



DC Public Schools: FY25 High Student Budget Discussion Notes

Date and Time	High School Students and Opportunity Academy Students: Tuesday January 9 th 1pm-2:30pm
Discussion Details	Virtual
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To host the annual DCPS Student Budget Discussion for students in High School
Staff Attending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chancellor Lewis D. Ferebee Maggie Gurley: Chief of Staff, Office of the Chief of Staff Dr. Drewana Bey: Deputy Chancellor, Office of Social Emotional and Academic Development Patrick Ashley: Chief, Office of Fiscal Strategy Paige Hoffman: Chief, Office of School Improvement and Supports Sarah Parker: Chief, Engagement and Partnerships Natalie Treadgold: Interim Deputy Chief, Family and Community Engagement Amara Jordan: Coordinator, Public Events and Engagement Jerry Ilar: Manager, Family & Community Supports Tara Cheston: Manager, Internal Engagement

SEL Opener – Grade and favorite class

Anacostia HS – literature and (inaudible)
 Ballou HS – marching band and math
 Ballou STAY - (inaudible)
 Bard – biology and arts electives
 Banneker – AP (inaudible)
 Cardozo – drama, math
 CHEC – studio art, intro to engineering, AP US Gov’t
 Dunbar – enviro science, engineering, AP African American Studies, Stats, Choir
 Woodson – Engineering, chemistry, English
 Jackson – Reed – Chemistry, sculpture
 Luke C Moore – Geometry, English
 MacArthur – Imagery, art
 McKinley – Engineering, Design, and Development
 Phelps – English
 Ron Brown – Art, AP English
 SWW – AP Research, History
 Banneker – AP Lit



Question 1: What programs and/resources would you prioritize for your school?

Ballou

- Student Response
 - There isn't enough for afterschool programs and the funding model as it stands is inequitable.
 - Marching band/music program isn't getting equitable funding.
 - Notes that the strategic plan identifies enrichment funding.
- Leadership Response
 - There is generally more funding allocated for greater need. We specifically focus on opportunity gaps. Our schools need to collaborate with families and schools and gather interest data to determine allocations.

Jackson-Reed

- Student Response
 - Facilities and cleanliness resources
 - Increase in tech support and Wi-Fi infrastructure.
 - Want to ensure that academics and athletics don't have to rely as much on fundraising. Students have to spend time fundraising for field trips, internships, etc.
 - Would like to see more funding for college access resources.

School Without Walls

- Student Response
 - Field permit payments to cover athletic training on fields. The field permits require over 35% of the athletics budget.

MacArthur

- Student Response
 - As a new school, there are a lot of things the school doesn't have yet. A college prep coordinator would be helpful.
 - There should be priority on adding an activities coordinator. The students don't feel they are getting an authentic high school experience. References spirit week.

Anacostia

- Student Response
 - Building structures for parents, new textbooks that aren't damaged, improved technology, job opportunities, funding for more college exposure/trips, more entrepreneurial experiences.

Ballou STAY

- Student Response



- Canvas doesn't work as well as Summit for the credit recovery schools. Canvas use doesn't allow students to move as quickly through the programming and hinders their ability to transition beyond school more swiftly.
- Tutoring days (beyond one day) would be helpful to help students graduate on time.
- More opportunities that help students feel more engaged and interested in coming to school.
- Trades and job readiness programming would also be helpful.

Cardozo

- Student Response
 - Invest in better Wi-Fi because it doesn't reach through the whole school. Logging into this meeting took time because of the Wi-Fi. The lags cause students to disconnect and delays classwork submission.

Bard

- Student Response
 - Dance and drama department. The dance teacher has to pay for her own materials. She sent a request to DCPS last year, but the materials never arrived. There hasn't been an opportunity to start a theatre department because the teacher doesn't think that the school would fund it and she isn't able to cover the cost herself. This lack of availability causes some students to leave the school.
 - The science department should receive more funding because there isn't a lot being done with the sciences to date. They aren't hands-on; rather, they take notes and watch videos. There isn't a chemistry lab; instead, they take notes and memorize scientific principles, etc. Need more ideas to get students to participate more and have more hands-on experiences.
 - There should be more after-school programs that align with student interests.

Dunbar

- Student Response
 - Should increase mental health support. Should be more time for counselors and the time students have with them.
 - Desks and class furniture that is more comfortable for students to keep them focused.
 - College and career – Would like to change the boundary limit for college visits and overnight trips. If they could go further, they could expand the opportunities available to them.

Ron Brown

- Student Response
 - Mental health programs, like counseling. We need to focus on that, because we don't always know what students and teachers are going through.
 - Need more funding for extracurricular activities and trades, like culinary classes, woodworking, etc.



- Long-distance college visits would be nice. Not everyone wants to stay in the DMV for college, and not all families can afford the long-distance trips to colleges.
- More AP and extracurricular courses. With more AP courses, there are more opportunities to gain more college credits to make college easier.

Banneker

- Student Response
 - Fundraising. All the athletic departments can't fundraise, so the teams can't get new uniforms, attend certain events, etc. Can't be transported to events. Money should be spread more evenly, not just given to football.
 - More electives and internship opportunities—especially for seniors and juniors. These could help students get a better understanding of their professional trajectory.
 - Mental health resources. Mental health support isn't doing much to support students.
 - A full-time school nurse is needed. Some staff are able to administer medication, but it isn't the teachers'/other school staff members' job to administer medication; instead, a full-time school nurse should be funded.
 - Students would like more information about the budget process and where it can be found. Would like more insight into the red tape and processes.
 - Everyone involved in education should have the chance to go to school and get to know the kids and see what they experience given the funding structures.
- Leadership Response
 - There is information and protocols that we must follow. Some are related to Title IX.
 - Shared link: [2:12 PM] Parker, Sarah (DCPS) <https://www.dcpspartnerships.com/>
 - No school in the district currently has a full-term nurse. We currently partner with the Department of Health and Children's Hospital. There is a regional model that doesn't require more funding for temporary nurses.

Eastern

- Student Response -
 - Nursing rotations are a bit confusing. Building a relationship with nurses and understanding the health needs/patterns would be helpful with a more longer-term nurse/nursing staff.

McKinley

- Student Response -
 - STEM education. There are three NAF academies at McKinley, and they don't have the updated resources needed for the programs. There also aren't as many IT teachers.
 - Travel budget for international and >50 mi isn't enough. Some clubs have to pay out of pocket for long-distance travel.
 - Athletic teams don't have much funding for transportation or uniforms.
 - Safe Passage is a concern for McKinley. There has been a robbery and an attempted robbery. The students would like to see more support.



- Building and tech maintenance. Wi-Fi, scoring equipment, and the like need updates/fixes.

CHEC

- Student Response -
 - Doors, water fountains, field, furniture, and technology investments. Classroom materials and resources.
 - Cafeteria updates to make sure students can get food in a more timely manner.
 - Not enough college field trips.
 - More janitors for better upkeep.
 - Overall capital improvements.

HD Woodson

- Student Response -
 - More self-care/mental health programming. (Inaudible)
 - College and resources. A lot of the younger students don't have a lot of information about post-secondary pathways. This can cause students to not be prepared/make mistakes earlier in their high school career.
 - Teacher and student relationships. More programming to help with relationship-building for teachers to help them connect and get a better understanding of students' backgrounds.
 - Childcare at the school. Not having support or child support can mean that some students don't come to school.
 - More JROTC funding for self-discipline development and pathways to military. Can help learn how to budget effectively, etc.
 - District-wide scholarships to help students be more motivated to go to school. There are government restrictions that don't account for actual financial standing. The funding could cover different needs that students may have.

Phelps

- Student Response -
 - Better Wi-Fi.
 - Better food. Can't learn without better nutrition.
 - More materials – especially for lower-income students.
 - The school doesn't have enough of a lot of schools.
 - Uniform support. Some students can't afford uniforms.
 - Need more cleaning supplies, more soap, paper towels, etc.



Question 2: Are there any programs or resources that you think we should invest less in?

Question 2 Discussion

Ballou

- Student Response:
 - There are many scholars with diverse needs and backgrounds. There should be more funding rather than less. Removing funds means less programming.

School Without Walls

- Student Response
 - Should be fewer consultants from external agencies. This could help cover needed school programming and infrastructure, resources, and teacher salaries.

MacArthur

- Student Response
 - There aren't any programs that require less funding. Instead, the school needs to focus on growing.
 - Don't have as many programs as other schools.

Anacostia

- Student Response
 - Internships will end at some point, and focus should be on longer-term jobs.

Cardozo

- Student Response
 - There aren't any programs that should be invested less in because all programming is helpful. But there should be more support to get students more involved in SGA.

Dunbar

- Student Response
 - Security – They don't break up fights and they are older.
 - Couldn't think of anything else that they would like to defund/reallocate.

Ron Brown

- Student Response
 - No interest in limiting funding, as the programs serve important mental health needs.
 - The school is new, so there isn't anything that the students would want to remove.

Banneker

- Student Response
 - Less funding should be directed toward substitute/temporary nursing staff and redirected to full-time employees.

Eastern

- Student Response -
 - Sports teams should be invested less in. A lot of funding goes to these teams and takes away from student inclusivity resources. Eastern has a very low participation



rate when it comes to events like spirit week, etc. If we focus less on sports teams, we can have larger support teams for mediation, check-ins, and mitigating altercations.

Phelps

- Student Response -
 - No programs to disinvest in. They have more needs.