
2. We want mental as well as educational counseling for these students.
3. We are demanding a formal written apology to these students.
4. We demand the names of parents serving on your board of trustees
5. We want assurance that this will not happen again.

Ronald Taylor 10/5/98

Geraldine Bussey 10-5-98

Maureen C. Smith

Livingston J. Cummings 10-5-98

Linda Barnes 10-5-98

John L. Cummings 10/5/98

[Signature] 10/5/98

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PETITION FOR RE-ENROLLMENT SUPPORT FOR KICKED AND FORCED  
OUT AFRICAN STUDENTS OF THE WASHINGTON MATH SCIENCE  
TECHNOLOGY PUBLIC CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**

To: Chairwoman Josephine Baker of the D.C. Public Charter School Board, Executive Director Nelson Smith also of the D.C. Public Charter School Board, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Steve Gladis for the Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter High School, Chairman Chris White, The Krisam Group Apple Tree Institute Executive Board, Senior Fellow Robert D. Gaudet, Apple Tree Institute for Education Innovation, Director of Operations Betsy S. Lynch Apple Tree Institute for Education Innovation, Managing Director Jack McCarthy Apple Tree Institute for Education Innovation, Managing Director Lex Towle Apple Tree Institute for Education Innovation, City Councilman Jack Evans Ward 2, Mayor Elect Anthony Williams, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley, Chairwoman Alice Rivlin D.C. Financial Responsibility and Management Assistant Authority, Director of Management Accountability Russell Smith.

Whereas, thirty-five African American students already enrolled for three weeks at the Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter High School at 401 M Street S.W., Washington D.C. was kicked out and forced to transfer to other schools.

Whereas, some of the parents of the students kicked out were not notified. Whereas, notices were not mailed in sufficient time for parents to plan school placements for their children.

Whereas, there were no emergency meetings called to inform parents of this crisis situations that was being forced upon our children. Whereas, there was an abrupt dismissal of the children.

Whereas, there were errors made in the audit. Students' application

dates were erroneously made by the auditors. How will it be rectified? We await your response! There are children on the rolls who registered after children who have been taken off the rolls.

Whereas, there are students from Ballou Senior High School who were promised that would be given priority but were still dropped from the rolls. Whereas, children who were forced to enroll to other schools are being told they must catch up with the classes in their studies.

Whereas, of October 7, 1998 among students kicked out approximately 5-9 were not enrolled in any schools. Some schools were not readily accepting the children being transferred from the Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter High School.

Whereas, some of the parents and students have suffered emotional and mental stress caused by these blatten, gross, negligent, managerial errors.

Whereas, some of the students have missed the Stanford 9 Test due to the over enrollment problems. In addition, enrollment of two hundred students was the quota; however, 250 students were admitted for three weeks.

Whereas, transfers to other schools did not correspond with the curriculum of W.M.S.T. Public Charter High School. Whereas, some of the school records were reported missing. Whereas, students were forced to register in schools after these schools have opened six weeks causing our children to be placed at a disadvantage by having to catch up in all classes. Whereas, of October 1998 at the PSTA Meeting it was ascertained that there is currently a book and teacher shortage.

Whereas, pursuant the October 7, 1998 parents and Board of Trustee Meeting, the board chairman, Steve Gladis promised parents that he would correspond with chairwoman Josephine Baker of the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board to present the issue over enrollment problem and to request permission to increase their quota. However, to date we have not

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received a copy of the response as promised.

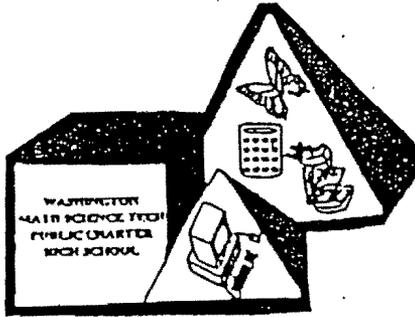
Therefore, the parents of WMST Charter High School as well as concerned citizens demand that; (1) all students effected by these allegations of facts be allowed to be expediently re-enrolled if they so choose with parental authority, (2) if space or funding is needed, that the U.S. Secretary of Education, Richard Riley, mandate chairwomen Alice Rivlin and Josephine Baker to accommodate these students. If the Secretary does not have the authority to order the above officials to comply, then we request that the appropriate officials would act on this request.

Name

Address

Phone#

- (1) D.W. Gooding - 7172 Donnell Pl - 301-967-0624  
Forestville, Md.
- (2) Ed Bierens 2802 EAST AVE FORESTVILLE MD 20747 301-568-9745
- (3) Charles Bacote 1221 M St NW DC
- (4) Spencer Hudson 1111 CONSTITUTION AVE DC 202) 289-1548
- (5) Deena Jackson 1621 LACKLAND WAY 202 622 4793
- (6) Henry Gougeblood 712 Rk Cl Church Rd NE 202 561-0224  
WASH. D.C. 20010 202-691-3115
- (7) Alvin Fleming 1190 VERMONT AVE 202 691-3050
- (8) Aris Anderson 1120 Vermont Ave (202)
- (9) Leo Reid 11 11 493-36201
- (10) John L. H. 1630 EXINGTON PL NE 202 2692607
- (11) Frank Meeloff 1190 Vermont Ave, (202) 691-3115
- (12) Curtis Washington 1621 E. CAP ST SE #9 202) 547-1981
- (13) Frank Williams & C 38 ST NW WASH. DC.
- (14) Michael Rolterson 1530 8th St Wash D.C. 202-234-8626
- (15) William Cora 4915 KING SOLANGE DR ANNANDALE VA 22003 (703) 507-8325
- (16) Andre McQueen 6014 Parkland Ct Forestville md 301 967 8289
- (17) Frank M. Doff 20740 1776 Bright Star Rd 691-317
- (18) Livingston V. Jennings 6505 Killarney St. 301) 856-1584  
Clinton, Maryland 20735



WASHINGTON MATH SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY  
PUBLIC CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

September 24, 1998

Dear Parents of Zakia Cummings:

We are very sorry to inform you that our school is over enrolled for the space available. In order to alleviate the space problem and follow our plan of enrolling 200 students in the school, we must transfer students according to their application dates. Each student who will be transferred has been assigned a wait list number and will be invited back to the school on a permanent basis as other students transfer.

In this process, we offer you the following assistance and support:

- identification and recommendation of schools/ programs
- assistance in transferring to another school by coordinating with the school
- opportunity to participate in Saturday and/or special programs (After school, summer, etc.,)

Efforts have been made to contact you by telephone prior to your receiving this letter. However, if we were not able to discuss the enrollment problems with you, please call me at (202) 488-1996 so that you may receive assistance in transferring your child. Our goal for completing the transfer process is Friday, September 25, 1998.

I appreciate your interest in the Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter High School. I look forward to your cooperation and assistance in this difficult transfer process.

Sincerely yours,

*Mary H. Johnson*

Mary H. Johnson  
Principal

235  
Holt/Holt  
Parent  
working on Enrollment  
letter

December 13, 1998

Good Morning.

I am Livingston V. Cummings, father of Zakia Najah Cummings, she is a student enrolled at the Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter High School. I am also a member of this school's PTSA and Seabrook Elementary School's PTSA in P.G. County.

Mr. Chairman, my daughter and 34 other African-American classmates were kicked out and forced to transfer against their will and interest from their school to other D.C. schools after being accepted and enrolled for three weeks.

The Principal, Dr. Mary Johnson; Managing Director, Jack McCarthy; Board of Trustees Chairman, Dr. Steve Gladis; and the Chairwoman of the D.C. Public Charter School Board, Josephine Baker all admit that the school quota was 200, and that 250 students were admitted and 35 students had to go. It must also be noted that, as of October 7, 1998, ten students were not placed anywhere. However, the Chairman of the Board, Steve Gladis, ordered that those students be re-enrolled. My daughter and another student included. The Chairman also stated that he would correspond to address the 35 students about re-enrollment to Chairwoman Baker. Please see the attached letters, dated October 8, and October 21, 1998.

It must be noted and submitted for the record that there were issues and demands submitted to the Board of Trustees from parents on October 7, 1998, and to date, pursuant

the November 5, 1998 PTSA meeting, stating that enrollment has increased to 212 students.

It appears that the other 23 African-Americans are not allowed re-enrollment to the Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter High School. Why is this occurring? Will they ever have an opportunity for re-enrollment? Chairwoman Baker stated to me, "that the charter will not allow nor would federal law allow her to accommodate these 23 students". When asked, if funding would be available now, would she accommodate? She stated, "no". Why can't she accommodate? Why can't an emergency supplement appropriation be given so that these students, extra teachers and space, if needed, pursuant to the Higher Education Amendment of 1998, P.L.105-244, are appropriated?

We would like this committee to take appropriate action to the D.C. House and Senate Appropriation Committees; Superintendent, Arlene Ackerman; Chairwoman, Alice Rivlin, of the D.C. Financial Responsibility and Management Assistant Authority; Secretary of Education, Richard Riley; and the Executive Board of Appletree Institute for Education Innovation.

They have not to my knowledge and those students are not re-enrolled, as of yet. These students basic human and civil liberties must and will be protected!

It must be noted that as of October 7, 1998, there was only one African-American seated on the Board of Trustees for Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter High School and the Executive Board for Appletree Institute for Education Innovation.

However, pursuant to, we now have four African-Americans seated and three Caucasians. See the attached November 5, 1998 PTSA minutes. For the record, these three Caucasians are guilty of mismanagement and should not be seated. Since this school is over 95% African-American, we must have a majority in the Board of Trustees and the Executive Board of the Appletree Institute for Education Innovation of Washington, D.C., to protect our interest and representation for our youths.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, keep in mind that in October 1994 this country ratified the International Convention on the Elimination OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ratified October 21, 1994, by President Clinton, U.N. Treaty Series, Volume 660, Page 195.

Public officials must stand up to this treaty. We await your response.

Washington Math Science Technology  
Public Charter High School

8 October 1998

Honorable Josephine Baker  
Chairwoman  
District of Columbia Public Charter School Board  
1717 K Street, N.W. - Suite 802  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mrs. Baker:

We have experienced serious difficulties in our first year's admissions and enrollment process resulting primarily from misunderstandings regarding the eligibility of students converting from Ballou Math Science Technology Academy, and from the revised residency requirements implemented this year.

As you know, we applied for 200 seats in the first year. Your board approved that request, with our charter application.

We have worked diligently, within the guidance provided by the statute, our plan and your staff, to resolve our situation with our guiding principal being to do everything we can to minimize disruption to children's education. In a recent meeting of our Board of Trustees, parents of affected students asked us to request of your Board an increase in our permitted enrollment of 235 students.

We recognize the policy and financial difficulties which this request creates, but nonetheless we respectfully request the increase to provide additional seats for those students whose school years have been adversely affected to date.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Steven Gladis  
Chairman  
Board of Trustees

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

October 21, 1998

Dr. Steven Gladis  
Chairman  
Board of Trustees  
Washington Math Science Technology  
Public Charter High School  
401 M Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Dr. Gladis:

The DC Public Charter School Board has received your letter of October 8, conveying a request for an enrollment increase.

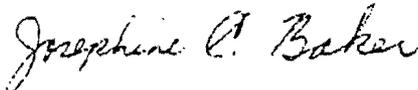
As you know, the charter for Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter High School was finalized just prior to the opening of school. That charter incorporates an enrollment limit of 200 students for this academic year, a figure requested by the school corporation in its application.

The Board is aware of the overenrollment problem at WMST, and of the commendable steps taken already by the school administration to clarify procedures and find alternate placements for the affected students.

While it is encouraging that so many young people wish to attend the school, the terms of your charter are clear. It is the responsibility of the school's Board of Trustees to ensure compliance with the enrollment limit specified in the school's charter. I know that you will continue your efforts to meet that obligation.

With best wishes for a successful school year, I remain

Sincerely,



Josephine Baker  
Chair

January 28, 1999  
Livingston V. Cummings  
6505 Killarney St.  
Clinton, Maryland 20735

Mr. Michael Cohen  
Special Assistant to the President on Education  
Old Executive Office Building Suite 218  
Washington D.C. 20501

RE: Expenditures support  
for 27 African American  
students re-enrollment  
at the Washington Math  
Science Technology Public  
Charter High School

Mr. Cohen:

I am a member of two P.T.A.'s,  
Seabrook Elementary School of Seabrook  
Maryland  
and the Washington Math Science Technology  
Public Charter High School located at

(2)

401 M St. S.W. Washington D. C.

in which my daughter attends.

Past October 98, 35 African Americans students that had been enrolled for three weeks and accepted to WMS J.P.C.H.S. was kicked out and forced to transfer to other schools in the District of Columbia.

Management Directors Board of Trustees for the school admits that there was a quota of 200 and they enrolled 250 students and 35 students had to go. Chairwoman Josephine Baker of the D.C. Charter School Board maintains

(3)

that they were wrong but the Board of Trustees must comply with the Charter application for 200 students. The school now has an enrollment of 200 students and now 27 African students out of enrollment at this school.

As of October 7/1998 ten students weren't placed anywhere however the school readmitted those students as of 10/8/98 and my daughter was among them. Serve justice for the 27 students who weren't re-enrolled.

Attached for your review are: (1) Dec. 17, 1998

(4)

testimony before the Education and Recreation Committee of the Council of the District of Columbia Chaired by Kevin Chavous (2) Issues regarding children dismissed at N/M & J and J demands

(3) 12/25/98 letter to President Clinton

(4) 9/24/98 letter from Mary H. Johnson

(5) 10/2/98 to Delegate Norton

(6) 10/18/98 letter to First Lady Clinton

(7) Petition for Re enrolment with 18 signatures of concerned citizens. It must be noted pursuant this Petition before I received these signatures that I had received a copy of the

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response from Chairman Josephine Baker to Chairman Steve Gladis of the Board of Trustees.

It must also be noted that I've contacted the following all to no avail. 1) President + First Lady (2) Assistant Attorney General Bill Lam Lee Education Section (3) Secretary Rieby Office for Civil Rights (4) Delegate Norton (5) Mayor Anthony Williams (6) File complaint with D.C. Inspector General office by phone twice (7) Senator Edward Kennedy (8) Contacted Senators Sarbanes + Mikulski of Maryland

(6)

(9) Congressman Clyburn office

(10) Congressman Tom Davis (11) Cong James

Morand (12) Senator Barbara Boxer

(13) General Collin Powell

No justice served is justice denied

These childrens basic human and

civil rights are in violation and

keep in mind that is clear discrimination

and that the President has ratified the

International Convention On The

Elimination of all Forms of

Racial Discrimination, with that being

cited, support elimination of this racial

discrimination and protect these African

American students right to access

(7)

progressive educational opportunity  
Your timely response to this  
inquiry to support educational  
opportunities reform is appreciated  
in advance.

Respectfully,  
Livingston V. Cummings  
Activist

CONGRESSWOMAN  
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

98 OCT -2 PM 4:09

October 2, 1998  
Livingston V. Cummings  
6505 Killarney St.  
Clinton, Maryland 20735

Honorable Delegate  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
215 15th St. N.W. Suite 100  
Washington D.C. 20005

Attn: Of: Miss  
Jessica Montoya.

Honorable Delegate:

Please take appropriate  
expeditious action in our daughters  
and classmates behalf so that  
they can be re-enrolled at the  
Washington Math Science Technology  
Public Charter High School at  
401 M St. S.W.

Twenty eight students was  
forced to transfer including

(2)

our African Queen daughter  
Zakia Najah Cummings due  
over enrollment admission.  
Our daughter was admitted  
enrolled for three weeks  
kicked out and forced to  
transfer to Coolidge High  
School. She is devastated  
and we feel that all of  
these children's basic human  
and civil rights are violated  
and to remedy this problem  
we demand that these children  
be given an opportunity to be  
readmitted to their schools.

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We know that we can depend on you for your support. Please attend our meeting Oct. 7, 1998 8: A.M. at the school with the Board of Trustees and parents. Please notify Shelio Bunn of your office to arrange a commitment for that day or send your representative.

Finally thanks in advance for your support. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere!"

p.s. attached are:

- (1) 9/24/98 letter notice
- (2) 7/1/98 report card
- (3) Education denied art work

Respectfully  
Livingston V. Cummings

December 25, 1998  
Livingston V. Cummings  
6505 Killarney Dr.  
Clinton, Maryland, 20735

Honorable President  
William Jefferson Clinton  
White House

Washington D.C. 20500

RE: Request to  
support African American  
students whom were  
picked out & forced  
to transfer to other D.C.  
schools

Honorable President.

Happy Kwanza to you and  
your family and please have a  
prosperous New Year and a  
victory in the U.S. Senate involving

(2)

your endeavors.

Mr. President I am a member of the Parents Teachers Students Association of the Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter High School located at 101 M St. S.W. My daughter Kio Najah Cummings attends here and she was one of the African American students who were picked out and forced to transfer to other schools in the District of Columbia. The school administration claims

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that their quota is 200 students and they enrolled 250 students. The school now has an enrollment of 208 students and my daughter is one of them allowed to re-enroll however Mr. President my goal is to get the other 27 students back in as well. Some of the parents have brought this matter to the attention of the Board of Trustees and the Chairwoman Josephine Baker of the D.C. Public Charter School

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Board and to date no justice!

"Injustice anywhere is a threat  
to justice everywhere!"

Please contact Secretary Richard  
Pillely, Chairwoman Alice Paulin  
D.C. Financial Responsibility and  
Management Assistant Authority  
and to request appropriate action  
be taken to aide the students  
readmission if they so choose.

Mr. President we're appreciative  
to the Higher Education Amendments  
you signed October 7/1998 for  
the District of Columbia, however

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why can't some of that appropriation be used to aide <sup>the</sup> W. Med. J.P.C.H.S. students teachers, padded and additional space to accommodate these students forced out and the other students.

It's a shame that a resident or residents living in the District are accepted to a Charter school, attend classes and then are kicked out and forced to transfer. This is no way to manage a school

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and to mistreat students and to violate their human, civil and educational rights.

Attached for review are:

- (1) My testimony to the Education Committee chaired by Councilman Kevin Chavous of the Council of the District of Columbia on 12/17/98
- (2) Our Petition
- (3) Issues Regarding Children Dismissed at WM&J
- (4) 9/24/98 dismissal notice.

President Clinton these African American students deserves

(7)

justice,  
an opportunity to enhance  
their education and must be  
protected. It must be  
noted that I've corresponded  
to your wife and called  
twice to her office to no  
avail.

I've also contacted Secretary  
Riley's Office of Civil Rights,  
Assistant Attorney General for  
Civil Rights Bill Lam Lee's  
education section, Senator Edward  
Kennedy Education Subcommittee,  
Congressman James Morand, Senator

Barbara Boxer, Delegate Norton,  
and quite a few other  
local government officials  
of D.C. all to no avail.  
Mr. President we're thankful  
for the ratification of  
The International Convention  
On The Elimination of all  
Forms of Racial Discrimination,  
however we would appreciate  
if you and other public  
officials and citizens stand  
up to it. Basic human &  
civil rights are being taxed

(9)

up and disregarded across  
the board especially in  
the areas of education, justice  
systems, state + local government,  
banking systems and <sup>the</sup> health  
care systems. Please stand up  
to this convention and allow  
these students to be readmitted.

Respectfully,  
Livingston V. Cummings  
Activist + Member of  
PTA of WMJF and  
Seabrook Elementary School  
in Lanham Maryland

October 18, 1998  
Livingston V. Cummings  
61505 Killarney St.  
Clinton, Maryland 20735

P6(b)(6)

Honorable First Lady  
Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
White House  
Washington D. C. 20500

P.E. Expeditions  
Support for 35  
students

Honorable First Lady:  
Special thanks for supporting  
D. C. Charter schools, however  
additional expeditious support  
is needed especially at  
the Washington Math Science  
Technology Public Charter  
High School located 401  
M St. S.W. Washington D. C.  
20024 for 35 African students  
that was kicked out of school

(2)

to transfer to other schools after being admitted three weeks at the school. It must also be noted as 10/7/98 pursuant to the Board of Trustees meeting with some of the parents 5 to 7 students weren't even placed at any school.

For your review see the following: (1) Issues Regarding Children Promised at W.H.S. with our demands pursuant the meeting with the Board of Trustees (2) 9/24/98 letter from Principal Johnson (3) 10/2/98 letter to Delegate Norton to date no written response back (4) 10/8/98 letter from Dr. Gladis to Chairwoman Baker.

(3)

I must be noted that the Board of Trustees ascertained that they were at fault and that the quota was 200, they admitted 250 then cut the enrollment to 235 as a result, 35 students kicked out and forced to transfer 5 to 7 students not placed as of 10/1/98 and that as of 10/2/98 5 to 7 was supposedly re-enrolled back to the W.M.S. J.P.C. H.S. along with my daughter. I want to see all of these students re-enrolled if they so choose. I can't understand why they attended 3 weeks all the sudden got out and

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There was no mentioning  
of \$23,000 broke down to  
\$6,600 per student needed in  
order to accommodate.  
It is also important to  
note that 3 new teachers  
are needed at a cost  
of \$12,000 per annum.

We await your response!

Respectfully,  
Livingston V. Cummings

P.S.  
There is no question that these  
students basic civil & human  
rights are in violation and we  
demand justice for them.

January 3, 1999  
Livingston V. Cummings  
6505 Killarney St.  
Clinton, Maryland 20735

P6/(b)(6)

Honorable Mayor  
Anthony D. Williams  
Office of the Mayor  
One Judiciary Square 441 4th St. N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20001

RE: JgL Corp. to  
12/17/98 testimony  
to the Education  
Committee involving  
kicked out 33  
African American  
students.

Honorable Mayor,  
Congratulations to you as  
Mayor and your tenure of  
honorable. I would recommend

(2)

unproductive aggressive movement  
for D.C. Statehood as well  
at this point.

Mr. Mayor I had the honor  
to testify on December 17/92  
at the Council Chambers before  
the Education & Recreation

Committee Chaired by Councilman  
Kevin Chavous to aide 35

African American students  
in which included my African  
Queen daughter - Zakiya Najah  
Cummings whom was picked  
and forced out from the

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Washington Math Science  
Technology Public Charter High  
School last October. Attached  
is my 12/17/98 testimony for your  
review and advocacy. It  
is self explanatory.

Also attached are: (2) 9/24/98  
notices to us about the dismissed  
(3) issues regarding children  
dismissed presented 10/7/98 to  
the Board of Trustees of  
the W.M.S.T.P.C.H.S. in which  
very little action has been  
taken.

(4)

Mayor it must be noted that I am a member of this school's P.S. 7A and Seabrook Elementary School's as well.

Please take appropriate action to resolve these issues at this school. Your cooperation is appreciated in advance.

Respectfully,  
Livingston V. Cummings