

Cross-Sector Collaboration Task Force  
September 26, 2017  
6:00-8:00 pm  
Education Counsel, 101 Constitution Ave, NW Suite 900  
Meeting #17

**Attendees:**

- Amanda Alexander | Deputy Chief of Elementary Schools, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- Shanita Burney | Deputy Chief, Community Engagement, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- Caryn Ernst | Watkins ES, Stuart-Hobson MS parent; former PTA president, Capitol Hill Cluster School; member, Capitol Hill Public School Parent Organization (CHPSPO)
- Faith Gibson Hubbard | Chief Student Advocate, State Board of Education (SBOE); former member, Student Assignment Committee
- Kemba Hendrix | Elsie Whitlow Stokes PCS parent; former public and public charter school teacher
- Hanseul Kang | State Superintendent of Education
- Melissa Kim | Chief Academic Officer, Secondary Schools, KIPP DC; former principal, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- Emily Lawson | Founder & CEO, DC Prep PCS
- Mary Levy | Independent education analyst, Former DC Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Former Washington Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
- Bethany Little | Murch ES, BASIS PCS parent; Education policy expert
- Claudia Luján | Deputy Chief, Strategic School Planning, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- Jennifer Niles | Deputy Mayor for Education
- Alejandra Vallejo | Bancroft ES parent; Chair, Bancroft ES Local School Advisory Team (LSAT)
- Scott Pearson | Executive Director, Public Charter School Board (PCSB)
- Jim Sandman | President, Legal Services Corporation; former General Counsel, DCPS; former Managing Partner, Arnold & Porter
- Mayor Anthony Williams | CEO & Executive Director, Federal City Council; former Mayor
- Antwan Wilson | Chancellor, District of Columbia Public Schools
- Irene Holtzman | Executive Director, Friends of Choice in Urban Schools (FOCUS)
- Darren Woodruff | EL Haynes PCS, Benjamin Banneker HS parent ; Chair, Public Charter School Board (PCSB)
- Shantelle Wright | Founder & CEO, Achievement Prep PCS; Chair, DC Association of Public Charter Schools

**Co-Chairs:**

- Jennifer Niles | Deputy Mayor for Education
- Mayor Anthony Williams | CEO & Executive Director, Federal City Council; former Mayor

**Facilitator:**

- Jim Sandman | President, Legal Services Corporation; former General Counsel, DCPS; former Managing Partner, Arnold & Porter

**Members not in attendance:**

- Evelyn Boyd Simmons | Francis-Stevens parent; W2 Education Network; former member, Student Assignment Committee; President, Logan Circle Community Association; Chief of External Relations & Partnerships, Africare
- Angela Copeland | Stuart-Hobson MS parent; public affairs specialist
- Charlene Drew-Jarvis | Graduate, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS); Senior Advisor, KIPP DC PCS; former Ward 4 City Councilwoman
- Carlie Fisherow | Executive Director, DC Scholars Community Schools
- Erika Harrell | DC Prep PCS parent; Member, My School DC Parent Advisory Council; member, DC School Reform Now; member, PCSB Parent & Alumni Leadership Council (PALC)
- Ariana Quinones | Duke Ellington HS, Next Step PCS parent; education and human services policy consultant, Otero Strategies Group; former member, Student Assignment Committee
- Karen Williams | Ward 7 Representative, State Board of Education (SBOE)

**Staff:**

- Jennifer Comey | Director of Planning, Data, and Analysis, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Ramin Taheri | Director of Cross-Sector Collaboration Initiatives, Office of the Deputy Mayor of Education (DME)
- Alex Cross | Special Advisor for Education Facilities Planning, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Hannah Holliday | Leadership for Education Equity Public Policy Fellow, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Rebecca Lee | Policy Advisor, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Cat Peretti | Executive Director, My School DC, Office of the State Superintendent for Education (OSSE)
- Richelle Russell | Data Analyst, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Ashlynn Profit | Communications Specialist, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Katrina Ballard | Leadership for Education Equity Public Policy Fellow, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)

**Meeting Summary:**

Ramin Taheri began the meeting by reviewing the agenda and goals for the meeting. He addressed feedback from the Task Force members and presented a monthly timeline for the rest of the tenure of the Task Force.

Mr. Taheri then highlighted the Cross-Sector Collaboration spotlight for the month, DC Project Zero, a project from the Washington International School Summer Institute for Teachers (WISSIT).

DCPS Chancellor Antwan Wilson addressed the Task Force about the DCPS Strategic Plan “A Capital Commitment 2017-2022.” [See additional slides]

The Task Force then broke into working groups for the remainder of the meeting.

[See additional documents for notes from the OCS group and the At-Risk group]

*Task Force Member Comments/Questions:*

- After February, what comes next? The Task Force needs to be ongoing.
  - A recommendation could be that this needs to be an ongoing group.
- Education stakeholders are very interested in the Task Force recommendations and should be brought into the discussion before going out to the general public or parents.
  - TF can keep talking about this and how it should look.
- Washington International School Summer Institute for Teachers (WISSIT) may be the single, largest ongoing cross-sector initiative in the city. From DCPS, charters, private, parochial meeting monthly and then the summer institute facilitated by Harvard.

*Task Force Member Comments/Questions on the DCPS Strategic Plan:*

- Could you share summary of the feedback you received?
  - It's on the DCPS webpage, but some feedback included school should be more than academics, multiple pathways to education (career and technical education), STEM, increased communication, appreciating the uniqueness across schools, focusing more on equity, and supporting and retaining educators.
- Of these focus areas, where do you see collaboration across sectors?
  - There can be numerous areas; it depends where we want to dive in. For example, we're targeting attendance and it's important to look citywide. Really great work we should be doing to support students who are on IEPs across the city – educators who educate them, need support nationally, resources and curriculum, content-based support, and regular education educators supporting accommodations and modifications, supporting ELLs. These should be important to the city. Every Ward talked about equity but didn't recognize how common the issue was.
- As a parent, how will I know these things are happening in my school? How can I measure that and know if these things are being met?
  - You'll know by spending time at your school. Parents should engage on comprehensive school plans (CSPs). Strong governance and involve families. How are dollars spent? Communication about school performance from DCPS as disaggregated as possible. In pre-school programs, make sure the teachers are talented and have great material. We have a book access issue. Structured play,

opportunities to engage. Early detection for identifying students who need additional supports.

- When talking about equity and supports, can you give us a hint what that would look like for schools with high proportions of at-risk students?
  - It's resources: schools need more money. Some needs to be discretionary, and others need to be targeted. We need to invest in things like speech and debate, mock trial, and other extra-curriculars, math tutoring. Schools across DC need support, and we haven't been always as effective to make sure those schools get what they need.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.