



**State Board of Education Resolution
To Appoint Serena Hayes as Ombudsman for Public Education
SR19-1**

WHEREAS, DC State Board of Education has authority over the appointment of the Ombudsman for Public Education under the Ombudsman for Public Education Establishment Act of 2007, effective June 12, 2007 (D.C. Law 17-9; D.C. Official Code § 38-531 et seq.) (part of the Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007);

WHEREAS, Section 602(c) of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 38-351(c) (2012 Repl. and 2017 Supp.)) notes that the State Board must appoint a new Ombudsman to fill the remainder of a vacant term “within 75 days of the occurrence of the vacancy”;

WHEREAS, the position of Ombudsman for Public Education became vacant on August 13, 2018;

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education conducted a rigorous application process that included input from the public as well as stakeholders in the characteristics necessary for a successful Ombudsman; and,

WHEREAS, the State Board conducted multiple rounds of review including phone and in-person interviews, where the successful candidate impressed the panel and the Board with her compassion and commitment to serving District students as well as demonstrating significant professional experience in conflict resolution and mediation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education appoints Serena Hayes, to the position of Ombudsman for Public Education for a term of five years to begin on January 22, 2019; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education fully supports Ms. Hayes in her new role as she embodies the qualities needed to ensure the Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education continues to serve as a neutral resource for current and prospective public school students and their parents or guardians in the resolution of complaints and concerns regarding public education in a way that furthers students' best interests.

Date Adopted: 1/16/19 Signed: *Dita Wolkenberg*

