



2020 – 21 Chancellor’s Parent Advisory Board September 17, 2020 Meeting Notes

Agenda:

Time	Agenda Item
6:00 - 6:05 pm	Welcome and Overview of Agenda
6:05 – 6:20 pm	Introductions, SEL Opener & Norms
6:20 – 6:50 pm	Getting to Know Each Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Spotlight • Hopes and Dreams for School Year
6:50 – 7:25 pm	Reopening School Strong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates • Q&A with Chancellor Lewis D. Ferebee
7:25 - 7:55 pm	How We Will Work Together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity Framework • Overview of Deep Dive Small Group Topics
7:55pm - 8:00 pm	Closing and Feedback Form

Board Members in Attendance:

Name	Ward	School Community	In Attendance
Maria Vanessa Magana Martinez	1	Cleveland Elementary School	x
Hugh Beshers	1	Oyster Adams Elementary School	x
Michael Forster	1	Garrison Elementary School	x
Jillian Perrier	1	CHEC	x
Jen Kane	2	Marie Reed Elementary School	x



Patrick Shaw	2	Hyde-Addison Elementary School	x
Yasmin Hernandez	2	Bancroft Elementary School	
Buwon Tran	2	School Without Walls High School	x
Jessica Parson's O'Connell	3	Stoddert Elementary School and Hardy Middle School	x
Jill Bohnenkamp	3	Lafayette Elementary School	x
Oyinye (Cindy) Ukeneru - Steve	3	Deal Middle School and Hearst Elementary School	x
John Roane	3	Hardy Middle School	x
Vanessa Rubio	4	Brightwood Education Campus	x
Jennifer Snowden - McKay	4	Lafayette Elementary School and Deal Middle School	x
Diana Delgado	4	Bruce-Monroe Elementary School	x
Sumner McRae	4	Takoma Education Campus	x
Ricardo Villalba	5	Marie Reed Elementary School	x
Eduvirgen Peralta Cruz	5	School-Within-a-School	x



LaKresia Whittington	5	Banneker High School	x
Margaux Delotte - Bennett	5	Wheatley Education Campus	x
Matthew Watson	6	Wilson High School and Eaton Elementary School	x
Julie Muir	6	Miner Elementary School	x
Timothy Grisham	6	Van Ness Elementary School	x
Anjuli Shivshanker	6	Peabody Elementary School	x
Sherell Anderson	7	Houston Elementary School	x
Chantel Washington	7	Garfield Elementary School	x
Han-Na'h Harper	7	Bard High School and Roosevelt STAY High School	x
Jackie Alvarado	7	Bruce-Monroe Elementary School	x
Angela Humbert	8	Jefferson Middle School	x
Shavon Collier	8	Ketcham Elementary School, Kramer Middle School and Luke C. Moore High School	x



Sekou Toure	8	Payne Elementary School	x
Quiana Lamons	8	Ballou High School	x

DCPS Staff in Attendance:

- Lewis D. Ferebee - Chancellor
- Shanita Burney – Communications and Engagement, Officer
- Sarah Parker – Community Engagement, Deputy Chief
- Bijan Verlin – Community Action Team, Specialist
- Claudette Monroy – Community Engagement, Coordinator
- Lizz Rene – Equity Strategy and Programming, Manager
- Jennifer Nelson - Equity Strategy and Programming, Director
- Deitra Bryant-Mallory – Student Supports Division, Senior Deputy Chief
- Kenya Coleman – Mental Health, Senior Director

Summary of Notes and Comments:

- Reopening School Strong Updates
 - Chancellor Ferebee shared updates regarding the start of the school year.
 - Updates included: the number of devices and meals distributed, Canvas information, hot-line support, attendance, Parent University workshops and more.
 - Q&A:
 - I work with students in Ward 8 and we are short on devices, the tech has been crashing and computers have been malfunctioning. This is a major concern as students East of the River are already behind and are struggling with the basics.
 - Prioritize as much as possible for in-person learning.
 - I vote for a full in-person learning experience with a smaller group of students. Hybrid learning will be the most dangerous process as the kids could get infected on the off days.
 - When thinking about prioritizing in-school learning I want to see a plan on how teachers and school staff will also be protected.
 - Summary of Comments During Conversation:
 - Parents and guardians voiced their support for staggered reentry for students who need it the most.
 - Prioritize Social Emotional Learning (SEL) when students come back to school rather than testing.



- All parents and guardians voiced how grateful they are for their children's teachers.
- Parents encouraged DCPS to make the decision soon regarding Term 2 so that families can plan accordingly.
- Parents and guardians also would like to have more information regarding school HVAC systems.
- Parents expressed concerns around students' mental health and what requested more resources.

- **How We will Work Together**

Equity Framework

- Jennifer Nelson (Director, Equity Strategy and Programming) and Lizz Rene (Manager, Equity Strategy and Programming) provided an overview of [DCPS' Equity Framework](#) as grounding work for the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Board meetings.
 - Creating an environment to interrupt institutional bias, remove barriers to academic and social success particularly for students of color.
 - This framework is the lens that we use to evaluate decisions.
 - At the end of each school year we have a culminating conference.
 - Ms. Nelson and Ms. Rene encouraged parents and guardians to promote the upcoming DCPS EMOC / Reign Conference on Sept 26 for 6-12th grade students.

Deep Dive Small Group Topics

- Sarah Parker (Deputy Chief, Community Engagement) shared that based on prior-year best practice, this school year parents and guardians will join one of three Deep Dive discussions during the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Board meetings.
 - Topics were selected based on survey sent to parents and guardians in August 2020 and school priorities for 2020 – 2021.
 - Parents and guardians could use the exit form to select their top choice for Deep Dive topic. Deadline to fill out the form was September 23, but it was extended to September 28, 2020.

- **Other**

- Parents and guardians shared the following on Microsoft Teams chat:
 - We just moved here from the Boston area, and were surprised how well-coordinated the virtual school program is here in DC.
 - The biggest surprise for us was how versatile we must be with our careers and home balance. It's a struggle.
 - Being able to eavesdrop on classes and see exactly how my son interacts and engages with his teachers and classmates.



- My 4yr is excited and looks forward to her morning class with her friends.
- I was surprised by some of the rules, like the kids not being able to drink while on camera. It's been a challenge to enforce all of that and keep my kid engaged/unfrustrated.
- Are Parent University sessions posted online?
- More equity, equality and inclusion!
- Improve Special Education.
- Follow the science from other countries and school districts that have re-opened safely.
- We must listen to the kids. Many children in the community have been very vocal about virtual learning, not working for them. Considering you have some grade-school children helping their younger siblings with their schoolwork, distracting them from learning at home.
- I'm in school and the students are divided into 3 teams. Each team meets one week in-person and two weeks virtually. The school is empty for one week to clean. When a student tests positive an email goes out to all students. I'm not sure it's worth the risk.
- What about testing teachers, staff, and students regularly?
- Is the Parent University offered in other languages? Have you thought of English Classes for parents?
- Really like the idea of having some social interaction (aka one day a week) especially for younger learners like PK3 and PK4 who need to learn social skills. I fully support this and agree it is critical.
- Agree on prioritizing who needs it most. But I also agree that reopening is not only about distancing and limiting class sizes. CDC has operational guidance, and it explicitly mentions that a safe school facility needs to address ventilation: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html#:~:text=No%20mixing%20of%20groups%20of,masks%2C%20social%20distancing%2C%20hand%20hygiene>
- With cold & flu season beginning, I'm concerned with reopening school when the symptoms of COVID are so similar. Honestly, I know parents have to work and therefore they need kids to be at school, but I think it's a huge concern for students, staff and the community.
- On the socialization issue for kids, is there a way to do this even in our current virtual environment? One of the reasons our 1st grader hates virtual learning is that she can't talk directly to anyone or to the teachers. There is no time or facilitation of very small group or one on one SEL focused activities.
- My pk4 child saw his teachers yesterday (we picked up caterpillars for a butterfly project). Seeing the interaction, he had with teachers and some of his classmates



warmed my heart and made it obvious how much he misses them and how important these in-person relationships are for the young children.

- Agree about needing to know plans more in advance. The start of this school year was unbelievable stressful not knowing the schedule until the day of essentially.
- Completely agree -- better to make a decision early and execute it very well, rather than waiting until the last minute. For families to make plans for childcare / work / etc., we need that advance notice to manage all the spinning plates! Early decisions and good communication would be very much appreciated.
- Yes! The Wednesday self-learning day has been a brilliant & helpful move.
- Are there enough public health professionals available to support DCPS to plan for reopening? (e.g. outbreak plans, mitigation plans, spot checks, etc.)
- is there any data available that would help illustrate which group(s) of students are at the highest risk of disengagement during virtual learning?
- We are on the cusp of the flu season; I'm concerned for the students and the staff in returning to school.
- We know that DCPS is doing all it can to make sure that virtual learning is effective. When students return, is there a plan to assess any "brain drain" that may have occurred during remote learning?
- What advocacy work is being done to help the broader DC community prioritize opening schools? We have opened bars, restaurants, shops, etc. but how can we do some education and public awareness around the importance of schools, and what the broader community can do to support the children of the District? i.e. actions they could take, support they can provide.
- I hope Parent University will live beyond virtual learning.
- I think our conversation illustrates the complexities of closing or opening schools; I would like to see some kinds of activities move back to phase 1 to give schools a better chance of a safe return.
- I'm excited about having REAL conversations with REAL solutions for our communities!
- Also, parents who cannot read and write or speak the language. They need extra support.

Summary of Responses from Feedback Exit Form:

Twenty-six parents and guardians filled out an online exit form from the meeting on September 17, 2020. Parents and guardians also were able to choose their top choice for Deep Dive discussion group using the online form. Form was available in English and Spanish. Below are the average scores from the 26 surveys collected:



Question	Score
Please rate the information and content presented	4.58
Please rate your understanding of the goals and purpose for the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Board after the first meeting	4.34
Please rate your satisfaction having enough time to interact with Chancellor Lewis D. Ferebee	4.58
How would you rate the first meeting overall?	4.65

Additional Comments from Feedback Exit Form:

I look forward to working more with this group!
Huge lift! Each of you are superstars! Thank you!
enjoyed the interactive activities and the introductions/ spotlights
I am very excited to work with the team to assist with DCPS on their journey to continue to lead our students toward success! Today was a great meeting!!!
I think for a first meeting it went well. Really looking forward to the year!
Would have liked to have been able to see more people's faces - I couldn't see anyone's the way you can in Zoom except when they were speaking.
It would be nice to have a copy of the presentation prior to our meetings. We thank all of you for your time and dedication to our students and our community.
Really helpful first meeting. Great interaction and questions and engagement. Not easy to do with online spaces, but well done. Honored to be a part of this work.
There are topics I'd love to explore that don't necessarily fit neatly into one of the three deep dives. Will there be any opportunities for us to introduce new topics of discussion/interest? Also, will there be opportunities to work on sub-committees in between meetings? Thanks for a great evening - I'm excited to be part of this group!
I liked meeting everyone virtually. I also like knowing what's going on at the district level. I am very impressed with the quality of teachers, their warmth, and their level of engagement. Thanks for allowing everyday people to participate.
I was pleased with the first meeting (except of course my technical glitch when Teams shut down on me). I'm excited to dive into some important issues with this group as we move through this pandemic together. I look forward to hearing different points of view from my own (or viewpoints I hadn't considered) and collaborating with one another.
I don't know how a proven solution for this issue. For me, a lot of the DCPS initiatives are new. I love hearing about them, but processing the information is an intellectual chore. Participation was difficult for me; however, I expected to mostly listen this first meeting. I'm very impressed with the range of perspectives, the articulation, the involvement, and the support. It's a cliché, but I'm going to say it. This is an honor.
Great first session.



I think a training course should be provided for parents to learn how to operate the software that's being used for virtual learning.

I thought the first meeting was well organized and informative.

Thank you for the opportunity to be on the parent advisory board! I am grateful for everything the district is doing during this intense school year and look forward to contributing!

I thought the first presentation was excellent, very informative, and engaging.

I really look forward to working with this group, and bringing positive changes to DCPS, especially in this (hopefully) once-in-a-lifetime experience of a global pandemic and virtual education.

I am glad that I am part of this Parent Board, thank you again for the opportunity!

-I appreciate the chancellor's well thought out responses to parents' comments and questions.
-Consider having all participants post questions in the "chat" and leave a time slot on the agenda to answer those questions. This may help move the meeting along where all agenda items are covered by the set timeframe.
-Please consider having continual "Ice-breakers" on the agenda where we can build relationships with all parent advisory members.

IT WAS A NICE AND FRUITFUL DELIBERATION

Nothing else

I think that even though it was the first virtual meeting was very well organized. It was punctual from the beginning through the end.