

## EMHS Community Cabinet Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 18, 2016  
Deanwood Recreation Center  
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

### Meeting Objectives

Meeting participants will:

1. Hear updates on the school's enrollment, facilities, and hiring plans.
2. Discuss the school's response to the recent violent crime in the neighborhood.
3. Provide feedback on how the school can attract new families while still focusing outreach efforts on matched families.

### Meeting Attendees:

- *EMHS Community Cabinet Members:* Lois Berlin, Brandon Daniels, Chantal Fuller, Antawan Holmes, Bridgette Hudson, Robert Pierre, Monica Roaché, Kathy Silva, Michael Taylor, Eboni-Rose Thompson, Keith White, Han-na'h Wright, Julian Wright, Dion Davis, Mark Samburg
- *Not in Attendance:*, Sirraya Gant, Donny Gonzalez, Antawan Holmes, Maurice Kie, Erwin Kwawu, Jessica Scheer, David Smith, Eric Vinson, Tinley Wickersham, Larry Womack
- *Office of Family and Public Engagement:* Shanita Burney, Sarah Parker, Billy Kearney, Sharona Robinson, Allison D'Aurora
- *Office of Chief Operating Officer:* Teresa Biagioni
- *Community Members:* Amin Muslim, Alicia Rucker, Donna Preston

### Notes:

Topic	Comments
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On April 1 the school received the list of students who had been matched and waitlisted in the My School DC Lottery.</li><li>• Tonight's meeting will focus on outreach to those families to encourage them to enroll in the school.</li></ul>
Facilities Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Facilities Planning and Design coordinator wasn't able to attend tonight's meeting, so the team will send a facility update via e-mail. The first floor demolition is complete.</li></ul>
Deanwood Metro Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In the past few months, two young men have been killed at the Deanwood Metro Station. The EMHS planning group has received feedback from matched families that they are concerned about the increase in violence.</li><li>• It is a top priority for the school to address parent's concerns and ensure there is a strong plan to keep the students safe.</li><li>• Members of the EMHS Planning Group have attended community meetings to hear what their concerns are and</li></ul>

	<p>build those into the plan. Principal Williams is also meeting with other area schools to discuss a neighborhood safety plan because this affects all of the schools in the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal Williams sent an e-mail to all matched and waitlisted families to acknowledge the incidents and inform families of his initial safety plan and that he is working on a n updated on that will be announced once it is finalized.</li> <li>• Cabinet members provided the following reactions to this e-mail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It was reassuring that there was forethought and a plan to ensure safety. It was particularly reassuring to know that the school is coordinating with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).</li> <li>○ The community should share some of the responsibility in keeping the students safe. These are community members who are aggressors toward each other.</li> <li>○ Families want to know that the school has some sort of plan and isn't running away from the violence.</li> <li>○ The e-mail was important because Principal Williams has established that he will be communicating with families about important issues.</li> <li>○ The e-mail was valuable, but parents are wondering how long the school can keep the plan in place. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For DCPS, the plan will be sustainable, but resources from MPD cannot be guarantted. The school is trying to work out a plan for their specific officer in the area, but the plan depends on his or her assignment.</li> <li>▪ The safety plan is being modeled after Jefferson Middle School. Their staff is stationed throughout the neighborhood to ensure their students are where they need to be.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ It is important to not overpromise to families. The school should set clear expectations about what it can commit to throughout the school year and what MDP's commitment will be.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cabinet members were then asked to provide feedback on other considerations the school should make in its responses to parents. Their suggestions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is important to remind families that these were two isolated incidents. The community has to focus on the impact this school will have on our young men to stop events like these from happening. The goal of this school is to make the lives of its young men better than what they are.</li> <li>○ Communicating frequently in these situations is</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<p>important because people will get frustrated when they feel like information is being withheld.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Students are going to have to deal with people who might harass them when they walk around with their coat and tie. School staff and parents should be ready to rally around the students to remind them why they are at this school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is something the school has considered. Staff are thinking of ways to be creative, such as allowing students to store their uniforms at school if they feel uncomfortable wearing it outside of school.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ The school has to remember, and remind families, that it can only control what happens in its building. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There will be a school resource officer (SRO) assigned to the building. It is possible the officer would be shared between buildings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ This also presents an opportunity to focus on building strong conflict-resolution skills among the students.</li> <li>○ The school should consider engaging community members who have a tendency to have a more oppositional relationship with authority figures and do more to create a positive relationship with them from the outset in hopes that this will eliminate any tension that might exist in the community between them and the school.</li> <li>○ Principal Williams should attend community meetings and events to extend his presence and get to know others in the community besides the students and parents.</li> <li>○ Talk with families about safe passages for their respective child because the answer will be different for families. Help families have conversations with their child about using public transportation safely and create back-up plans, so families will feel more comfortable when their child is commuting to school.</li> <li>○ Community members should have a post during dismissal, so they are part of the safe passage.</li> <li>○ Be conscious that there are a lot of people who come through Deanwood that aren't part of the community. Deanwood borders Prince George's County, and alleged criminals will often escape to Deanwood to avoid consequences in their home city.</li> </ul>
Principal Updates	<p>Enrollment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school was matched with 120 students and has 44 students on the post-lottery waitlist.</li> <li>• The EMHS planning group has called all of the matched and waitlist families to share information about how to enroll.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school has hosted three enrollment events this month, and there are three more planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Saturday, April 23 at Kelly Miller Middle School</li> <li>○ Thursday, April 28 at Deanwood Recreation Center</li> <li>○ Saturday, April 30 at Kelly Miller Middle School</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Nearly 30 students have enrolled so far. As compared to other DCPS high schools, EMHS has the third highest percentage of its projected students enrolled at this point.</li> <li>• Special thanks to the Community Cabinet members who have volunteered at the events and phone banked to families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kathy Silva</li> <li>○ Mark Samberg</li> <li>○ Michael Taylor</li> <li>○ Hah-Na'h Wright</li> <li>○ Eric Vinson</li> <li>○ Chantal Fuller</li> <li>○ Monica Roaché</li> <li>○ Julian Wright</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Logos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students and families have been voting on the logo at the enrollment events. Monarchs are in the lead, Wolverines are close behind, and the Patriots are in last place.</li> <li>• Five public comments on the name that was posted in the DC Register have been submitted to the Office of Family and Public Engagement. Most people are in favor of keeping the name as <u>Ron Brown</u> College Preparatory High School.</li> </ul> <p>Hiring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Academic Planning Committee has been hard at work conducting interviews with potential hires. The Committee has been intentional in designing a hiring process that selects candidates that are the best match with the school.</li> <li>• The goal is to be fully staffed by May 6.</li> <li>• Principal Williams is leading the effort to hire non-instructional staff. The assistant principal has been hired. She is currently a Master Educator for DCPS.. There will also be an intervention coach, psychologist, social worker, and counselors, and a manager of strategy and logistics.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Outreach and Enrollment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EMHS planning team's focus has been on enrolling matched and waitlisted families in April, so there has been less work to outreach to recruit new families.</li> <li>• The Community Cabinet broke into small groups to discuss strategies the school can use to both encourage matched families to enroll and reach new families. Their recommendations included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Focus should be on the families who have already</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>applied to the school because they have demonstrated some level of commitment. Now the school needs to activate them to become advocates. The strategy should empower enrolled parents to have an outreach role where they can provide the inside scoop for other non-enrolled families. Incentives would be a key part of this strategy, such as free uniforms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Host enrollment events at recreation centers throughout the city, so families don't always have to travel to Deanwood to enroll in the school.</li> <li>○ Table at the schools representing the most applicants. Tabling can be at drop-off and pick-up to connect with and enroll families.</li> <li>○ Ask local news stations to cover the remaining enrollment events.</li> <li>○ Create a welcome video for students featuring the school staff and Principal Williams to share their vision for the school and what students can expect from their experience.</li> <li>○ Get video testimony from students who enroll at the events to post on social media.</li> <li>○ Take photos of students holding an "I just enrolled in ..." sign after they enroll at the events.</li> <li>○ Work with City Councilmembers to host information sessions or other events for the school.</li> <li>○ Post information at Department of Parks and Recreation sites.</li> </ul>
Closing and Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The next meeting is May 16.</li> </ul>