



Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Student Budget Discussion  
Middle School Students  
December 15, 2022

Event Information	
<b>Staff Attending</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chancellor Lewis D. Ferebee</li> <li>• Sarah Parker, Interim Officer, Engagement and Partnerships</li> <li>• Laura Cochrun, Deputy Chief, Strategic Initiatives</li> <li>• Jerry Ilar, Manager, Family and Community Supports</li> <li>• Simone Hall, Specialist, School Finance Team (Taking Notes)</li> <li>• Claudette Monroy, Coordinator, Community Engagement (Taking Notes)</li> </ul>
<b>Target Group</b>	High School Students and Opportunity Academy Students
<b>Date</b>	December 15, 2022
<b>Time</b>	1:30 – 3:00pm

Schools in Attendance

School Name	Attended
Brookland Middle School	x
Brown Education Campus	x
Capitol Hill Montessori	x
Cardozo Education Campus	x
Columbia Heights Education Campus / Lincoln Middle School	x
Hardy Middle School	x
Deal Middle School	x
Eliot Hine Middle School	x
Excel Academy	x
Hart Middle School	x
Ida B. Wells Middle School	x
Jefferson Middle School	x
Johnson Middle School	No
Kelly Miller Middle School	x
Kramer Middle School	x



MacFarland Middle School	x
McKinley Tech Middle School	x
Oyster-Adams Bilingual School	x
School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens	x
Sousa Middle School	x
Stuart-Hobson Middle School	x
Walker Jones Education Campus	x
Wheatley Education Campus	x

**SEL Opener – Please share your name, grade and one word that describes your year so far.**

- “different; interesting” – Deal MS
- “exciting; interesting” – Brookland MS
- “great; good” -Browne EC
- “conflicted; surprising” – CHM
- “confusing; chaotic” -Cardozo EC
- “different; new” – CHEC
- “energetic; joyful” -Elion-Hine
- “challenging” -Excel Academy
- “hopeful” - Hardy
- “Active; anticipating” – Hart MS
- “doing my best” – Ida B Wells
- “fair; interesting” – Jefferson MS
- “excellent; extraordinary” – Johnson MS
- “productive; hard” – Kelly Miller MS
- “thrilling; surprisingly good; adventurous; good” – Kramer MS
- “exhilarating; rigorous; exciting”- MacFarland MS
- “interesting; exciting; fast” -McKinley MS
- “pleasant;” -Oyster-Adams
- “hopeful; fun” – SWW
- “excellent; exciting” - Sousa MS
- “productive; improvement” -Stuart-Hobson
- “good; immaculate” -Walker Jones
- “good; fun” – Wheatley EC



*What do you think the top 2-3 budget priorities would be for your school according to your classmates?*

- Transportation & protection; too many kids dying from violence being in the wrong place at the wrong time.
- CHM: professional development for teachers and staff.
- McKinley: events/field trips (e.g., parties/celebrations for students and accomplishments; college trips) and school supplies. Technology, programs and sports.
- Security and school supplies; a lot of fights break out and supplies are lacking.
- Broken water fountains; more money needed to fix them.
- Rewards like field trips for good test scores/performance.
- More money needed for activities like rock climbing.
- Student safety; bring back SROs.
- More money needed to hire staff, tutors, tech, EL students' support.
- Fewer staff members creates chaos which leads to less "hallway time".
- More money and resources for teachers who then in turn can give to students.
- More elective classes like visual arts needed [back].
- Johnson needs a football field (they play on their baseball field currently) and more field trips to have fun outside of school. More tech because my work isn't accessible at home.
- Better food choices because the food is basic and repetitive.
- Supplies-current paper shortage and teachers are coming out of pocket to get more paper.
- More money for afterschool programming and extracurricular activities.
- More coaches for football team (librarians were teaching athletes instead a licensed coach at Hart), more resources being paid for like computers, more afterschool activities.
- More trips that give exposure to future life options; esports opportunities.
- Mental health days and team projects a few days out of the month for students; better cuisine options (international food, pescetarian, vegan options).
- Renovating bathrooms.
- Bring Foodprints back for twice a month.
- More advanced classes.
- Computer lab, better Wi-Fi, more athletic space, extracurricular activities.
- Tech (chargers and keyboards needed) and school supplies (pencils, paper, binders for students who can't get them on their own).



- Tutoring for students needed.
- Computer maintenance or backup computers needed; more field trips to increase student engagement.
- No hot water in the bathroom at Wheatley and broken stall doors.

**Comments on the chat:**

- Stuart-Hobson hasn't been called on for this question yet!
- Excel academy would like to be next please.
- Kelly Miller would like to respond as well.
- From Sousa: Better sports equipment, better food options, and more activities outside of school. Every student should have a working computer. Bathroom supplies such as soap, paper towels, and toilet tissue. We also need working water fountains. More elective options like coding classes.
- Browne: we would also like to go as well.
- Quickly responding to a previous point made in the conversation. We believe that student engagement in what we are learning would be a great addition, and should be a budget priority. For example, in History, we are learning about American History. We could visit memorials and other places of significance in relation to what we are learning.
- Students at McKinley would like to have access to Tennis, Golf, Archery, and "safe" extreme sports.
- Brookland would like to share.
- From Capitol Hill Montessori: Personal Development for staff. This helps teachers be well rounded and improving things like classroom management, leadership, and teaching styles.
- I agree, but PD aimed towards increasing student engagement with the material.
- I think the school should have better plumbing and upgrade the bathrooms because some stalls do not have locks or they are broken and i think we should more space in classrooms and we also need updated computers because the ones we have are old and sometimes they break or black and often some do not work and we should have more offices for staff because we do not have a computer lab because 3 staffs were in need for offices so we have to give up our computer lab so they could have an office.
- School building updates.

*Schools will receive funding based on students' needs. What does this idea mean to you?*



- Taking into account students' complaints and Central sending money to address those needs.
- Students' needs will matter more when it comes to clubs, classes, etc.
- After school tutoring for students who need it.
- More support (e.g., "in between" or intermediate classes for EL students who need more support).
- Getting the appropriate help allows students to better compete with others.
- Help with students' needs so they're ready to attend school and learn. If we aren't ready to learn it'll affect our behavior. Need relaxing techniques to help students chill and focus.
- Taking college tours for 8<sup>th</sup> graders—giving students this experience earlier would be helpful.
- Microwaves would be great to have for students who bring lunch.
- Students' needs should be top priority and drive the budget.
- Every student receives equity and equality.

**Comments on the chat:**

- Sousa is dark when you walk in and we do not have lighting in places.
- We should also have more space threw out the school because we need space in general and my school feel like we need money for sports so we can have more stuff for our good basketball team and also money for a science lab so we have learn new things and do more things on animals and my school want to have lunch and gym in different rooms so we can have more space to eat and because some kids have gym during others lunch period and the kids in the gym have to use half of the gym because it is not enough space because others are having lunch.
- Kelly Miller would love to go next.
- Can you confirm your school?
- We should be able to have sponsors and partners.
- This means to me this idea means that kids would have a better future life as they grow older .
- Hart needs the chairs in the auditorium to be fixed. The chairs are graffitied and on lots of chairs the back rest or seat of the chair is broken off.
- Sousa would like to go next.
- Brookland would like to go.
- This means students would like to put more funding towards programs and activities that support creating a sense of belonging such as increasing the amount of arts classes, E-sports as an elective, multiple foreign language courses, and field trips.



*As we set new goals this spring for our new five-year strategic plan, what NEW THING would you prioritize for DCPS' budget if you were me?*

- New and more courses (e.g., financial literacy, taxes).
- Prioritize goals for students to help them succeed and motivate them (afterschool activities, sport, field trips).
- Water fountains; more toilet tissue and paper towels; better sports equipment.
- Prioritizing organization and preparedness.
- Therapeutic sessions for students to increase attendance.
- Revamping our uniforms.
- Electives and clubs that offer competitions (e.g., art or music competitions across schools).
- Academic clubs.
- Gym should be separate from the cafeteria.
- Sports and therapy sessions.
- Increase in mental health staffing would be great.
- Supporting low-income families by providing supplies, uniforms, etc.
- Literacy lab – some students struggle with reading, spelling, vocab.
- Better dance studio.
- Arts programs.
- Invest in monitoring system.
- New chairs in the auditorium.
- Better and more fun electives (e.g., economics, cooking, more world languages).
- Guest speakers.
- More security for emergency situations and lockdowns.
- More enrichment classes.

**Comments on the chat:**

- There should be a new position in schools to help teachers create lessons that are interesting, and interactive. There are efforts now, but increased funding would provide exponential gains.
- Creating early courses for students to take financial literacy would be essential for students to learn the true costs of living in DC.
- Hart would like to go next.
- Wheatley would like to go next.
- Brown would like to go.



- Field trips to colleges not only in the area, modernized buildings, student lounges (for safe spaces for students), more teachers to create smaller classes, more teachers to offer more classes elective classes (advanced classes).
- Another thing that we'd really appreciate seeing are field trips. Some people might think that by middle school, we've grown out of it, but field trips are always liked, for a multitude of reasons.
- I would also like to say more teachers and field trips.
- If I were the Chancellor some things, I would prioritize for the DCPS budget is, A new learning environment because we to ensure that the students are getting a productive education, we also want to ensure our students safety is one of our top priorities. Not only that we would also need more staff members/ or back up because some teachers are absent for over a long period of time. We would also use the budget to prioritize the teachers/staff needs as well because they are taking time to plan our lessons and all that so i also feel like teachers and staff deserve better and more appreciation.
- A great new addition would be counseling that could help students think, or narrow down the careers they would like to peruse. Many students are unsure about the careers they want, and it is very helpful to know in advance so they can make decisions that can impact them positively in the future. For example choosing the electives or clubs that would join, or what high school to apply to ext. (From hardy middle school).