

DRAFT ONLY
Tuesday, May 30, 2017
6:00-8:00pm
Cross-Sector Collaboration Task Force
Meeting #14

Attendees:

- Evelyn Boyd Simmons | Francis-Stevens parent; W2 Education Network; former member, Student Assignment Committee; President, Logan Circle Community Association
- 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)
- Irene Holtzman | Executive Director, Friends of Choice in Urban Schools (FOCUS)
- 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)
- Karen Williams | President & Ward 7 Representative, State Board of Education (SBOE)
- Alejandra Vallejo | Bancroft ES parent; Chair, Bancroft ES Local School Advisory Team (LSAT)

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:

- Amanda Alexander | Deputy Chief of Elementary Schools, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- 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)
- Scott Pearson | Executive Director, Public Charter School Board (PCSB)

Members not in Attendance:

- Shanita Burney | Deputy Chief, Community Engagement, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Antwan Wilson | Chancellor, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)
- 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

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)
- 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.

- Review the Goals of the Task Force
- Break into working groups to continue clarifying the problems we want to solve and begin identifying possible policy solutions and/or recommendations
- Discuss Vision Statement: Version #3

Mr. Taheri gave a brief recap of the off-cycle working group calls and the goals that the groups focused on during those calls. Deputy Mayor for Education Jennie Niles presented the Cross-Sector Collaboration Spotlight for the month, which highlighted the Bridge to High School Data Exchange. For the SY17-18 data exchange, 91% of eligible middle and high school campuses in DC will participate.

Task Force Member Comments/Questions:

- Q: Can you say more about the data that is exchanged?
 - A: The data exchange includes basic student demographic data, PARCC results, transcripts from 8th grade, and even attendance and discipline data.
 - The reason they got 91% participation was because the GradPathways information was so interesting and helpful.
- Q: What do we know about the 9% not participating?
 - A: We were focused on recruitment so we aren't sure why they did not opt-in.

Mr. Taheri reviewed the working group process chart (slide 12) and noted that the groups are still in the green box (defining the problem and asking questions) but that both are moving closer to discussing theories of action and possible policy solutions.

Mr. Taheri then ran through the goals for each working group before the working groups broke out into different rooms.

Whole Group Discussion:

After the working groups returned to the main meeting room, Mr. Taheri introduced the group discussion and asked the groups to share-out main takeaways from their discussions.

At-Risk Working Group Report-Out:

- The group talked about the big problems they should tackle around off-track secondary students.
- The group also spent a lot of time talking about anchors in schools and positive adult relationships in schools. Based on that conversation, the group believes the Task Force should come up with three evidence-based pilot programs and report back in a year to see if they made a difference or not.
- The group also talked about identifying schools that beat the odds for at-risk students, even though it is difficult to determine what it means to “beat the odds.”
- The group also talked about attendance and noted that the Truancy Task Force is the best overall group to push forward attendance initiatives.
- The group discussed creating recommendations on those different areas and then segueing into discussions about other problems that the group has identified throughout its meetings. The next set of discussions will be around the inequitable distribution of at-risk students.
- The group will also look at how to use data and information to support students, with a specific emphasis on how to use the data, rather than just providing it.

Opening, Closing Siting Working Group Report-Out:

- The group spent a significant portion of the time talking about Denver’s SRA and the parts of the SRA process that the group found most interesting.
- The group did not settle on a theory of action but is moving closer to creating one.
- Instead, the group talked about the components of the SRA and noted that it wants to make sure that an SRA in DC creates a baseline of data and information to inform both sectors so that both sectors can be more purposeful when making decisions.
 - The group discussed the need for an impact analysis when locating a new school in a neighborhood, including a component of historical impact analysis.
- The group also talked about while the SRA will not dictate the decisions it will inform, it still useful to use to talk about the data, including what can be seen in the data and how what can be seen in the data can inform decisions. There might be already areas in the analysis on which many members can agree.

- The group also talked about a possible next step being a recommendation for an entity or office to do DC's strategic citywide analysis. The DME came up as the right office to do this work and the group discussed looking into the value statements that would inform the strategic citywide analysis.
- The group noted the natural tension between identifying gaps and agreeing on the ways to address those gaps, as well as the inherent tension between quality seats and excess capacity.
- The group noted that while the OCS group might have a recommendation about data, it needs to get into the "tougher stuff" after that.

Closing: Vision Statement:

To begin the conversation about the third version of the vision statement, Mr. Taheri read over the previous versions. The group then discussed the third version in groups of two or three before bringing reflections back to discuss with the whole group.

- The word "charter" isn't included in the statement, which I support and think reflects the new ideas we are hearing from the Chancellor.
- The statement seems to suggest that "schools of choice" are only citywide schools. By-right schools are also schools of choice for students who go there out-of-boundary.
- It should be combined to read "by-right and citywide public schools".
- The simplicity of version 1 is appealing. The entry clause of the third version is superfluous. This statement feels redundant and insufficient; there should be something in there about ensuring the success of every student.
- With vision statements, you're going to have conflicting views. However, a vision statement should be the North Star for people to look to get reoriented. If we get into conflicts within the different groups, we can always look back and this can serve to keep us on track.

Deputy Mayor Niles asked the group to take a few moments to discuss their reactions to the meeting in small groups. She then thanked the Task Force for its discussions this evening and the meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.