

Cross-Sector Collaboration Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

6:00 – 7:30pm

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library (901 G Street NW)

Attendees

Co-Chairs:

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

Facilitator:

- Jim Sandman | President, Legal Services Corporation; former General Counsel, DCPS

Members:

- Amanda Alexander | Deputy Chief of Elementary Schools, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- Lars Beck | CEO, Scholar Academies and DC Scholars
- Rod Boggs | Executive Director, Washington Lawyer's Committee
- Evelyn Boyd Simmons | Francis-Stevens parent; W2 Education Network; former member, Student Assignment Committee; President, Logan Circle Community Association
- Shanita Burney | Deputy Chief, Community Engagement, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- Charlene Drew-Jarvis | Graduate, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS); Senior Advisor, KIPP DC PCS; former Ward 4 City Councilwoman
- Angela Copeland | Stuart-Hobson MS parent; public affairs specialist
- Caryn Ernst | Watkins ES, Stuart-Hobson MS parent; former PTA president, Capitol Hill Cluster School; member, Capitol Hill Public School Parent Organization (CHPSPO)
- Erika Harrell | DC Prep PCS parent; Member, MySchoolDC Parent Advisory Council; member, DC School Reform Now; member, PCSB Parent & Alumni Leadership Council (PALC)
- Kaya Henderson | Chancellor, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- Kemba Hendrix | Elsie Whitlow Stokes PCS parent; former public and public charter school teacher
- Irene Holtzman | Executive Director, Friends of Choice in Urban Schools (FOCUS)
- Faith Hubbard | Chief Student Advocate, State Board of Education (SBOE); former member, Student Assignment Committee
- Hanseul Kang | State Superintendent of Education
- Melissa Kim | Chief Academic Officer, Secondary Schools, KIPP DC; former principal, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- Anjali Kulkarni | Deputy Chief, Strategic School Planning, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- Emily Lawson | Founder & CEO, DC Prep PCS

- Bethany Little | Murch ES, BASIS PCS parent; Education policy expert
- Scott Pearson | Executive Director, Public Charter School Board (PCSB)
- Ariana Quiñones | Duke Ellington HS, Cesar Chavez PCS parent, education and human services policy consultant, Otero Strategy Group LLC, former member Student Assignment Committee
- Karen Williams | Ward 7 Representative, State Board of Education (SBOE)
- 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

Members not in Attendance:

- Alejandra Vallejo | Bancroft ES parent; Chair, Bancroft ES Local School Advisory Team (LSAT)

Staff:

- Jennifer Comey | Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Erin Garratt | Public Policy Fellow, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Amy Lerman | MySchoolDC (MSDC) team, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Claudia Luján | Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Kristen Moore | DLP Fellow, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Richelle Russell | Education Pioneers Fellow, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Naomi Watson | Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Margie Yeager | Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)

Support Team:

- Amber Saddler | EducationCounsel, LLC
- Nick Spiva | EducationCounsel, LLC
- Terri Taylor | EducationCounsel, LLC

Meeting Summary

Introductions

Members were asked to share their name, affiliation, and at least one hope/fear for the process.

Hopes included:

- Members learning from each other
- Leveling the playing field for all students
- Making improvements for underserved children and children with special needs
- Creating progress that is seen and felt by teachers and students in the classroom
- Creating a “touchstone”

- Improving communication across sectors
- Tackling deep, hard issues
- Sectors coming together
- Working toward equality
- Solutions that are achieved by all LEAs
- Sustainable goals that are implemented soon
- Working together, rather than just as sectors
- Focusing on students and families
- Being able to speak openly
- Overachievement becomes the norm
- Charters and DCPS helping one another and tackling challenges together
- Making sure that high achieving schools are the norm in the District

Fears included:

- Not getting to the biggest issue - management
- Outcomes that don't result in betterment for children
- Goals that are too big
- Too much investment in the best way to do things without sharing best practices
- No actual change
- Not having the right people on the task force; lack of transparency
- Too many individual agendas
- Not tackling the hard issues
- Only talking about problems that are solvable, not those that would have the most impact

Purpose

Co-Chair Mayor Williams reminded members of the purpose of this work, emphasizing the importance of working together on solutions and not getting stuck on the challenges.

Goals and Charge

The DME reviewed the goals and charge of the Task Force. She noted the following points:

- The charge was drafted with the intent of making policy recommendations, rather than recommendations about instructional practice.
- The purpose of the committee is not to change the decision-making structure for the opening and/or closing of schools, but instead, focus on coordinating the process between sectors, with an emphasis on collaboration and transparency.
- The Mayor is interested in seeing deliverables sooner rather than later.
- Ultimately, the goal is to craft policies that can be implemented soon and the priority is on improving student outcomes.

Members' commentary and questions:

- Will the goals be changed based on the feedback received in focus groups? The DME responded that we anticipate slight modifications based on feedback received. DME

staff further noted that focus group feedback will also help unpack one of the broader goals on educational challenges.

Group Norms and Expectations

Roles and Responsibilities

The facilitator reviewed group norms and expectations of the group and the roles and responsibilities of the DME, the facilitator, and the pro-bono services of EducationCounsel.

Process and Timeline

The DME reviewed a high level overview of the process and timeline over the next eight months. She highlighted the following points:

- An integral part of the success of the Cross-Sector Collaboration Task Force is a strong community outreach strategy.
- There will be multiple opportunities for parents and members of the general public to engage with the topics being discussed.
- DME staff reiterated the importance of members helping disseminate information, including information on input opportunities, to their networks.

Members' commentary and questions:

- Will the charter LEA meetings be open to the public? The DME responded that she hadn't thought about these meetings in that way, but is open to the idea.
- It looks like the next public input opportunity is not until June, is that correct? How will the public provide input before then? DME staff responded that the timeline also includes online feedback opportunities starting in April. DME staff also clarified that the slide does not capture the smaller meetings that DME and staff will likely attend out in the community. DME is going to make every effort to attend all the meetings they are invited to in order to ensure we are getting the word out about this initiative.
- There was some discussion about a focus group for DCPS principals. Is that happening? DME staff confirmed that the team is in the process of organizing focus groups specifically for school staff (principals, teachers, staff across both sectors). The purpose is to capture the input of those that work the closest with our students and families.

Educational Landscape

DME staff gave a short presentation on the District's current education landscape – a data overview of our city, students and schools. It was also noted that in the members' binders are SY14-15 Fact Sheets that provides more in-depth data analysis.

Members' commentary and questions:

- Is there charter school boundary data? DME staff responded that the closest approximation of this information can be found in the school to home walking distance data that is included in the fact sheets. Though there are no "buffers" around charter

schools that mimic the DCPS boundaries, creating these for the purpose of mapping and comparison may be useful.

- The suggestion was made to look at achievement data in a way that disaggregates it along lines of socioeconomic status or level of concentrated poverty, in order to stray from the notion that student achievement is correlated to race.

At the conclusion of the presentation, it was noted that additional data questions may surface with a closer reading of the information in the fact sheets, and members were encourage to submit these to DME/Claudia Luján. It was also noted that an optional conference call would be scheduled for members to ask questions about the data and engage more deeply on the fact sheets.

Small Group Activity

The DME noted that it was already 7:30 and we did not have enough time to do the small group activity. Therefore, members will be asked to submit their thoughts on any aspects of the data that they found surprising, unexpected, or contrary to popular belief. Responses will be collected by DME via a survey or Google Doc.

Next Steps

DME Niles reviewed the next steps slide.

Members' commentary and questions:

- In the future, can DME share materials in advance of meetings? The DME shared that for future meetings, we will make every effort to share materials in advance in order to maximize time for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.