

Chancellor's Parent Cabinet: Meeting Notes

July 21, 2014
5:30 – 8:00 PM
DCPS Central Office

Overview:

Meeting Goals

- Introduce the PARCC to Cabinet Members
- Receive input on DCPS' PARCC communications plan implementation
- Learn more about the move from DC CAS to PARCC
- Experience PARCC from the student perspective
- Influence DCPS' PARCC communications plan implementation

Additional Resources

Materials referenced during the meeting:

- Sample PARCC test items
- An interview of Comedian Louis CK on *The Late Show with David Letterman*

Attendees

- *DCPS Chancellor's Parent Cabinet Members*: Sharona Bean Robinson, Susan Boa, Gary Carleton, Patrick Clowney, Marcio Duffles, David Galbraith, Vivian Guerra, Christena Howell, Laura Levine, Rahul Mereand-siniha, Dan Rosenthal, Andrew Rowe, and Emily Walton
- *Not in attendance*: Angelina Bradley, Olivia Chase, Craig DeWolfe, Kevonya Dickens, Sirraya Grant, Gloria Norman-Okojie, Leslie Scott, Idella Simpson, Thomas Strike, Aquila Watson, Martin Welles, Arthur Yarbrough, and Chancellor Kaya Henderson
- *DCPS Office of Family and Public Engagement*: Josephine Bias Robinson, Shanita Burney, Jennifer Skates
- *Speaker*: Valen Cayetano, Director of Assessments, Office of Data and Strategy (ODS); Jessica Rauch, Chief of Staff for ODS; Rachel Williams, Teacher, Leckie Elementary School; Melissa Salmanowitz, Press Secretary, Office of Communications

Notes:

Issue	Comments
Welcome and Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cabinet Members made several suggestions about deepening their impact, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Serving terms longer than 12 months ○ Receiving topics and discussion questions in advance of meetings to generate more thoughtful discussion and think of questions for peers ○ Generating feedback through formats like listservs, newsletters, etc. ▪ Tonight's meeting is on assessments. Attendees will hear from Jessica Rauch and Valen Cayetano from the Office of Data and Strategy (ODS). Rachel Williams, a teacher at Leckie Elementary School, will also present. Ms. Williams is working at Central Office this summer as a Teacher Central to Leadership Fellow with a specific focus on the communications plan for DCPS assessments.
Focus Topic: Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tonight's presentation is on the implementation plan for Partnership for Assessment and Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). ▪ DCPS is developing a robust communications plan to clearly explain the transition from DC CAS to PARCC to the community. ▪ PARCC is a new assessment aligned with Common Core Standards in English Language Arts (reading) and Math. DCPS is part of a 13-state consortium that makes decisions about the assessment's format and content. DCPS is using an online format to administer the test. Not all states in the consortium are using this format. ▪ The assessment is computer-based and has two main components: 1) summative to replace DC CAS and 2) formative to replace PIA and ANET. The latter is still being developed. ▪ PARCC will be used for students in grades 3-11 and has two, 20-day testing windows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Performance Based Assessment (PBA): More difficult questions on Math and English Language Arts ○ End of Year Assessment (EOY): Easier questions with multiple choice/drag and drop on Math and English Language Arts ○ There are at most five units for each session and students are given a certain amount of time to complete each unit. From experience in field testing in spring 2014, students take anywhere from 20 to 40 minutes to complete a unit. ▪ ODS is creating the following procedures for this new assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Norming data and defining scores in the five proficiency descriptions for PARCC ○ Communicating results to parents ○ Supporting and assessing teachers in aligning their work to these new standards ▪ The diagnostic window for PARCC will start after Labor Day, so

	<p>families will have time to become familiar with the PARCC materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers will be trained on using the PARCC software, and they will train their students. Students will have an opportunity to practice using PARCC software prior to the test. There will be paper options for students with special needs. DCPS is contracting with Pearson, which is using TestNav, to administer PARCC. CTB McGraw Hill has also been involved in the test development process.
Group Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Williams spoke about her students' experience taking the practice test and addressed the group's questions and concerns, which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCPS' preparedness for potential bugs in the platform. Parents will likely blame student's scores on technological issues. DCPS' preparedness for a generational gap that will make some parents inherently resistant to computer-based testing. There should be resources to orient parents to this new system. Data that will be available to parents on a school's performance based on these test scores. Need for better definitions around the scoring system, particularly around the "Below Basic" scores to ensure those students do not feel inadequate. The communications plan for local schools to communicate about PARCC to ensure all parents receive the same message but ensuring strategies are tailored to each community (i.e. robo calls, fliers, etc.). Principals and school leaders should know this messaging needs to be prioritized. The number of test days/hours students will spend on PARCC versus DC CAS so parents do not feel like their students will be over-tested. Ensuring special education students have the resources they need to complete the test and their parents are well informed. Engaging the community around this topic – it is equally as important as school closings. Understanding how this test will impact teacher evaluations/performance.
Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Cabinet Members will be contacted if there are other opportunities for feedback on PARCC. Conference calls will be held on July 24 from 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM with the Chancellor and July 25 from 12:00-12:30 PM.