



Chancellor's Parent Cabinet Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2017

5:30 – 8:00 PM

DCPS Central Office - 1200 First Street NE, WDC 20002

Presenters:

- Antwan Wilson, Chancellor, DCPS
- Shanita Burney, Chief, Office of Family and Public Engagement, DCPS
- Sarah Parker, Deputy Chief, Community Engagement, DCPS

Support: Nikki D’Angelo Petty, Sharona Robinson, Elias Hoffman, and Raquel Ortiz

Notes:

Meeting Attendees:

- DCPS Chancellor’s Parent Cabinet Members: Carletta Allen, Stephen Brown, Ray Crawford, Frances Davidson, Kerline Elise Jefferson, Arnebya Herndon, Angie Hicks Skinner, Catherine Kelly, Aurora Lopez, Ashley McMaster, Vimal Mehta, Chioma Oruh, Alan Page, Jacque Patterson, Alfons Prince, Alicia Rucker, Heather Schoell, Alex Simbana, Anne Smith, Michael Sriqui, Alicia Tolliver, Devin Turner, Nakisha Winston, Tamu Wright
- Not in Attendance: Alfons Prince, Alicia Tolliver
- Office of Family and Public Engagement: Shanita Burney, Sarah Parker, Nicole D’Angelo Petty, Sharona Robinson, Elias Hoffman, and Raquel Ortiz

Time	Agenda item	Key questions
5:30-6:00 PM	Pre-Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dinner - Take photos and secure final Information for online biographies <p><i>Note: A few parents who were either absent or arrived after 6:10 did not have picture taken for the bio.</i></p>
6:00-6:20 PM	Welcome and Positive Opener	<p>Introductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants were prompted to share a memory of the first day of school? - Many participants shared their memories with the whole group after discussing with neighbor. - Parents shared their name, ward of residence, where child(ren) attend school, any other relevant info <p>Hopes and Dreams Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nikki led the group in the activity, gallery walk, and sharing out. Parents were instructed to write down



		<p>their hopes and dreams for their school, their child(ren) and for DCPS. Responses included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ District – retain the best teachers, enhance extracurricular activities, support special needs students, support incarcerated students❑ School – no waitlists, diverse schools. There was a good amount of overlap for this among participants.❑ Child - continue the love of learning, part of a joyful environment❑ Hopes and Dreams for families – empowered so that everyone can do their best. <p>- This activity helped us summarize our hopes and dreams for students and their families. We will try to constantly connect back with the hopes and dreams.</p> <p><i>Note: Nikki collected flipcharts with additional examples.</i></p>
6:20-6:40 PM	Discuss Meeting Norms	<p>Norms for the group:</p> <p>Shanita discussed group norms including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- take a collaborative approach- lean into difficult conversations- go hard on issues and soft on people - we encourage conflict as long as it is discussed respectfully among the group. That is where real change happens. <p>Additional norms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In the interest of creating safe place for cabinet participants to have meaningful and open conversations, social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) should not be used to share anything discussed among the group. Many times, ideas and initiatives discussed are not finalized and therefore shouldn't be shared.- A parent brought up a discussion about bullying, violence, and being able to take pride in the school that your child attends. This group will not be focusing on individual school issues.- Confidentiality - This is a group that will be used in a high level advisory capacity. There will be times where sensitive topics will be discussed and there will be ample notice about the confidentiality of these issues.



<p>6:40-7:30 PM</p>	<p>Update and Discussion on DCPS Strategic Plan (2017-2018)</p>	<p>Welcoming remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chancellor Wilson welcomed everyone and gave an introduction to DCPS' Strategic Plan. He asked that parents turn their name cards up to the side to indicate when they have a question.- Chancellor Wilson reviewed gains on 2012-2017 Capital Commitment. In 5 years, DCPS schools have accelerated success at an impressive rate. There was a 50% student satisfaction, now that average is 82%; the average graduation rate was 52%, the rate is now at 69%; enrollment rates continue to grow; DCPS is the fastest improving urban school district in the country. Despite this, there is always room for improvement.- We need to focus on some strategic issues in order to be successful; we can't tackle them all.- In order to succeed, we must have a team of individuals that "row in the same direction." Excellence can't be achieved alone. <p>Strategic Plan engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- DCPS held a series of engagement from March through in order to shape the new strategic plan.- This was an iterative process that started with broad engagements follows by sharing multiple drafts of the plan and improving the plan based on ongoing feedback received.- A diverse set of stakeholders were engaged including, students, school leaders, instructional staff, Central Office employees, and community partners.- The new strategic plan (2017-2022 Capital Commitment) outlines what we want to accomplish through 2022.- The plan is comprised of several cascading elements, all of which are wrapped in our values. See Capital Commitment document. <p>DCPS Vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- we are trying to set a high bar with our vision. Someone asked what happens if the teacher is not in line with the DCPS' vision. Chancellor Wilson described that person as "high skill – low will." We have to help others understand the importance of their willingness to take on this ambitious plan we need everyone to do this work.
---------------------	---	---



		<p>DCPS Tagline- Every Student! Every School! Every Day!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- We are trying to reach every student, at every school, everyday. We can't have schools that do not believe this, we all need to make sure this is happening. <p>DCPS Mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The mission happens at the school level. There is too much attention on Central. We need to make sure that we are orienting schools correctly.- What is provided at PK-12th grade helps determine what else happens in student's life. Schools should be fun, and we have moved away from that. <p>DCPS Theory of Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- We believe schools should have more autonomy than there is now. Chancellor used a Starbucks analogy- each location carries pretty much the same product, but the decor is different. <p>Opportunities for innovation!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Community School model – Chancellor wants to make sure that we take significant efforts, when a school is underperforming we find it is not just a school – we need to bring in the accountability of everyone (it is all of us parents, teachers, and students).- Challenge is using relational influence, with our colleagues. We will need outside philanthropy to kick start the work, which has already started. <p>Each of these initiatives these can be done in 1-5 years.</p> <p>Strategic Priorities and Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chancellor Wilson talked about each priority, and the initiatives that are a part of them.- Ensure excellent schools- all schools should be schools people are proud of. Do not rate a school unless that rating comes with additional support. What does it mean to be a 2 star school? Or a 3 star school?. Tiering schools may be a better system of rating. What is a framework that we will use to gauge what a great school is? Culture and growth matter, what are some other things we can look at?
--	--	---



		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Educate the whole child – we do not want to allow the possibility to opting out of this priority.- Living the plan – this was an improvement plan, it does not build out a blueprint that has the steps. We are stating that we will build a plan based on our goals and other pieces laid out.- The Cabinet will be able to engage and inform each of the areas of the strategic priorities. We will use the cabinet as a soundboard for ideas.- Chancellor spoke about Strategy Management and how the internal team reports to the Chancellor and will maximize the impact of the Strategic Plan.
(7:30pm-7:50pm)*	How We Will Work Together This Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sarah presented seven initiatives, three of which the Cabinet will work on this year.- We pulled out these specific initiatives based on OFPE knowledge of what stakeholders are most interested in as well as areas where Cabinet feedback will have the most impact.- Cabinet members expressed an interest in working on some other initiatives outside of the seven provided.- Before next meeting, Cabinet members will provide feedback on what other initiatives they would like to work on and the entire Cabinet will vote at the next meeting on the final three.- This should not be a rushed process, it is important to understand these priorities.
7:50 - 8:00 PM	Meeting Evaluation and Optimistic Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Participants were asked to fill out the evaluation forms.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- October 12th is the next date of our meeting, the full schedule will be shared shortly. However, there may be an occasional time when meetings may need to reschedule given the Chancellor's evolving schedule.



8:00PM	Next Steps and Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OFPE will reach out to the Cabinet before next meeting to vote on initiatives preferences. - Cabinet members will take a look at the initiatives before the conference call. - Also if possible, we want to know if you would like to share your contact information with your peers in the group.
--------	------------------------	--

PARENT QUESTION (PQ)/COMMENT	DCPS RESPONSE
Do you have a relationship with those that are rowing in the “wrong direction”.	This strategic plan, is a system wide approach, we are looking to promote equity, and do what does it takes to ensure our schools and our students are successful.
How are families included into the work of the SEL work? How can families engage with the work that we are doing in this area?	All goals of the strategic plan have SEL elements as part of the work. As working groups are formed there will be the opportunity to learn more about what we are doing
PQ: Will there be an opportunity to add on to the working group for the priorities?	There will be the opportunity to do so, OFPE is very good at getting feedback and integrating that into the work that is done, we can look at other areas, a reminder that the months go by quickly.
Parent Question on re-enrollment rate – what does that mean?	Families leave for several reasons. We want to make sure we are the first choice. We are increasing, but we would like to be adding on more. We need attract those back to our schools, with academics, SEL for the whole Child, College and Career readiness, and we on track to meet those goals.
PQ – on parent capacity building. There is a lot of information, that parents do not know. How can we help build the capacity of parents, increase awareness and knowledge of these issues and initiatives?	Chancellor forums are an intentional effort to educate parents on the system. By bringing in leaders and stakeholders in different areas we can highlight some of these areas, and like many others
Parent Question: Living room chats – how will this be selected? How will they be selected?	There will be several throughout the city, we can’t meet them all, we want to be purposeful of the meetings, the process will be shared on how these meetings will be selected.



PQ - Is this a space where new initiatives can grow and the PC can help design and lead these new initiatives?	Yes, of course since we are working with OFPE.
Parent shared example of some teachers not being able or willing to pronounce children's names.	Chancellor gave example of his experience, talked about cultural competency how this is woven into the work.
Parent had question about Community schools model. Cultural and linguistic competency – how will the Community School model be used.	Whole child, whole school, whole community approach.
Question on the vote – ranking in area of importance.	Basically, we want to be create 8 groups of 3, but we are trying to see if the preference will be before making a final decision.
Decision – Where are we lining ourselves to? Work Plans that have decision points where the PC can come in and have an additional	Explanation of the reason these the initiatives were chosen, and that would permit the ability to actually influence some of these decisions. We want to be able to go deep into the issues
Do these priorities support the work of the Chancellor?	Yes