

ISI Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2019

5:00 – 7:00PM

Emery PD Center, 1720 First St NE

Presenters:

- Amy Maisterra, Deputy Chancellor of Innovation and Systems Improvement (ISI), DCPS
- Rob Jaber, Director Food & Nutrition Services, DCPS
- Constance (Connie) Parham, Manager, School Design and Innovation, DCPS
- Erin Watts, Research Manager, American University
- Anastasia (Stacy) Snellings, Chair and Professor, Department of Health Studies, American University

Notes:

Meeting Attendees:

- DCPS ISI Advisory Board Members: Alexandra Simbana, Robert Vinson Brannum, Lea Howe, Daniel Obregon, Raymond Weedon, Andrew Weltman, Avril Knott, Jacqueline Gran, Kimberley Harrison
- Not in Attendance: Tina Fletcher, Lissa Rosenthal-Yoffe, Carlos Ellerbe, Sherice Muhammod, Francis Davidson, Bianca Singh, Grace Hu and Brittany Wade
- Office of Family and Public Engagement: Katie Mustian
- Office of Innovation and Systems Improvement: Amy Maisterra and Charlotte Flournoy
- Office of School Design and Continuous Improvement: Connie Parham
- Food and Nutrition Services, Office of Innovation and Systems Improvement: Rob Jaber and Laura Cochrun
- American University: Stacy Snellings and Erin Watts

Agenda item	Comments
Pre-Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner and mingle
Welcome and Opening: LSAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy opened the meeting with updates on the FY20 Budget Engagement timeline. DCPS engaged principals and LSAT members around the FY20 budget, process and timeline. • School budget priorities will be finalized in Jan, budgets will be finalized by March and DC Council hearings on Budget will take place April/May. • Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) Roundtables took place January 8, 9 and 15th.

<p>Food and Nutrition Services Overview</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DCPS Food and Nutrition Services is responsible for leading food service programs and operations for 112 school buildings; serving almost 10 million meals annually ● Food services are provided through contracts with Sodexo Magic in 99 school buildings, DC Central Kitchen in 12 school buildings, 1 self-operated FNS in Excel Academy in Ward 8 ● FoodPrints FRESHFARM, is a program that matches menu items with what students are learning, studying, harvesting, preparing then eating. ● Funding is a challenge—FNS relies mostly on grant funding. They have a 5-year grant through USDA with NFA. <p>Question: What’s your take on community share tables and how can Title 1 school students benefit?</p> <p>Answer: There are existing community share tables. We are working with the Department of Health to have more programs district wide as its currently operating in a school by school system but we’ve working to see how we can streamline districtwide.</p> <p>Question: Is there a way for parents who can afford breakfast for their kids to chip in on free breakfast for other students who have a need?</p> <p>Answer: Breakfast is universally free, it’s a legislated mandate. Accepting donations is a challenge, however if parents would like to see a quicker, faster impact we advise parents to work with Health and Human Services who accepts donations regularly for food and clothing.</p> <p>Comment: It may be easier to donate to your school’s PTA or PTO.</p> <p>Question: My daughter who brings her lunch to school was told to bring cold lunches, i.e., sandwiches—she would like the option to bring warm food however there aren’t any microwaves students have access to. Can (parents) provide microwaves?</p> <p>Answer: This is something the school would have to decide, this isn’t something FNS can enforce.</p> <p>Recommendation: In the same vein of community share tables, schools should have a shared refrigerator for low income students and families.</p> <p>Question: Can FNS accommodate allergies; such as soy milk for a child with dairy and nut allergies?</p> <p>Answer: Yes, FNS can provide any other kind of milk aside from dairy.</p> <p>Question: How can a student acquire snacks throughout the day</p> <p>Answer: There currently isn’t a funding stream for snacks.</p>
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	<p>Recommendation: It would be helpful if communication from FNS went directly to parents and families opposed to going through the schools.</p>
<p>American University Food Study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AU conducted a study on how much lunch students consume by dissecting the use of time during their lunch breaks. “Time Through Line” studies showed how long it takes students to get their lunch and consume their lunch. 58% of the students got through the line in 10 min. Students who have less than 20 min seated time aren’t eating their full meal. ● The smarter lunchroom: Make them more visually appealing, well lit, friendly cafeteria staff and making sure trash cans aren’t too close to the tables. ● Additional studies included The Lunch Crunch app which is a data collector that marks if a student consumed all, some or most of their entrees, fruits and vegetables. <p>Question: Is a 30 min meal period applicable to all grades? Answer: No, high schools offer multiple lunch periods and more food lines. We collected data in ES. HS lunch periods flow differently because students are more independent.</p> <p>Comment: Recently kids went through middle of the year assessment testing and the commenter had heard that students only got 5 or 10 min for lunch. This is alarming as kids won’t test well if they are hungry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Additional studies included a Taste test— to help students incorporate vegetables by taking a popular entrée and adding a vegetable to it. Ex: Pizza topped with spinach or broccoli with lemon vs. broccoli with parmesan. <p>Question: Do students have their opinions asked before taste testing or is it general? I’m wondering if we’re engaging students prior to the test to ensure their voices are being heard. Answer: We do engage but, in this case, we are providing students with a sample.</p>
<p>ESSA Needs Assessment and Student Engagement Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We engaged 8 comprehensive schools in December and January to gather information around leadership, school culture academics and equity. ● The purpose was to understand the reality and dreams of students at the school-- to hold conversations around transformation strategies, understand root causes, and identify when during the school day, children are feeling loved, prepared and challenged.

<p>Next Steps and Closing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy thanked the members for their attendance Comment/Concern: Morale lowers in schools with staff and students when DCPS receives a new Chancellor. We can't afford to lose traction on programs and policies that are already in motion. Response: While transition does have an impact, staying focused on mission and values (services to students and families) is a top to bottom commitment. The voice of stakeholders related to priorities is a constant, and vehicles such as this board help us remain focused as a service organization. Dr. Ferebee will no doubt want to meet with you as well and receive your input. • Charlotte will circulate evaluation forms via email • FNS Advisory Board Meeting date has been changed due to a conflict. Charlotte will circulate the new date to the group once its determined.
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