

DRAFT ONLY
Tuesday, April 25, 2017
6:00-8:00pm
Cross-Sector Collaboration Task Force
Meeting #13

Attendees:

- Amanda Alexander | Deputy Chief of Elementary Schools, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- 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)
- John Davis | Chief of Schools, 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)
- 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)
- 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 Gibson Hubbard | Chief Student Advocate, State Board of Education (SBOE); former member, Student Assignment Committee
- Hanseul Kang | State Superintendent of Education, Office of the State Superintendent of Education(OSSE)
- Melissa Kim | Chief Academic Officer, Secondary Schools, KIPP DC; former principal, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- Mary Levy | Independent education analyst, former Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, Parent of DCPS alumnae
- Bethany Little | Murch ES, BASIS PCS parent; Education policy expert
- Claudia Luján | School Turnaround and Performance Division, Office of the Chief of Schools, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- Scott Pearson | Executive Director, Public Charter School Board (PCSB)
- Antwan Wilson | Chancellor, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)

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 on the Phone:

- Shantelle Wright | Founder & CEO, Achievement Prep PCS; Chair, DC Association of Public Charter Schools

Members not in Attendance:

- 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, Scholar Academies and DC Scholars
- Emily Lawson | Founder & CEO, DC Prep PCS
- Ariana Quiñones | Duke Ellington HS, Cesar Chavez PCS parent, education and human services policy consultant, Otero Strategy Group LLC, former member Student Assignment Committee
- Jim Sandman | President, Legal Services Corporation; former General Counsel, DCPS
- Anthony Williams | CEO & Executive Director, Federal City Council; former Mayor
- Karen Williams | President & Ward 7 Representative, State Board of Education (SBOE)
- Darren Woodruff | EL Haynes PCS, Benjamin Banneker HS parent ; Chair, Public Charter School Board (PCSB)
- Alejandra Vallejo | Bancroft ES parent; Chair, Bancroft ES Local School Advisory Team (LSAT)

Staff:

- Jennifer Comey | Director of Planning, Data, and Analysis, Office of the Deputy Mayor for 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)
- Ashlynn Profit | Communications Specialist, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Aurora Steinle | Director of Performance and Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Ramin Taheri | Director of Cross-Sector Collaboration Initiatives, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)
- Richelle Russell | Policy Advisor, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME)

Meeting Summary:

Ramin Taheri opened the meeting with the goals of this evening's whole Cross-Sector Collaboration Task Force meeting.

- Break into Working Groups to continue clarifying the problems we want to solve
 - Opening, Closing, Siting: Discuss opening, closing, siting processes for PCSB and for DCPS
 - At-Risk: Deep dive into data about students who are at risk of not making it to graduation and hear from Raise DC Deputy Director Celine Fejeran
- Discuss Vision Statement: Version #2

Deputy Mayor for Education Jennie Niles presented the Cross-Sector Collaboration Spotlight, which highlights the group DC Soup for this month. (Slide 7)

Mr. Taheri introduced the agenda for the meeting before reiterating the role of the Task Force as discussed by facilitator Jim Sandman at the March Task Force meeting. He noted that the Task Force is

not going to be revisiting the governance structure of the sectors. Instead, he emphasized the need for the Task Force to spend time and energy on areas where progress can be made for both sectors.

Task Force member questions/comments:

- A map of the governance structure would be helpful.
 - Ramin: We can provide this in time for the next Task Force meeting.

Mr. Taheri gave a brief review of the lifecycle of the working groups before asking the groups to transition to separate rooms. (Slide 10) The plan is still to have working group bring possible recommendations to the Task Force by September, 2017.

(See other documents for individual working group notes)

Whole Group Discussion:

Mr. Taheri introduced the group discussion and asked the groups to share-out main takeaways from their hour-long discussions.

At-Risk Working Group Report-Out:

- The group heard a presentation from Celine Ferejan, Deputy Director of Raise DC, about the work that they are doing with Graduation Pathways and the way they looked at data on at-risk students.
- The group asked a lot questions about where the working group should be looking to focus in order to cover any unaddressed areas to support the students that are at-risk.
- It is clear that all along the continuum of education, there are opportunities to better support students.
- The group discussed possible next steps based on Grad Pathways findings, including expanding on Bridge data exchange, focusing on earlier transitions (e.g., 4th, 5th, 6th grade), looking at pre-8th grade middle school diagnostic tools and indicators.
- The group also needs to consider how to support families and students as they deal with transitions and navigating DC's school choice landscape.
- The group discussed the importance of "anchors" – people who have personal relationships with each student, and whether and how a program could be identified/replicated.
- The group discussed the possibility of focusing on attendance and truancy and the relationship between the Task Force's role and other work streams dedicated to these subjects.
- The group needs more information to look at other things going on that are happening in DC to support at-risk students.

Opening, Closing Siting Working Group Report-Out:

- The group heard from Scott Pearson and Antwan Wilson about opening, closing, siting in each respective sector to see what some of the similarities are and where are there nuances specific to each sector. This provided helpful context.

- The group also talked about tension between both sectors wanting to establish quality schools; quality is the variable that families are looking at the most when selecting schools. How do we work across dynamic of the sectors to provide high quality schools?
- The group also discussed the impact closing DCPS schools has on communities; a sense of loss and destabilization results not matter which school gets closed. How do we make sure students and families don't feel like they are on the losing end?
- How do we balance the growth of other schools in those communities, which are added because of an identified need? How do we ensure these new schools don't take away from a school that needs additional investments?
- The group discussed a couple of practices that could be used across both sectors. The way the Joint Base Anacostia–Bolling (JBAB) is establishing a school through a parent panel could be done across sectors. It involves both parents on base and in the Ward 8 community; they are identifying the need, creating the RFP, and looking for potential operators. This is a best practice for organic growth of schools.
- The group also discussed the need to think about schools from a citywide perspective. There is interest in doing a Strategic Regional Analysis (SRA) to examine need across the wards and sectors.

Comments/Questions:

- Q: Would the SRA include early childhood and adult education?
 - A: There seemed to be common agreement that the DME will need to work with all partners in creating the SRA.

Closing: Vision Statement:

Deputy Mayor Niles began the conversation about the second version of the vision statement by asking Task Force members to reflect with each other about what parts of this really work and which ones do not yet hit the mark. She noted that the goal of the conversation tonight is to keep getting closer and closer to a vision statement that can be a “north star” for the group.

Task Force members discussed slide 20 in groups of two or three and reported-out from those conversations:

- Saying “by-right” in the vision statement is not enough; we need to specify that every student has access to a by-right school. Otherwise, all of these schools could end up in one area of the city.
 - The assumption in the statement is that every student has a by-right school, not just some students in some neighborhoods.
- We have been using the term “choice” but it’s really more about if a school is “citywide” or “by-right”.
- This vision statement seems very inclusive and seems to consider both performance and growth. The word “child”, however, should be changed to “student” because we should also be considering adult education in this vision.
- The first part and the part at the end seem a bit redundant; both part should be merged and put at the beginning of the statement.

Deputy Mayor Niles asked the Task Force to continue thinking about the vision statement and to send Ramin further comments. She noted that the group spent more time in working groups than previously expected and that this adjustment was useful to the group's thought processes. She anticipated that the next full Task Force meeting would also include a significant amount of time in working groups.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.