

# 2023 - 2024 Chancellor's Parent Advisory Board

## November 2023

### Meeting Notes

**Agenda:**

Time	Agenda Item
6:00 - 6:10pm	Welcome, SEL Activity, overview of agenda and community norms
6:10 – 6:35pm	Budget Discussion with Chancellor Ferebee and Q&A
6:35– 6:40pm	Member Spotlights
6:40 – 7:20pm	Charles Sumner Museum Presentation
7:20 – 7:25pm	Monthly Updates
7:25 – 7:30pm	Announcements, Survey, and Closing

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Board Members in Attendance		
First Name	Last Name	Attendance
Aaron	Hanna	
Ada	Ezeh	X
Ammena	Nazeen	X
Beth	Davis	
Charles	DeSantis	X
Connie	Guevara	X
Dana	Watson	
Dorian	Thomas	
Ebone	Tyson-El	

Ericka	Mahdi	
Feleece	Mitchell	X
Gabrielle	Holmes	
Glenda	Diaz	
Jamiel	Dawson	
Jessica	Campos	X
Julius	Terry	
LeSeana	Andrews	
Lisa	Addison	X
Mishaela	Duran	X
Olu	Ajisafe	X
Patricia	Price	X
Pauline	Mzava	X
Pepper	Reed	X
Quentin	Long	
Ritu	Upadhyay	X
Stephen	Rodriguez	X
Suzanne	Schneider	X
Teressa	Watson	
Tasha	Kennedy	
Yolanda	Anderson	X
Yolanda	Powers	

#### Others in Attendance

- Chancellor Lewis D. Ferebee
- Sarah Parker – Engagement and Partnerships, Officer
- Natalie Treadgold – Community and Family Engagement, Interim Deputy Chief
- Amara Jordan – Public Events and Engagement, Coordinator
- Natalie Alston- Finance, Deputy Chief

- Allen Francois- School Finance, Director
- Kimberly Sprinkle- Executive Director for Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives
- Crystal Hurd- Program Manager for Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives

## Notes

- **DCPS Budget Timeline**

- Chancellor Ferebee: Today, we are engaging in a discussion about how we prioritize resources to address the unique needs of each school community and DC Public Schools. I appreciate you taking the time to fill out the questionnaire that Amara sent prior to today's discussion. This feedback is critical for our growth as a district. Before we dig into the substance of our discussion, I want to share this high-level overview of the DCPS Budget process and timeline. This month, we are kicking off engagement with the Public Budget Hearing on November 14th at 6:00 p.m. We will also engage our young people through student discussions. Some of our most innovative and honest feedback comes from students! As we are hearing from our community, schools also receive their enrollment projections for the following years which inform the per-pupil resources that will be allocated. In January and March, Local School Advisory Teams, known as LSATS, are hard at work to collaborate with school leaders to create school budgets and submit them for approval. By early Spring, school budgets are approved and finalized.

- **Open Budget Discussion**

- What programs and/resources would prioritize for your child's school? For the district?
  - Sports and ultimate frisbee for afterschool
  - Art supplies for art teachers
  - Playworks for early childhood- helps kids physically for after school
  - bilingual schools have more reading Spanish books- especially for bilingual schools.
    - CLF: we have an initiative to have more bilingual books in schools
  - More programs around community mediation and peer mediation for our students. More so, for training around conflict resolution.
  - Ludlow Taylor Elementary School community requested more Mental Health Supports, Reading/Math tutors, a full-time nurse, new computers and more language offerings (Spanish, etc).
  - For Tyler Elementary, soon to be renamed to Chisholm, we will need budgeting specifically for the renaming itself. New signage and other things related. They took a huge budget cut even though there is increased enrollment. Why does that happen to a title one school?
    - CLF: Budget shifts because of programmatic shifts (dual language), enrollment, and needs of student population. Some schools receive one-time resources through ESSER and now their funds are phased out
  - My school would like to know about city wide afterschool programming funded by DC for all students. Is this forthcoming from the city?

- CLF: To the question around afterschool programming - Title 1 Elementary Schools are prioritized for our DCPS Out of School Time Programming. We also have supported many high impact tutoring programs at the district level (but many of those are ESSER funded and will end soon). We are prioritizing after-school programming in our strategic plan- and the mayor is as well-, so we hope to have more to share on this soon.
      - Early Intervention programs, outdoor learning, play works, physical education, and counseling programs, social emotional curriculum
      - More opportunities for field trips, raise for the paraprofessionals, hire more teachers, paraprofessionals and substitutes
      - Invest more in- It would be helpful for DCPS to provide PD on positive behavior interventions supports. It seems every teacher and adult are doing something differently when it should be school wide.
      - Chancellor Ferebee, I commend your exemplary leadership and dedication to excellence in our schools. I would like to suggest some inclusive food options for the DC public school menu. I wish to highlight a concern from several African parents and my own experience; some children, including my son, find it difficult to consume the milk provided. An alternative could be to offer lactose-free or plant-based milk options. The effort to diversify the menu shows respect for cultural preferences.
        - Pizza: A versatile favorite that could be offered with a variety of toppings, including options without cheese to cater to children who might not prefer it.
        - Salads: A build-your-own salad bar could provide a nutritious and customizable option, allowing students to select from an assortment of fresh vegetables, proteins, and dressings.
        - More Fruits: Offering a wide range of fresh fruits can ensure that all children have access to sweet, nutritious options.
- Are there any programs or resources that you think we should invest less in?
  - Invest in partnerships and contractors and use the money for mental health and invest in schools instead. Invest money directly into schools
    - CLF- the economy to scale lowers our cost. We do not want to transfer to schools and schools pay a higher rate
- What would a DCPS budget that centers equity look like?
  - Equity in pay among the staff. They should have different pay depending on degrees. Have in house subs that are getting paid more than paraprofessionals
  - Outside Training for kids- to be outside
  - Mental health days for students- students and kids can do their work at home
  - Early Intervention programs, Outdoor learning, Play works, Physical Education, and counseling programs, Social Emotional Curriculum
  - Outdoor learning
  - More opportunities for field trips, raise for the Paraprofessionals, Hire more teachers, Paraprofessionals and Substitutes

- PTO/As fundraising and resources should not be used to subsidize things that DCPS should pay for (Afterschool, science, PD, etc). Parents are paying for a lot of things that it seems should be in a regular school budget (paper, sanitizer, etc). Well-resourced PTOs are creating inequities across the district.
  - •Invest in state-of-the-art trauma informed programming for students who have experienced trauma and behavioral concerns that interrupt school safety and prevent their own learning.
  - To the district's defense, subs are not paid benefits, so that may offer understanding to their pay
  - What is the formula for distributing and cutting funds? This will help with providing further feedback.
- 
- Budget requests:
    - 1) An allotment of funds to deal with chronic building/ infrastructure issues (separate from DGS who are very slow to respond to the numerous issues. Some requests pending for years, including fixing non-operational cafeteria water fountains)
    - 2) Increase funding for custodial services. Our schools are dirty, mice infested, and we are maxed out in enrollment.
    - 3) Increased funding for arts related programming (theater equipment)
  - Since ESSER funding is ending in 2024, will dc now go back to pre-pandemic levels?
    - Sarah: Not necessarily b/c of rising costs and increases in salaries, etc--but schools (and district) will be asked to plan for the end of ESSER.

### **Charles Sumner School Presentation**

- Brief Overview of the Development of Education in the United States
  - Education Opportunities Prior to Formal Public Education Systems
  - American Revolution and Post-American Revolution Education Opportunities
  - Democracy and Public Education
  - Development of Public Education and its Complexities
  - Post-Civil War/Reconstruction Developments and Impacts
- Charles Sumner School 1872-2022
  - Post emancipation meeting
  - Charles Sumner was an abolitionist in the 1840s and was a pioneering civil rights advocate
- Birth of the DC Public School Museum
  - Richard L. Hurlbut (1936-2001), Founding Director of Charles Sumner Museum and Archives. He threatened to stand on the roof top when the building was going to be knocked down. House official records of DCPS.
  - Only institution of its tyle
- Why Public Education History Matters

- It runs parallel with our city's history. Lots of interconnections. Road map for present and the future
  - Making sure people who come from different perspectives
  - Recalling history
  - Learning from the past to make a better future
  - Make sure students see themselves
- Origins of DC Public Education:1804-1805
  - Seated President, Thomas Jefferson started Public Education in DC. Part of the ideals of democracy. As we deal with equity and race, the origin point was not for everyone. Schools were class divided
  - Conservation work of bound volume of history of DCPS
- Brief History of DC Public Education
  - Operating for over 220 years
  - 1802: DC Municipal Gov't Established by Congress.
  - 1804: City Council passes first public education act.
  - 1805: Board of Trustees meets Thomas Jefferson is Bd. Pres.
  - 1807: First private school for Af-Am students.
  - 1812-28: Schools supported by Occasional allocations.
  - 1851: Myrtilla Miner opens school For Af-Am girls.
  - 1862: Emancipation-Public Ed Established for African Americans. Slavery was abolished 9 months ahead of emancipation proclamation
  - 1869- Zalman Richards, First Superintendent
  - 1870: First public high school for af-am students open in a church
  - 1873- First normal and vocational schools open
  - 1876-77 – First high schools for white students open
  - 1889- Introduction of physical education
  - 1898- Introduction to Kindergarten
  - 1954- Bolling vs. Sharpe Case-DC Public Schools Integrate- companion case to Brown v Board of education
  - 1973-New age of school buildings
  - 1995- DC School Reform Act Establishes charters
- April 16, 1862-DC Emancipation Day: First Freed
  - Diploma from one of the first graduates of the first public high school for Black Students. John Parker, 1877
- A Case in Reverse Integration: Karla Galarza, 1947
- Black deaf child had to go to a school in PA because DCPS did not allow black students in their deaf school
- 1954-Bolling Vs. Sharpe and School Desegregation
  - Overcrowded classrooms and shortened school days led to parent advocacy and subsequent action dismantling 'Separate but Equal' schools in DC.
- Contemporary Movements
  - 1960s Tracking System Denunciation. Placed students in different tracks after desegregation. It was denounced later
  - 1970s Modern School Buildings - HD Woodson, old Dunbar meeting, SHaw

- 1990s Public Charter Schools
    - 2000s School Closures/Modernization - 23 schools closed at one time. This tripled Sumner's collection. Happening in larger cities. Sumner was able to preserve history
    - COVID-19
    - School Name Changes
  - Relevance, Evolution, & Future of the Museum
  - Community Engagement
    - Hurlbut-Walker Memorial Research Forum
    - DCPS Pride Open House Events
    - Virtual Programs
    - Special Events
    - Volunteer/Internship Programs
  - *To find more information on Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives, please feel free to engage with us via our website <https://sumnerschoolmuseum.org/>. You can also find us on YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook @SumnerMusuem. If you'd like to visit us, you can find us at 1201 17th Street NW @ the corner of 17th & M streets (just across the street from the National Geographic Museum). We are open Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm.*
  - *Volunteer, Intern & Community Service Opportunities Our Volunteers and Interns help our museum shine. Without the assistance of our Museum Ambassadors, we would not be able to serve our diverse communities, care for our collection or create dynamic education programs. Field Trips, Special Tours & Workshops Genealogy Projects & Research, Educator Engagement & Curriculum Support We welcome small groups of all ages to engage with our collection related to a special topic or for general Museum Tours. For more information on volunteering, conducting research, collaborating or to schedule a tour with us, please call 202-730-0478 or email [info.SumnerMuseum@dc.gov](mailto:info.SumnerMuseum@dc.gov).*
- Announcements
  - Parent U
    - [bit.ly/dcpsparentureg](https://bit.ly/dcpsparentureg)
    - We are excited to announce two upcoming Parent University Live sessions-- families can tune in, listen to DCPS experts, and get their questions answered right away! Please share this with your school communities and register on Eventbrite [bit.ly/dcpsparentureg](https://bit.ly/dcpsparentureg)
  - EdFest
    - [MySchoolDC.org](https://MySchoolDC.org)
    - And there are two dates: December 2nd for Pre-K3 – 8th grade at DC Armory and December 9 for grades 9 – 12 Eastern High School.
    - This is a great opportunity for you to learn about all the options DCPS offers.
    - My School DC Lottery application launches on December 11 for the 2024 – 2025 school year and EDFest helps families make informed decisions for their students.
    - Registration with an email address is FREE and is open now [MySchoolDC.org](https://MySchoolDC.org)
  - DCPS Budget Hearing

- [bit.ly/dcpsbudgetsvp25](https://bit.ly/dcpsbudgetsvp25)
- We are starting with the DCPS Public Budget Hearing on November 14 at 6pm.
- You can register to testify or to watch the hearing at [bit.ly/dcpsbudgetsvp25](https://bit.ly/dcpsbudgetsvp25)
- The deadline to register to testify is November 10 at 3pm. I encourage you to sign up to testify and to share the information with other parents.
- This is a great opportunity for parents, students, teachers, and community members to share with us what their priorities are for next school year's budget.
- DCPS Closed
  - Veteran's Day on Friday November 10th
  - Thanksgiving Break 11/23- 11/25
- Next meeting: December 14th at 6pm on Zoom.
  - Survey Link: <https://bit.ly/PABnov23>

#### **11/9 Parent Advisory Board Feedback Results: 7 responses**

- Average rating of the budget discussion with the Chancellor: 4.14/5 stars
- Average rating of the Sumner School presentation on DCPS history: 4.14/5 stars
- Average overall rating of the meeting 4.43/ 5 stars