Attendees:
- Mary Levy
- Erika Harrell
- Melissa Kim
- Faith Gibson Hubbard

Notes:
- Facilitator Ramin Taheri: Last meeting, we heard about the At-Risk Working Group recommendations, and OCS Working Group will share at the January meeting. Then, we will bring recommendations to the community, reconvene to review the feedback, and develop the final report.
  - Reviewed overall goals for community engagement (slide 4)
  - Today, we will review our proposal for the community engagement plan.
- Facilitator reviewed the recommendations as they currently stand (slide 6) and possible format (slide 7), then emphasized the importance to make sure people are aware and attend.
  - For community engagement, it might be helpful to first describe the problem we're trying to solve and then talk about the high-level objectives, recommendations, and policy considerations.
  - For the focus groups, we want the Task Force members to attend, present, and be part of the conversation.
- Taskforce Member: There are some Taskforce members we haven't seen for quite some time. What are we doing about that?
- Facilitator: There are Taskforce members who have never come to a meeting.
- Taskforce: There are Taskforce members who used to come, but it's often the same names.
- Facilitator: That's true, but we can't compel them to come. If they haven't come to the meetings, they wouldn't likely come to the community engagement events. But I hope everyone else who has been participating will have a hand in the community engagement process, from the perspectives of workload and credibility.
- Taskforce: Do you know why these people aren't coming?
- Facilitator: Unfortunately, I have not been able to meet one-on-one with the people who haven't been coming. I'm always happy to bring people back into the fold if they are interested. We've had good participation from a core group.
- Taskforce: I wonder if the problem is, since they haven't participated, is it possible they might come back to enter the process at the end?
- Faciltiator: I would like to make sure there's more participation, but I can't get everyone to do that. It's a good question. If you have suggestions for what to do, we could talk offline.

- Taskforce: I do not have any suggestions, but I was just thinking about all these meetings and how there are not many people to go.
- Facilitator: From a workload perspective, it would be great to have everyone to participate. But for the smaller meetings, we would only need about 3-5 members each. We should get members' commitments as we are scheduling these. We can schedule backups, although I know this group is committed.
- Taskforce: How are we going to get to the people who are hard to reach? Some advocacy groups may not have a lot of parent involvement. What about parents who don't commonly participate?
- Facilitator: Can your group do something in your day-to-day interactions with people? Are there circles we're all part of that might hit the populations we don't often hit?
- Taskforce: From the Office of Student Advocate perspective, yes, but when families come to us, they not always expecting to participate. We could maybe send out a survey.
    - It's harder for us to convene some of the meetings. Other places not in here, like family collaboratives, or a few other groups. Could help us with their listserv and email groups to make sure parents most impacted are part of the conversation.
- Taskforce: Schools are not on here. We should add PTAs, or other parent groups, as well as human services. They have work programs, and we can access those groups to reach a good number of folks that aren't typically heard. We also need to engage the library for families that come for early childhood and reading sessions, poster or something visible in library or community centers; that would be great.
- Taskforce: I think that's great. We should also post the same flyer or poster in hospitals.
- Taskforce: I agree with that. We've had great success this year receiving referrals form Howard University Hospital. Happy to share list of how we've been successful with that – schools aren't the best place to access parents all the time.
    - Other places where families are going, like Sasha Bruce, are community groups. We want to get to those families, and they are the hardest to reach but we have gotten to them from human service partners.
- Taskforce: There's also Virginia Williams, where families go if they're being evicted.
- Taskforce: Rec centers too, when parents pick up kids. They linger a bit longer than at schools.
- Facilitator: Please send the list along. A flyer will be tricky with our budget, but we can come up with something. Let's look at the next slide, we've attempted to make a list for outreach as well.
- Taskforce: We were talking about additions to the list.
- Taskforce: As former Ed Council President, sometimes they can be very good sources for parents, but sometimes they are not because they are run by volunteers. We should use those groups, but they don't always have good connectivity with families.
- Taskforce: I know there's no budget, but if we're engaging a lot of parents, it's hard to get people to any meeting if there's no child care or food provided. Could we advertise that?
- Facilitator: Would have to look into that. Everything we get when you come to meetings, all of that is donated. We can start looking into it for other meetings.

- Taskforce: Childcare is always hard, but when you partner with a group, we partner with groups on this list, and they can provide food. Childcare is a really hard one. Groups have to take on a lot of liability for that. We could make it child-friendly and have coloring books and things for kids to do. If we shape it right, what we're asking them for, families will still come and bring their kids.
- Taskforce: I agree, this is about kids. They can be in the space, and we should be normalized to that.
- Facilitator: Great point, that's come up before. Child-friendly is the least we can do, and we will see what else we can provide.
- Taskforce: Especially if we're doing them at libraries.
- Taskforce: But we should make sure don't childcare that on the library staff. Educare, we've worked with them in Ward 7 and 8, provided childcare for events in the past. Family collaboratives can help with that as well.
- Facilitator: This is really good feedback. For the next slide, we have possible dates, what do we think?
- Taskforce: What's getting in the way of scheduling these dates now?
- Facilitator: Nothing, but I wanted to make sure I got some small set of the taskforce to give feedback first. Then, we will be reaching out to set the dates immediately.
- Taskforce: Awesome, if you want us to be at these, let us know. February is getting filled up.
- Facilitators: The proposed dates line up with the overall timeline. We pushed back the taskforce timeline to include a strong community engagement process. Hopefully there's enough lead time now.
- TF: When you're talking about teacher and school leader focus groups, how are you inviting them?
- Facilitator: I don't want an all-call where there's a possibility no one comes, but we need to be more targeted. Happy to talk more with you about that if you have thoughts.
- TF: For some of the times, many schools go beyond 4:30 pm. We could do a focus group at 4:30 and then one later so it captures different school times.
- TF: Also with the focus groups, are we considering other people who work with students, like social workers or counselors?
- Facilitators: Yes, we can include them.
- TF: My assumption was that teacher means you work in schools.
- TF: We should be more explicit about that, because those are different roles.
- Facilitator: This is just us putting thoughts down on paper. Any other comments?
  - Next steps: we will get these meetings scheduled, work with groups to get invitations and the word out.
- TF: You could call these groups and get their calendars so you know when they have meetings.
- Facilitator: Any last thoughts or comments?
- TF: My last comment is I'm excited we're at this point!

Adjourned at 9:36 am.