



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT FROM WTU PRESIDENT GEORGE PARKER
DCPS CHANCELLOR RHEE'S RESIGNATION**

The Washington Teachers' Union (WTU) believes that Chancellor Rhee's decision to resign from DC Public Schools (DCPS) sooner rather than later was in the best interest of the students of DCPS in order to continue to move the school system forward without any further uncertainty.

Although Chancellor Rhee's reform plan took a different and bold twist, the reality is that none of us can be certain of the long term impact her tenure as Chancellor will have on improving DCPS. The WTU supports educational reform, and the public can rest assured that whether Rhee is here or not, we will continue to make necessary reforms that are good for kids and fair to teachers.

The WTU was very pleased to hear that Mayor Fenty and Vincent Gray had mutually consented to appoint Deputy Chancellor Kaya Henderson as Interim Chancellor of DCPS. Her leadership style is one of respect, integrity and inclusiveness, and she is just the type of person who is needed to bring all stakeholders together and continue to move the school system forward. The WTU has a positive and productive working relationship with Henderson as we worked closely with her as the chief negotiator during contract negotiations. Not only has she been with DCPS for several years, but she is competent and focused on continuing the necessary reform efforts to ensure that all DCPS students receive a quality education.

The WTU is committed to working with Henderson to implement the new teacher supports and accountability contained in the new contract which, if implemented with integrity, will result in significant educational improvements for children.

While the WTU and Chancellor Rhee had our differences, we would like to acknowledge her for working with the WTU to establish DCPS teachers among the highest paid in the nation and for her commitment to the children of DCPS. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

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