
Chancellor's Parent Cabinet: Meeting Notes

Tuesday, September 9, 2014
5:30-8:00 PM
DCPS Central Office

Overview:

Meeting Goals

1. Understand the key initiatives that the Office of Planning and Postsecondary Readiness (OPPR) leads and how they impact student outcomes
2. Provide input on how to best engage all parents and families on DCPS school planning efforts
3. Share thoughts on what engaging families on college and career readiness should look like at every grade band

Attendees

- *DCPS Chancellor's Parent Cabinet Members:* Sharona Bean Robinson, Susan Boa, Gary Carleton, Olivia Chase, Patrick Clowney, Craig DeWolfe, David Galbraith, Sirraya Grant, Vivian Guerra, Christena Howell, Laura Levine, Dan Rosenthal, Thomas Strike, Emily Watson, and Martin Welles
- *Not in attendance:* Angelina Bradley, Kevonya Dickens, Rahul Mereand-Sinha, Gloria Norman-Okojie, Andrew Rowe, Leslie Scott, Idella Simpson, Aquila Watson, and Arthur Yarbrough
- Chancellor Kaya Henderson
- *DCPS Office of Family and Public Engagement:* Josephine Bias Robinson, Shanita Burney
- *Guest Speakers:* Emily Durso, Chief, OPPR; Anjali Kulkarni, Deputy Chief School Planning and Implementation, OPPR

Notes:

Issue	Comments
Welcome and Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The beginning of the 2014-15 school year was a success, attracting 1,500 more students than the previous school year. These numbers are based on enrollment forms collected by local schools.▪ Attendees were invited to attend the Chancellor's Address on September 30, 2014 from 7:00-9:00 PM at Woodson High School.▪ Emily Durso, the Chief of the Office of Planning and Postsecondary

	<p>Readiness (OPPR), will speak about immediate and long-term priorities for her office.</p>
<p>Focus Topic: School Planning and College and Career Readiness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OPPR is the DCPS’ newest office with a mission to guide and implement school plans to support every student’s access to exciting and engaging educational options that will prepare them for future college and career opportunities. ▪ Ms. Durso is a native Washingtonian and attended all of her post-secondary schools in DC. She has worked in the economic development and hospitality industries and spent three years in the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). <p>SCHOOL PLANNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The School Planning division works across varied DCPS offices and serves as the center for school planning within DCPS. This team coordinates issues around budget, portfolio, and the tools schools need to be successful. ▪ This team is currently tasked with the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-envisioning DCPS high schools, including Roosevelt, Coolidge, and Ballou ○ Launching new schools, including Brookland Middle School and Van Ness Elementary Learning Center ○ Implementing program improvements such as STAY programs and alternative schools ▪ The team works closely with Brian Hanlon’s Department of General Services (DGS), formerly Office of Public Education Facilities Management (OPEFM) under Allen Lew. The office oversees the actual building and construction for schools. OPPR advises on how the buildings should support student learning and academic programming. It takes approximately two to three years to open a new school. <p>COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This team works on projects of two main categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ College Readiness: Strategic initiatives to improve students’ preparedness for college. Initiatives include dual enrollment partnerships, SAT test prep classes, and the DC Meets Washington summer program. ○ Career Pathways: Work includes the National Academy Foundation (NAF) Career Academies and career and technical education. The career academies are a three-legged stool: 1) the local schools; 2) NAF which provides professional development for teachers; and 3) the business community, which helps provide funding and career, internship, and mentorship opportunities for students. ▪ OPPR is important because DCPS needs a department that thinks through how to best open, close, and re-engineer schools. Much of this process involves middle schools and high schools. One of the most important pieces in these processes is how DCPS engages and partners with the community around these initiatives. ▪ OPPR is planning to introduce career skills in middle schools to show

	<p>students what kinds of careers exist in their own city. OPPR also hopes to teach middle school students more about the different offerings at high schools across DC, so students better understand how certain schools could advance particular career paths (e.g. arts education vs. STEM).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developmentally, students begin to understand and explore careers during middle school. It will be important for DCPS to map their high school curricula to high wage careers in DC (e.g. hospitality, healthcare, etc.) to drive students to success in high school. The DC Meets Washington program achieved this with 100 students over four weeks in the summer. ▪ As OPPR develops its initiatives, it is considering how to best identify students for career-specific education paths and ensure flexibility if a student needs to change tracks. ▪ To help increase DCPS students SAT/ACT test scores, DCPS will pilot standardized test prep classes in three schools this year. The goal is for all 11th graders to take SAT/ACT prep classes next school year. One of DCPS' largest initiatives is revamping its curriculum, driven largely by the PARCC team, which is aligned to the ACT. The ACT will also be changing next year as a result of a study the College Board conducted finding poor and rural students have the aptitude for these tests, but they don't have the access to information. The Chancellor was recently invited to join the Board of Trustees for College Board. ▪ DCPS has several partnerships that place students with disabilities into career training programs. Additionally, these students are considered for placement in the NAF Career Academies. OPPR Deputy Chief Anjali Kilkarni has been intentional in integrating the Office of Specialized Instruction (OSI) into this work.
<p>Group Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parents provided recommendations on how OPPR can create an collaborative engagement process in its work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There should be a roundtable discussion with students on these topics to have them as part of the conversation. ○ Career development should not be exclusive to the Career Academies. All teachers should be trained to educate students on various careers possibilities.
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCPS is re-evaluating hosting regular Chief Chats because of low participation. September's call has been cancelled. ▪ Next month's meeting topic is on the DCPS Teacher experience, focusing mostly on teacher recruitment/selection, IMPACT and Professional Development, and retention. Attendees should write down one question on this topic on their meeting evaluations. (NOTE: This topic was changed to a discussion on student attendance, behavior, and support with the Office of Youth Engagement.) ▪ Cabinet Members are encouraged to attend the Chancellor's Address later this month.

Next meeting – October 14, 2014 from 5:30-8:00 PM