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WASHINGTON TEACHERS' UNION PRESIDENT NATHAN SAUNDERS AMONG KEY EDUCATIONAL LEADERS AT SOUSA MS TO REAFFIRM COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington, DC - Washington Teachers' Union President Nathan Saunders today attended a Back to School 2011 Kick Off event at Sousa MS in conjunction with U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan, District of Columbia Mayor Vincent Gray and District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) Interim Chancellor Kaya Henderson. The purpose of the event was to greet parents, students and teachers and meet with school personnel to reaffirm the commitment to the educational agenda by Mayor Gray, Secretary Duncan and WTU President Saunders.

During the panel discussion, Saunders delivered compelling remarks alongside key educational leaders on behalf of teachers and touched on the importance of teacher training, parent participation and school safety. He openly advocated for enforcing zero tolerance for violence against teachers and students. He also highlighted the importance of parent participation in student achievement.

In addition, Saunders spoke about the value of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs and the upcoming launch at HD Woodson SHS. The new Woodson campus, specifically designed to support the progressive STEM curriculum to begin in the fall, is supported by the U. S. Department of Education. Saunders and Henderson engaged in open dialogue about the importance of specialty programs like STEM in preparing DCPS students for the future.

"I am committed to working with the Mayor, US Secretary of Education and Interim Chancellor to move education forward in the District," stated WTU President Nathan Saunders. "I take my role as union president very seriously, and the union will be at the table when important educational decisions are made. Teacher professional development and training is critical to students' success."

The Washington Teachers' Union (WTU), representing more than 4,000 DC public schools teachers, is dedicated to improving the quality of support, resources, compensation and working environment for DCPS teachers so that they can provide a quality education for all District of Columbia public school children.

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