



DC Public Schools: FY25 Middle School Student Budget Discussion Notes

Date and Time	Middle School Students and Opportunity Academy Students: Thursday January 4 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 Middle School
Staff Attending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Damian Popkin; Specialist, Community Action Team

SEL Opener – Grade and favorite class

Brookland MS – English b/c helps with reading comprehension. 8th grader likes English b/c it helps with story telling and writing
 CHMMS – Physical Health, Science and Math
 Deal MS – Art and History
 Excel Academy – Science and Math
 Hardy MS – Science and Math
 Hart MS – Detectives and math
 Wells MS – Band and science
 Jefferson Academy – Math and science
 Johnson MS – History and reading workshop
 Kelly Miller – MS Math and math
 McKinley Tech MS – Reading
 Oyster-Adams – Math and Spanish
 Eliot Hine MS – History and ELA
 Walker-Jones – Math and Science
 Sousa MS – Tech and Dance, Band
 Stuart Hobson MS – Math and Science
 SWW @ Francis Stevens – English and History
 Wheatley – Science and Drumline

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

Sousa – Prioritize tutoring and tech. Our tech class has a lot of potential, but we don't have all the materials we need, like iPads, apple pencils, speakers, electronics. There's a lot of potential but not a lot of devices. Also, we want more instruments for Band because some people want to play but we don't have enough money to buy them.

Ida B. Wells – We have STEM Clusters—we need more supplies. We also need more money going into our arts—band, digital arts, more art supplies, and tech.

Hardy – More programs for students who don't have resources to afford materials or extra training. Opportunity for recreational chess and sports. Additional math programs that make math fun and educational—we need help with math, but it needs to be fun.

Eliot Hine – Prioritize more mental health for all students, more student led opportunities for them to teach other students. More performing arts opportunities for students.

Brookland – A shuttle, a lot of kids have to take the metro and bus to get to school. It requires a lot of dangerous street crossings to get to school. Shuttle buses for safe passage. More supplies such as cleaning products, pencils, erasers, and sharpeners because students damage and lose materials.

Hart – Prioritize CTE programs for the students who know what career they want. I know I want to be labor-delivery nurse. Increase data bandwidth for the school to allow faster online operations. Also having advanced placement to allow students to feel challenged in school.

Walker-Jones – Prioritize music programs that can support students' enjoyment of music and development as music professionals.

SWW @ Francis Stevens – Prioritize mental health team for students, more opportunities for students to talk to, safe spaces to connect. Invest more in sports to ensure students have the right-fitting equipment.

Capitol Hill Montessori – Prioritize sports gear, many of the jersey's don't fit, teams should be able to dress the same (shoes, etc). This would build the sense of team. We need a gifted program to challenge students. We also need a STEM program because there is a high level of interest, and it gives students a head start towards a career.

McKinley Middle School – Book club would improve reading test scores and comprehension. And chess club because it helps with decision making skills and improved focus.

Oyster-Adams – Tech resources because computers get damaged and need to be upgraded. We want a career program to encourage students to think about what they want to do in the future and prepare students to take higher level more focused courses in high school.

Brown – More sports training because it's in high demand. We also think we need more help with math and additional teachers to help with pullouts. We need a color printer and 3D printer so we can produce better work and advance more in our learning. We should have more money for the after-school programming—I do cheer and we are limited with what we can do due to not enough funds, things like money for trips and uniforms.

Johnson – We would like to prioritize afterschool programming. Afterschool shuttle bus for safe passage from school following afterschool activities.

Deal – More money to upgrade and replace devices to ensure all students have access—appreciate the DCPS goal to give access to devices to students. Funding for more social workers and counselors in addition to academic. Prioritize staffing for the specific needs of students like Multilingual Learners-increase funding for teachers and co-teachers to support students with additional needs like MLL students.

Excel – Money for trips outside of Washington DC like college tours and other opportunities to expose students to more possibilities. More support for safety from neighborhood violence. Creative writing, Mass Media Production, more arts, and creative elective opportunities.

Wheatley – Materials for all science classes. We are limited by the lack of materials for projects we want to do. Invest more in technology—it gets damaged and lost which inhibits what students are able to do. More money for classes for students that are behind or that need extra help to understand the work. More money for dance, cheer, and other activities/programs.

Jefferson – Invest more money for basketball. The boys' team, girls' teams, and cheerleaders all have to travel together. Transportation for clubs and teams like the debate team. We missed the last competition due to no transportation. Also, we would like more technology.

Stuart Hobson – Invest more in school lunches. Students go hungry and skip lunch because of the food we eat at lunch. More money should be invested in school lunch because it is crucial for students well-being. More money for teachers that stay after school for tutoring to encourage teachers to do that.

Kelly Miler – More money to add sports teams like football and tennis. We have tennis courts that we don't use. More productive opportunities for students after school. More investment in safety and technology and how to do AI. Barber school and cosmetology.

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

Hardy – Spend less money on school renovations had a \$50 million renovation and two months into the year we ran out of printing paper. More supplies for the school. We run out of toilet paper.

Capitol Hill Montessori – Less money for Sodexo, food has gotten worse. Many students are vegan and vegetarian. Eating PB&J gets old. Consider getting a new vendor. I also don't like Sodexo; I only eat chicken and I can't really eat many of the food options. I eat sun-butter & jelly every day.

Eliot Hine – Invest less in standardized testing, more in hands on projects. Invest less in school lunch, a lot of food is wasted/thrown away.

Walker Jones – Prioritize teachers more. School overemphasizes and focuses on the smarter kids.

Hart – Not clear on how budget is spent. We have a teacher that can fall under 3 different categories. We need more clarity on how the budget actually gets spent.

- Patrick Ashley – clarified how budget process works and shared about DCPS Budget website.

Excel – Spend less money on security, more on school suspension for students. More for auditorium and gym, studio for our talk show, more tech, and a working laptop for every student.

McKinley – Everything has a purpose, don't spend less on anything.

Sousa – Agree with everyone who says we should invest less in lunch. I don't eat a lot of school lunch. I would like to have career choosing, have more career days that include police officers and firefighters. I want to be a therapist, but I don't have a lot of information.

MacFarland – Prioritize more physical activities for schools. Need to take advantage of building up habits now before we take on more adult responsibilities later.

SWW @ Francis Stevens – Invest less in technology. Students should be held accountable for damaging tech like computers.

Ida B. Wells – Agree with issues around lunch, transportation, and technology. Field trips have been cancelled because of transportation. Most of us throw away the food we get for lunch. Computers have missing keys, broken keyboards, and it costs a lot to fix or buy certain computers.

Stuart Hobson – Spend less on school lunch because we spend \$270 million on lunch students do not enjoy it doesn't make sense. DCPS should reassess what we spend. We should more evenly distribute our money and not put things higher than others.

Brookland – Food not as good anymore, sometimes food is not properly prepared (I got a raw chicken wing!). Food used to be amazing. Can't drink milk for everything. Can't combine cheese pizza and milk and then ask us why our stomach is hurting. We used to get different juices. Invest in home cooks for schools and invest less in our school sports. We have a rec center nearby that can provide sports. Split the cost for school sports.