

## Feedback Summary from Budget Community Forum Moten Elementary (December 12, 2018 at 8:45am)

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### Overview of Community Forum at Moten Elementary

On December 12, 2018, DCPS Leadership met with parents, school staff, and community members from across the district. As part of the event's agenda, attendees participated in a small group feedback session around the DCPS Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) budget from a district level perspective as well as a school level perspective. During the exercise, attendees were asked to review their individual schools' Comprehensive School Plans (CSP) and answer guiding questions.

### Summary of Feedback from Moten Elementary- Small Group Activity

**When asked how they could budget towards supporting their school's CSP goals and strategies, attendees responded:**

- Integrate special programming investments into CSP context areas (for example, FoodPrints)
- Knowing we can rely on funds that will allow us to maintain current staff levels.
- More funding for FoodPrints (and for expanding within DCPS), which is hard wired into school educational approaches and community building. FoodPrints is also the closest to a science curriculum for elementary schools, so it's crucial to sustain and grow the funding.
- Ability to establish appropriate specials that reinforce school goals and are not overly prescriptive.
- There's no give, we work with what we got and that's insufficient.

**When asked to what additional supports and strategies should be considered to support CSP goals, attendees responded:**

- More flexibility to reallocate funds- for example enrollment grows throughout the year from the initial budget allocation
- DCPS citywide needs to improve and better centralize technology coordination. Don't leave it to PTO's -this is an equity issue.
- Funds for FoodPrints
- Subs are an issue-our school struggles to set subs which huts learning for the whole school because it taxes the specials teachers and support staff.
- We need more flexibility with our at-risk funds to maintain our current staff.
- Support the flexibility needed to allow SWS to implement its plans to advance educational equity with special emphasis on closing the gap for African American students
- Have central office staff come to Hardy and let us show them why we struggle.

**When asked what flexibility would be needed to improve the FY20 budget season related to school goals and your CSP, attendees responded:**

- More flexibility on staffing
- More flexibility on specials
- More flexibility on no-personnel funding
- More flexibility on at-risk funding
- Know when programs will be phased out in advance

- Important to have staff flexibility, not getting locked into specific allocations that don't meet school needs.
- More flexibility on specials such as FoodPrints

### Additional Questions/Comments from Attendees:

- Schools don't need flexibility, there's simply no give. We need more staff for school operations and technology.
- I don't have my school's budget numbers, but I am an active PTA member and we are always fundraising to bridge the gap between DCPS' budget and our school's needs. I am not sure this is the appropriate forum to address individual school issues. The general conversation about the overall process to the degree there was a broader mention, suggests DCPS has a huge bureaucracy. Equity was mentioned as a theoretical issue without concrete plans for addressing equity concerns.
- This meeting was helpful for parents but for LSAT members or DCPS staff, we need help in understanding the Comprehensive Staffing Model
- You mention key priorities being looked at racial equity and inequity. How does that priority show up in cultures bound to schools?
- You have webinars for LSAT's at 12pm, can you have them after 3:30pm so that teachers on the LSAT can attend.
- There is a lot of talk about data collection, where in the budget process is the cut off point for this data collection so that we can address the data collected and get to work? The part that you act on the situation. There is already a lot of data collected, we need to move on the phase where we implement those plans and act on the data.
- Last year during the process the feedback I got from my LSAT members were that they wanted additional resources beyond the webinars. Is there anything they can do to be familiar with the process before February?
- Can we talk about how DCPS budget planning is affected by mayoral discretion and how it affects long term planning for projects (i.e. modernizations)? How can we maintain a long-term strategic plan with short term mayoral terms based on budget?

### School Communities Represented:

- Amidon-Bowen ES
- Eaton ES
- Hardy MS
- Ketcham ES
- Moten ES
- Seaton ES
- Stanton ES
- SWS at Goding ES
- Thomson ES
- Tubman ES
- Tyler ES