

Chancellor’s Parent Cabinet Meeting Notes

November 12, 2014
5:30-8:00 PM
DCPS Central Office

Meeting Goals

1. Understand the key initiatives that OIR leads and how they impact improvement of DCPS student outcomes
2. Provide feedback on the Young Males of Color (YMC) Initiative that contributes to the overall implementation of the initiative

Materials Provided During the Meeting

- Deck sent to Cabinet on 11/6 “Achievement Gap Presentation”
- Meeting notes from the Parent Cabinet Selection subcommittee
- Schedule of upcoming meetings and topics

Attendees

- *DCPS Chancellor Parent Cabinet Members:* Sharona Bean Robinson, Susan Boa, Gary Carleton, David Galbraith, Sirraya Gant, Vivian Guerra, Christena Howell, Dan Rosenthal, Andrew Rowe, Idella Simpson, Thomas Stirke, and Emily Walton
- *Not in attendance:* Olivia Chase, Patrick Clowney, Craig DeWolfe, Marcio Duffles, Sirraya Grant, Christena Howell, Rahul Mereand-Sinha, Leslie Scott, and Martin Welles
- Chancellor Kaya Henderson
- *Office of Family and Public Engagement:* Josephine Bias Robinson and Shanita Burney
- *Speakers:* Robert Simmons, Chief, Office of Innovation and Research (OIR); Burnell Holland, Chief of Staff, OIR

Notes:

Issue	Comments
Welcome and Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Community Engagement division with the Office of Family and Public Engagement has hired a new coordinator who will provide support to this group. She will begin next month. ▪ The Parent Cabinet Selection Subcommittee held its first meeting this month and made the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extend Cabinet Members’ terms from 12 to 18 months ○ Stagger membership after 18 months to include the following process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keep one-third of current members each year ▪ A Cabinet Member should not serve more than two terms

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing members would be required to apply if they wanted to extend their term ▪ Selection process should account for diversity in race, age, geography, etc.
<p>Focus Topic: Young Males of Color (YMC) Initiative* <i>(*Note: YMC is now known as the Empowering Males of Color Initiative)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Office of Innovation and Research (OIR) is a new office. The mission of this office is to use research and data to drive innovation in the school district. ▪ The Office is led by Dr. Robert W. Simmons who most recently served as the Director of the Center for Innovation in Urban Education at Loyola University Maryland as well as an associate in the School of Education and an affiliated faculty member in the African and African American studies program. ▪ OIR covers three main topic areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Innovation and Design ○ Research ○ Young Males of Color (YMC) Initiative ▪ When looking at the achievement gap, DCPS has to consider the demographic makeup of its students. Of the DCPS student body, 43% are black or Latino males who are underperforming compared to their peers of different races. ▪ DC CAS results have improved overall for DCPS students since 2007, including for racial and gender subgroups. But for some subgroups, the pace of growth is not fast enough. Black male students, in particular, are the farthest behind. ▪ The gap does not relate only to test scores. There are similar gaps when looking at literacy skills, attendance, suspensions, student satisfaction, and graduation rates. ▪ The data presents three findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The achievement gap persists despite DCPS gains ○ The achievement gap is not just on test scores ○ Black students, particularly boys, are the farthest behind ▪ In order for DCPS to meet its Capital Commitment goals, the school district needs to think of new ways to target services to this group of students who comprise most of the student body. ▪ As a response, OIR has proposed the Young Males of Color (YMC) Initiative, an aligned effort by DCPS to identify and assess current challenges and successes of PK-12 African American and Latino males. The YMC Initiative will identify and help school leaders – both Central Office and school-based – implement effective strategies to enhance the student experience, increase achievement, and prepare our young men for college, careers, and life beyond DCPS. The initiative is comprised of three main strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify and match 500 mentors of color with DCPS black and Latino students to support their literacy skills ○ Implement a grant program that supports school initiatives that meet the strategic YMC Initiative goals ○ Develop a proposal to create an Urban Prep Academy, a nonprofit network of all boys schools out of Chicago, IL,

	<p>which would be designed for young men of color and located in Ward 7 or 8</p>
<p>Discussion Questions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cabinet Members provided several recommendations around the YMC Initiative, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OIR needs to bring young males of color into their conversation to guide the decisions the office makes about YMC Initiative strategies. OIR could consider hosting a roundtable with those students and families. ○ The narrative of the DC Urban Prep Academy should be carefully crafted to communicate the Urban Prep Academy model, the positive outcomes that have resulted from this model, and that this is not a strategy to single out young men ○ OIR needs to think about how it will target families of young men of color who do not always know about the educational opportunities available to their students ○ The focus needs to be on wraparound services to really address the challenges these student faces. The YMC Initiative strategies cannot bridge the achievement gap when young men of color are absent from school at such high rates. ○ Fellow students should have the opportunity volunteer for the mentoring program. ○ A school like DC Urban Prep Academy could have a negative impact on the other comprehensive high schools in Wards 7 and 8 by decreasing those schools' enrollment numbers. ○ The communications plan for the DC Urban Prep Academy announcement should be tailored for each community.
<p>Closing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There will be additional details on the Cohort 2 Parent Cabinet application process. Current Cabinet Members will be required to submit an application if they would like to be considered for an extended term. ▪ Next month's meeting topic is on attracting new families to DCPS. (Note: The meeting topic was changed to the FY 2016 budget engagement process.)

Next Meeting Date – January 13, 2015 from 5:30-8:00 PM