



FY23 Student Budget Discussion  
Middle School/Education Campus  
November 3, 2021

Event Information	
<b>Facilitators</b>	Chancellor Lewis D. Ferebee Sarah Parker – Deputy Chief, Community Engagement Jerry Ilar – Coordinator, Public Events and Engagement
<b>Note Takers</b>	Claudette Monroy – Coordinator, Community Engagement Bijan Verlin – Specialist, Community Action Team
<b>Target Group</b>	Middle School and Education Campus Students (Grades 6-8)
<b>Date</b>	November 3, 2021
<b>Time</b>	1:45pm-3pm
<b>Number of Attendees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 51 participants logged in + students</li></ul>
<b>Schools in Attendance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brookland Middle School</li><li>• Browne Education Campus</li><li>• Capitol Hill Montessori at Logan</li><li>• Cardozo EC</li><li>• Columbia Heights Education Campus</li><li>• Deal Middle School</li><li>• Excel Academy</li><li>• Hart Middle School</li><li>• Hardy Middle School</li><li>• Ida B. Wells Middle School</li><li>• Johnson Middle School</li><li>• Kelly Miller Middle School</li><li>• Kramer Middle School</li><li>• Leckie Education Campus</li><li>• McKinley Middle School</li><li>• Oyster Adams Bilingual School</li><li>• Sousa Middle School</li><li>• Stuart-Hobson Middle School</li><li>• School Without Walls at Francis Stevens</li><li>• Walker Jones Education Campus</li><li>• Wheatley Education Campus</li></ul>



**SEL Opener – Please share your name, grade and one word that describes how your year is going?**

- Good so far, great so far
- Eventful
- Different
- Exciting
- Interesting
- Successful
- Refreshing
- Really fun
- Decent
- Busy
- Social
- Okay
- Entertaining
- Exhilarating
- Jubilant
- Unique
- Adventure
- Fantastic
- Fun
- Cautious
- Adventurous
- Intriguing
- Amazing
- Joyous
- Unprecedented

**How are you feeling about being back in school? What did you miss the most?**

- Enjoying being back in school building to be in touch with peers. She is feeling motivated, some are annoyed that they can't be hanging out in bed though. My feelings are very positive!
- Really happy to interact with teachers and socialize with friends.
- My grades are much better and school is much more hands on now.
- Being back has been joyous, I was pretty scared at first, but the school was extremely welcoming and had all the safety precautions. Teachers gave special attention to students who needed help and got to know us, which was really helpful to how we learn now.
- To Chancellor's question around online worked better- Had more leeway, had more flexible, school is draining
- Cautious, but also excited!
- It's ultimately good, some kids need hands on learning, but it's risky with covid
- Nobody to share experience with at home.
- Mixed emotion, it's been hard to come back, especially for my last year of MS.
- Teachers were more lenient previously, but it's easier to focus in person.



- Hard to transition from ES to MS also from virtual to in person learning.
- I appreciate all the hard work school staff is doing.
- I am very happy because I get to see my friends and interact with my teachers, and it makes it easier to learn things.
- My grades are better because it was hard to pay attention when we were doing virtual school.

***Additional question from Chancellor Ferebee – were your grades better when you were in virtual school?***

- I feel better to be in person, I was trying to pay attention during virtual, but I couldn't ask for help from teachers.
- My grades are better now. It's easier to do schoolwork.
- I have mixed emotions because we had more flexibility when we were doing virtual. The COVID restrictions makes it challenging in the building.
- I feel good being back in school and it helps me stayed engaged.
- I really liked virtual school because it was easier for me to get things done but I like seeing my friends.
- Being online made me sick but also being in person. I have mixed feelings about it.
- It has been good so far; I think it's good because students need support but it's scary with COVID.
- I feel great being back at school. I couldn't build relationships during virtual, and I am glad to be back in person.
- I felt isolated during virtual learning, but I sometimes miss being at home.
- I have mixed emotions because I was in elementary school during COVID, and I was sad to miss my last year in elementary school.
- It was a challenged to switch from virtual to in person.
- I was not in a good mental state during virtual learning.
- School was easier during virtual because teachers were more flexible.
- It was easier for me to focus at school because at home I had a lot of distractions.
- I went from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade – and things feel weird - I am trying to adjust.
- The school year has been good, my grades are better this year.
- Being in person is challenging because of the COVID protocols but being back at school is helping me adjust.
- Virtual learning made it really easy to track deadlines and work. In person there's no one/nothing to remind you when work is due or done. Makes it hard to remember things

***From chat:***

- Another thing about virtual learning, is that I think that it was easier to turn in work, as in there was visible deadlines so you would be alerted and could figure out in a low amount of time when an assignment is due. In person there is no one/nothing to remind you when work is done, so I have found myself turning in a lot of things late and getting a lower grade which I can't fix.



- There was a decrease in my overall grade average due to the unexpected change from online/virtual to in-person learning, however, I am able to get more help from teachers which is helping my grades.

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

- If kids don’t speak English, then the kids will get more money to teach English for example.
- More books, supplies, computers.
- Good idea- it would be nice if every school was a good school and then not every kid would have to get into one school.
- How do you know what a school needs without asking the children? You should be getting input from students more regularly.
- It’s hard for teachers to spend their own money on things students need.
- Some students need technology, some need tutors so they can get extra help.
- Funding is really important, DCPS is ignoring school needs, our MS is trailer parks are not in great condition.
- Change the food vendor! Kids don’t eat because the food is gross and not nutritious.
- Wi-Fi is really slow.
- Kids in Georgetown have higher ranked teachers than kids in SE.
- Clear difference in resources from Hardy and Johnson. Completely different in terms of culture, extra curriculars offered, and cleanliness.
- It means that students who have more needs receive more money to support those students.
- It means schools get money to buy computers and books depending on students' needs.
- It’s a good idea for all the schools to become a good school in the city.
- It can also mean that schools are getting funding to improve or renovate their buildings.
- I don’t know if you can honestly know what a school needs if you don’t ask the students.
- We need a lot of materials and sometimes teachers have to pay for it.

***Sarah: How can we reach students about what they need?***

- Surveys work, we take a lot of these anyway.

***From chat:***

- Another thing about virtual learning, it’s that I think that it was easier to turn in work, as in there was visible deadlines so you would be alerted and could figure out in a low amount of time when an assignment is due, But in person there is no one/nothing to remind you when work is done, so I have found myself turning in a lot of things late even if I did it, and getting a lower grade which I can't fix.
- One of our needs are that we are a stem school without technology.
- Some students need technology, some needs tutors for extra help they need to become a better learner.
- Schools get the help they need from funding to help build on the school. I feel that this idea is good because instead of all schools getting the same amount.
- Sousa needs an upgrade, and we lack updated technology to much or less, the schools get as much money as they need.



- More field trips.
- Yes, the Wi-Fi and food can use some updates too.
- I completely agree because also there are students who develop health problems because due to the fact that they don't eat.
- We need better tasting food and faster and better Wi-Fi as well.
- We don't have lots of options of food and some people work better off of full stomach.
- We have Great Teachers at Brown.
- The term "Funding based on the school needs" seems like an excuse to give the bare minimum to keep going.
- We need the basics in the bathroom like soap and tissues.
- We agree.



**As we set new goals this spring, what would you prioritize MORE of for DCPS if you were me (Chancellor Ferebee)?**

- Prioritize money for paint, bathrooms, facilities, (gym is dirty).
- Maintenance and better care.
- Personal hygiene products.
- Lots of different extracurriculars and elective classes for both succeeding and struggling students.
- COVID Safety.
- Better technology, better Wi-Fi, and better after school activities that aren't just sports.
- Field trips!
- Facilities, Wi-Fi, mental health support/ social workers, extracurricular activities/ elective classes, physical materials for classrooms, and technology.
- We need to get surveys about the food that we want to eat. Sometimes students do not eat because the food is not good and that messed up our learning capabilities.
- We need more funding to support students who are part of the LGBTQ+ community. Sometimes other students can be mean towards them, so we need trainings or other supports.
- More funding for mental health supports – some students are struggling, and we don't even know what hard things they might be going through at home.
- We don't have any after school programs besides sports and I think we should have a variety of programs.
- A and B schedule is very annoying, and I think it's hard to retain information. Shorter classes are better for us. We should have the same classes every day.

***Additional question from Chancellor Ferebee: What are after school programs that you are interested in?***

- After school activities that further your learning and help you excel as a student.
- Like chess or theater, journalism, gardening, art, debate, dance, community service.

***From chat:***

- More afterschool opportunities so we can have more social interactions with our friends. I agree and the activities should be more outdoor, but we don't have much outdoor.
- We also need upgraded calculators for students in advanced math classes
- I also feel like our school needs more structure in the morning when we get into school. When it is freezing, they might make us go outside or go to a place we don't want to. space. We like our City Year teachers this year too!
- We should have the option to have additional foreign language classes after school.
- We need a separate gym area because we have a cafeteria and a gym in the same room. We are sometimes unable to do activities because the gym is busy.
- At Browne we need an outdoor space.
- I feel like the girls' bathrooms also need help. They should have paper towels since the hand dryers are always broken.



- At Excel we feel that a salad bar, followed by a monthly food survey would be helpful and nice.
- More After School programs for middle schoolers.
- They also need to add personal hygiene products in bathrooms.
- I'm from Brookland MS and I feel like we need more advance classes, more things that would make the students more comfortable in the school like more classes to choose from.
- I think we need to pay attention to our GPA, also more attention on what we need for high school.
- I agree with how we should be able to choose our elective. Some people are forced to go in an elective that they are not interested in. That can discourage students to learn new topics.
- If I were the Chancellor, I would prioritize more qualified and more welcoming teachers and staff to schools.
- Additional PE and recess equipment for our differently abled students.
- If I were the Chancellor, some things I would prioritize in ALL school are, feminine hygiene product and more elective classes - Brookland MS.
- More safe field trips.
- I feel like we need more personal support groups because there are a lot of students struggling with mental health and emotional health and there could be a lot of damaging things happening at home.
- We should have the option to have additional foreign language classes after school.
- I also feel like our school needs more structure in the morning when we get into school. When it is freezing, they might make us go outside or go to a place we don't want to.
- We also need upgraded calculators for students in advanced math classes.
- If I were the Chancellor, I would give separate funds for MS for field trips.
- I also think we should have more afterschool options. Once school is done, we are forced to leave immediately and after care is full. Some people do not have the option to go somewhere after school, so they have to stand on the sidewalk until their parent or guardian comes. That is very unsafe...
- I think an important thing to add for our schools is more electives because it's important for us to have a little choice in our schooling experience. This can also curricular activities (Debate, Acting, Coding, Chess, etc.)
- Middle Schools need more exposure to Colleges and Universities. Annual College and University tours should be fully funded.
- It feels like sometimes DCPS don't care mentality about the schools more east of the river.
- I feel like there should also be more opportunities for less vocal students, they want to share their talents but are nervous to.
- If I were Chancellor, I would make my way to Sousa Middle School to see all the great things happening and to shadow students.
- My school need more outdoor lighting, school supplies, and more outdoor Wi-Fi.
- Music, Band and/or Dance would be a nice elective(requirement) to add to MS curriculum.
- I agree with the chess idea more clubs with activities to challenge students thinking skills would be nice
- Ferebee, Lewis (DCPS) what's your rating in chess? What's your favorite chess piece?
- My favorite chess piece is the pond. And in my opinion the pond is the most free pond.



- If I was Chancellor Lewis, I would prioritize giving everyone equal resources because at Hardy MS we have the resources to have all these other classes because we have the resources and money for it but a school like Johnson does not have the money or resources to have these classes.
- Something we need in our school is to emphasis on technology.
- If I were the Chancellor, I would start speaking on segregation in the sports field such as uni-sexual sports (football and cheer) everyone should be welcomed equally - BROOKLAND MS.
- Thank you for the opportunity, I have to go now.