

## Feedback Summary from Chancellor Community Forum LaSalle Backus EC (January 9, 2018 at 8:45am)

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### Overview of Community Forum at LaSalle-Backus Education Campus

On January 9, 2017 Chancellor Antwan Wilson met with parents, school staff, and community members from across the district. As part of the event's agenda, attendees participated in a polling session around the DCPS Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) budget by answering questions related to the following four priorities:

- Technology
- Attendance
- Literacy
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

### Summary of Feedback from LaSalle-Backus- Polling Questions

#### Budget Planning Feedback

- When asked what additional information and supports would be helpful while thinking of budget planning, participants listed the following:
  - For next budget season, more and earlier communication regarding timing and focus of all the meetings/webinars/budget hearings. Not just assuming people will check your website every week to find out when things are happening.
  - Should a school's leadership team be included in the decision-making process with LSAT?
  - If I have questions around the budget guide who do I reach out to? It's confusing.
  - Addition support for schools to build stronger BES program
  - Support from central office for building mental health team

#### Technology

- Participants were asked: How important is digital curriculum and digital literacy at school today, for college and career readiness on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being least important and 5 being most important. The results were:
  - **5 - 74% of participants**
  - **4- 11% of participants**
  - **3- 15% of participants**
  - **2- 0% of participants**
  - **1 - 0% of participants**
- When asked if it serves students to have 1:1 devices for instruction and assessment needs,
  - **79% of participants said yes.**
  - **3% of participants said no.**
  - **17% of participants said somewhat.**
- When asked if it serves teachers to have 1:1 devices for instruction and assessment needs,
  - **79% of participants said yes.**
  - **0% of participants said no.**

- **21% of participants said somewhat.**
- When asked if it was important for students to take devices for use at home and outside school hours,
  - **79% of participants said yes.**
  - **21% of participants said no.**

#### Literacy

- When asked which was more important, classroom libraries or take-home books,
  - **53% of participants said classroom libraries were more important**
  - **47% of participants said take-home books were more important.**

#### Attendance

- When asked what supports they would like to see for students with attendance struggles, participants listed the following:
  - School buses
  - Language access and language support
  - Invite and increase parent engagement
  - School cleanliness
  - Assistance with getting younger students to school during the winter months
  - Parent volunteers to assist
  - Home visits and wrap around services where appropriate
  - Attendance personnel being more responsible
  - More time getting to know families and the issues that are impacting their attendance
  - WIFI access at home, online assignments available for students
  - More specialists to target individual needs of the student and family
  - Flexible start times for high school students
  - Positive reinforcements
  - More childcare available for students
  - Satellite learning opportunities
  - More afternoon programs (tutoring and homework help)
  - Team with availability to go into the community and engage families
- When asked the best way to communicate with families if their child is absent from school,
  - **75% of participants would prefer to be called on their cell phone number.**
  - **63% of participants prefer a text message.**
  - **33% participants prefer an email.**
  - **13% of participants prefer to be called on their house phone number.**
- When asked if they felt well-informed about student attendance requirements,
  - **67% of participants said yes.**
  - **4% of participants said no.**
  - **29% of participants said somewhat.**
- When asked if it would be more helpful to have several new school leadership teams trained in restorative justice practices, or if the focus should be on 10-20 schools that have already started the restorative justice work but need further support,

- **64% of participants said that DCPS should have several new schools trained in restorative justice practices.**
- **35% of participants said that DCPS should focus on the 10-20 schools that have already started the restorative justice work but need further support.**

### General Comments/Feedback

- "It is important to have libraries but also important to be able to take those books home so students can engage in reading, writing, etc. at home."
- "Some students learn differently when they are able to take books home and process what they are reading, it is helpful."
- "In high school, students are not able to bring books home, so books are out dated, teachers tell them to use online resources and social media to help with learning."
- "I would like to see school buses."
- "Many people do not know the law around the attendance policy. Teachers and families will ignore it because they are not informed."
- "We need interpreters for Amharic language, it is my understanding that it takes a few weeks to get one assigned."
- "I am concerned with students' safety. Students encounter things on the metro or on their walk home from school and the schools are not aware. How can we communicate with each other to know this is happening?"

### Questions from Sli.do/Q&A Session:

- Can DCPS add information about free Internet access on the website so that families can learn about the supports? Are there low-cost laptop opportunities?
- How can we support our immigrant families that are under attack by the government?
- What can an educator do to keep kids engaged though websites are blocked, to use the internet in the way it should be used?

### School Communities Represented:

- Barnard ES
- Bruce Monroe ES
- Burroughs
- Cleveland
- Cleveland ES
- Hearst ES
- LaSalle-Backus EC
- Randle-Highland ES
- Roosevelt STAY
- Stanton ES
- Tubman ES
- Whittier ES