

Feedback Summary from Chancellor Community Forum Savoy ES (December 12, 2017 at 6:00pm)

Overview of Community Forum at Savoy Elementary School

On December 12, 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 small group feedback session around the DCPS Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) budget from a district level perspective as well as a school level perspective. During the exercise, attendees were asked to prioritize the budget at the district level and school level around the following four priorities:

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

Summary of Feedback from Savoy- Small Group Activity

When asked to provide percentage breakdowns (adding up to 100%)* for the 4 priorities from above, the attendees felt on average that DCPS should supply the following percentages at the district level:

- 28% to Technology
- 25% to Literacy
- 25% to SEL
- 15% to Attendance
- 6% to Other (e.g. arts, transportation, leadership supports, parent engagement, bullying initiatives, etc.)

When asked to provide percentage breakdowns (adding up to 100%)* for the 4 priorities from above, the attendees felt on average that DCPS should supply the following percentages at the school level:

- 32% to Literacy
- 30% to SEL
- 13% to Other (e.g. financial literacy, related arts, ELL, math interventions, leadership training, etc.)
- 13% to Attendance
- 12% to Technology

Specific Quotes:

- "Social emotional health is the foundation for everything."
- "More and more technology is critical."
- "Rich content in the arts and sciences makes for better readers. It gets reflected in literacy scores and helps close the achievement gap between families."
- "SEL is the most important benefit of these categories and will affect literacy and attendance."
- "The District should take ownership of technology and norm it across the District."

- "Need to focus on leadership."

Questions from Sli.do/Q&A Session:

- How would the training of teachers in Social and Emotional Learning work?
- Are you in favor of revisiting the 80/20 rule for attendance?
- How are you going to improve the school experience for kids with IEPs?
- What determines whether the City Council will give more funding to DCPS- how best can parents and educators advocate for that?
- We may have more adults in high schools but we don't have more teachers. Would you increase that ratio?
- When will we get rid of IMPACT? Very stressful to teachers.
- Every year several veteran Teachers get impacted out unfairly. Impact is "subjective" & "arbitrary". Will Impact be revamped?
- How are you going to deal with the fact that our students privacy information is being leaked?
- How will you ensure that teachers don't get pressured to push kids through even if they aren't ready to pass the class due to attendance or otherwise?
- A lot of people say that Ballou is the poster child for DCPS's mistakes. Do you agree?
- How will we ensure that local schools get adequate funding? Will central office staff be reduced in size?
- Since attendance is not compulsory for Pre-K, it often negatively impacts attendance data for elementary schools. How can we address this?
- The equity funding was excellent! Thank you.
- Why has no one taken into consideration the opinions/suggestions of both parents and teachers at Ballou, and not just former teachers who have been fired?
- How many millions of dollars will be allocated for DCPS instead of KIPP?
- Why do Ballou have the rule that if you are tardy and miss one period you are absent for the day? Is that part of the reason why Ballou attendance look so bad?
- How will we ensure an end to unfunded mandates?
- \$230 million was requested for KIPP why not DCPS?
- How is that the media have some much so-called info about our schools and you don't know or care
- We have many wonderful things going in our WARD 8 public schools. Why all the negative media and comments?
- What is the plan to reach the 100% goal for K - 2 students? How will you change the teacher student ratio?
- When will the district invest in text books for literacy?
- The other day at the school, the students got a banana, a muffin, & milk for breakfast. When will DCPS revisit the school breakfast program?
- Will there be extra funding available for reading courses at the high school for struggling students?
- Teachers just need to teach...as a parent I shouldn't even know what IMPACT is.
- What is so bad about a five-year plan for students that need more support/time if the result is a well-rounded person?

School Communities Represented:

- Ballou HS
- Beers ES
- Cardozo EC
- HD Cooke ES
- HD Woodson
- Jefferson MS
- Kelly Miller MS
- Ketchum ES
- LaSalle-Backus EC
- Moten ES
- Phelps HS
- Plummer ES
- Savoy ES
- School Without Walls HS
- Simon ES
- Takoma EC
- Walker Jones EC
- West EC
- Wheatley EC
- Whittier EC