



**Meeting:** Special Education Parent Advisory Board Meeting November Meeting

**Purpose:** The Special Education Parent Advisory Board will listen to parents' hopes, insights, and recommendations for how DCPS can better communicate with families and inform strategic work that is centered on the successful inclusion of students with disabilities.

**Date:** November 15, 2018

**Agenda:**

- I. Introductions
  - Sandy Watson, Director of Monitoring and Local School Support and Abbey Hable, Specialist, Office of Family and Public Engagement introduced themselves. Both will support Parent Advisory Board meetings.
- II. Review Group Norms, Board timeline, Feedback from the previous meeting
  - The board will presume positive intent and create a safe space to share personal experiences.
  - Feedback from the previous meeting indicated the desire for opportunities for learning and opportunities to provide feedback and to see the feedback in action.
- III. Special Education Data Observations
  - Data was review on due process complaints. There is more work to do. Feedback on how DCPS engages and communicates with families will be important.
- IV. Family Resource Guide Wows and Wonders
  - Board members wished they had access to the guide when they started the process at DCPS.
  - The above sentiment was echoed several times.
  - Visuals in the guide are effective, however the following content does not always match.
  - It would be helpful to include definitions throughout the document.
  - A flow chart or narrative that explains how the various pieces of content connects would be helpful for parents.
  - Include guidance on what to expect from a classroom environment and what you might see if you are not in a classroom environment.
  - In the section that talks about transitions to Opportunity Academies, it would be helpful to share more about Opportunity Academies.
  - Include additional information on college life and transition planning

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- Parents may also want information on what assessments are required and what is standard.
  - Middle school communication includes a number of communication gaps that need to be addressed.
  - Understand how the document be distributed and available to families online and in schools.
  - There are a lot of great resources for families but many don't know about it. For example, transition planning and opportunities.
  - There is a lot of important information included in the guide, but it is very dense and hard to digest quickly.
  - Consider including information on how to address grievances and issues before escalating.
  - Better understand the process to distribute the information and whether it looks different at every school.
  - Parents will need support understanding the content, what supports can DCPS provide?
  - Include information about trajectory- what should families expect at different points in the process as the child progresses through the grades and what services and resources are available.
- About half of the in the room were interested in revisiting the resource guide at future sessions.

V. Meeting Evaluation