

2023 - 2024 Chancellor's Parent Advisory Board
 February 2024
 Meeting Notes

Board Members in Attendance:

First Name	Last Name	Attendance
Aaron	Hanna	
Ada	Ezeh	
Ammena	Nazeen	X
Beth	Davis	X
Charles	DeSantis	
Connie	Guevara	X
Dana	Watson	
Dorian	Thomas	X
Ebone	Tyson-El	X
Ericka	Mahdi	
Feleece	Mitchell	
Gabrielle	Holmes	
Glenda	Diaz	
Jamiel	Dawson	
Jessica	Campos	X
Julius	Terry	X
LeSeana	Andrews	
Lisa	Addison	
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	Walton	
Tasha	Kennedy	
Yolanda	Anderson	
Yolanda	Powers	

Notes

SEL activity: How do you de-stress?

- Going for long walks and listening to audiobooks
- Exercise and read books
- Rowing
- Talk to my spouse
- Spend time with family
- Watching nostalgic movies
- Playing games
- Walking the arboretum

Chancellor's Q&A Session:

- Budget Season has arrived!
 - o Through a steadfast commitment to equity, excellence in instruction, and educating the whole child, we have invested carefully and thoughtfully in the past, which has meant that we are in a stronger place than other districts.
 - We are still growing enrollment—more and more families are choosing DC Public Schools.
 - We are not closing schools—we continue to be committed to ensuring great schools in every ward.
 - We are still paying our teachers well—DCPS continues to hire and retain the best teachers in the country.
 - o We are confident we'll continue our momentum, as we make sure we're thoughtfully stewarding our resources.
 - o Remaining dedicated to the new five-year capital commitment
 - Succeeding academically
 - Connected to schools
 - Prepared for what's next
 - o Sunsetting of federal dollars (ESSER)
 - o Implementation of multiple union contracts
 - o Number of school-based employees increased by 18%, and student enrollment grown just 2%
- FY25 Budget Forecast
 - o Schools will see an increase of \$110,811,486, which is approx. 11.8% increase.
 - Despite the increase, increases in costs will result in many schools having a reduction in buying power.
 - o Central services will reduce its budget by roughly \$50 million.
- Collaboration between LSAT and Principals
 - o Share budget allocation
 - o Principals have to submit their budget on Friday the 23rd
 - o Discuss impact of new or changing programs
 - o Share final submitted budget.
 - o Convene LSAT meetings

- Keep conversations confidential
- Respect opinions of others
- By March 1 we ask that the LSAT confirm they were engaged by signing off on the budget engagement
- Q&A
 - How do you work with schools who do not have the same support staff as other schools?
 - Leaning on school leaders and families who have context of the school communities to know where resources are needed. Maintaining autonomy of schools to choose their priorities. Through the petition process, schools can highlight specific and unique needs and see if funding is available to support.
 - Are there any supports for devices for scholars who live in larger households?
 - Yes, the challenge is using local dollars to now purchase devices as we no longer have the federal dollars to purchase with. Technology moves swiftly and the need for updated devices is factored in to the increase in cost to support families.
 - Better screening process to decide which work orders are more important than others.
 - Operating budget vs Capital Budget
 - Operating budget for programming needs
 - Capital budget for small projects, like HVAC and repairs
 - Have not finalized capital budget
 - Prioritizing work orders that are related to safety
 - Addressing chronic facility work orders, a more permanent fix instead of a band aid repair

Mental Health Presentation: María Del Rosario Gómez

- Student Supports
 - 3 tiers of supports (universal, group, and individual)
 - Over 20 evidence-based curriculums across all aspects of health and wellness
- Response to Community Needs
 - Community/Gun Violence
 - Too good for violence
 - Middle school intervention
 - Where's Darryl?
 - Newcomer Health and Wellness
 - Welcome Fair
 - Multilingual access to mental health resources
 - Student Referral Form for Mental Health and Counseling Support
 - Provider Directory for Mental Health Supports
 - Dcpsmentalhealth.org
 - Comments
 - Have some safeguards in place as to not allow this service to be weaponized to certain demographics.
 - Ensuring privacy according to HIPAA laws

- Instances of bullying and what curriculums and supports are in place to support.
 - Yes, a handful of resources are available to all marginalized demographics.
- PD at the school level
 - Number of opportunities for social workers to sharpen their skills through targeted trainings and utilizing evidence-based practices
- Follow Up
 - Parents requested resources for parents to access reading recommendations for diverse stories, social justice, equity, and anti-racism. The website is [Diverse Books \(Resources for Race, Equity, and Inclusion \(diversebooks.org\)\)](https://diversebooks.org)

Monthly Updates:

- No School 2/16, 2/19, 3/14, 3/16
- Parent Teacher Conference Day 3/14
- My School DC Deadlines- [Welcome to My School DC | My School DC](#)
- Upcoming Parent U - [Parent University/ Universidad para Padres | Eventbrite](#)
bit.ly/dcpsparentureg
- Family Engagement Survey will Launch in March
- Holistic Academic Co-Design Series- Complete [this interest form](#) to learn more.
- CAT in the community

Please see the CAT member’s email below in case you’d like to make a virtual connection.

- Quintin (clusters 7&8)- quintin.floyd2@k12.dc.gov
- Damian (clusters 5&6)- damian.popkin@k12.dc.gov
- Ja-Naia (clusters 3&4)- ja-naia.adams@k12.dc.gov
- Dwaine (Cluster 1&2)- dwayne.carr@k12.dc.gov
- Sharona (Cluster 9) - sharona.robinson@k12.dc.gov
- DCPS Performance Hearing Watch Live: www.ChairmanMendelson.com/live

Post Meeting Survey Responses:

Three board members filled out the exit survey.

Question	Average Score
1 Star = Not Good to 5 Star = Very Good	
Please rate the DCPS Mental Health Presentation	4.00
How would you rate the meeting overall?	4.67

Additional comments from board members on exit survey:

- “Thank you! I also noticed that the Chancellor stayed the whole entire time and I very much appreciated that, given his busy schedule”
- “It was good but too narrowly focused.”
- “I liked the presentation, but it doesn’t seem like the evidence-based practices are showing up in my school. It would be great to have specific information on PD for MH for teachers, not necessarily clinicians. So teachers can better support mental health, as well. I am a strong advocate for student mental health, but not sure how to plug in.”