

Ron Brown College Preparatory High School (RBHS) Community Cabinet Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 20, 2016
Dorothy Height Library (3935 Benning Road, NE)
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Meeting Objectives

Meeting participants will:

- Hear updates on the school's enrollment, facilities, and hiring plans.
- Learn about DCPS' 500 for 500 mentoring program and apply lessons learned when considering RBHS' mentoring program concept.
- Provide feedback on the role of the Community Cabinet moving forward.

Meeting Attendees:

- *EMHS Community Cabinet Members:* Lois Berlin, Chantal Fuller, Bridgette Hudson, Maurice Kie, Erwin Kwawu, Robert Pierre, Monica Roaché, Mark Samburg, Kathy Silva, Michael Taylor, Eric Vinson, Keith White, Julian Wright, Dion Davis, Donny Gonzalez, Eboni-Rose Thompson, David Smith
- *Not in Attendance:* Han-na'h Wright, Brandon Daniels, Antawan Holmes, Jessica Scheer, Tinley Wickersham, Larry Womack, Sirraya Gant
- *Office of Family and Public Engagement:* Shanita Burney, Sarah Parker, Sharona Robinson, Burnell Holland III, Edgar Novoa-Marcano, Adrian Abrams (OFPE intern)
- *Office of Chief Operating Officer:* Teresa Biagioni
- *Office of the General Counsel:* Steven Rubenstein
- *DGS:* Mia Sensabaugh

Notes:

Topic	Comments
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principal Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared that today was the beginning of the 1st week of teacher training and professional development. The focus for staff is aligning around instructional expectations and building a strong school culture with adults, students.• The staff are also preparing for students to arrive in 6 weeks, (August 1) where they will participate in a 2 week summer transition program. Highlights for these two weeks will include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The first week will consist of three days of ropes courses in Sandy Springs, MD where students will do rites of passage activities in collaboration with Morehouse University. The last day at Sandy Springs,

	<p>students will go into the wooded areas and participate in team building activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The following week is at DCPS' Emery Building where they will participate in pre-assessments in English Language Arts, Math and Science. Teachers will also use this time to establish individualized plans of action for each student. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Empowering Males of Color (EMOC) staff then introduced themselves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Edgar Novoa-Marcano has been with DCPS for 7 years. He has worked at both at the school level and with the central office. Currently, he is in the central office supporting the EMOC mentoring program. ○ Burnell Holland III has been with DCPS for 5 years where he is the Deputy Chief of EMOC and supports the major components of the work. This includes the Ron Brown HS and the 500 for 500 mentoring program. ○ Adrian Abrams, Georgetown University rising junior will be an intern this summer splitting his time with RHS staff and at central office. His project will be to design a mentoring program for RBHS.
Principal Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Hiring Update</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you to Billy Kearney for coordinating the teacher hiring process along with the Academic Planning Team. ○ The Academic Planning Team is still vetting candidates for Art, PE, and World Language in addition to the two custodial staff. ● <i>School Crest</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The school crest that will be featured on the student's uniform blazers is being finalized. It will have a character in the middle, the Latin words for Scholarship on the left and Service is on the right. ● <i>Transportation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There has been additional no conversation about the transportation/safe passages discussion started at the last meeting. ○ The school will continue to develop a plan in coordination with the Metropolitan Police Department (MD). An officer has also been assigned to Deanwood metro and more stops and rounds are taking place there. ● <i>Enrollment and Recruitment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student enrollment is at 81. The plan is to do a second media blitz and more targeted home visits by school staff over the summer.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A discussion around additional student recruitment strategies to consider generated the following ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage with DPR's centers to recruit students. Center site staff can identify potential students based on who is accessing their facilities. ▪ Reach out to the Benning Road Boys and Girls Club. ▪ Consider a July enrollment event. ▪ Do a media spot where a new student and their family is featured. ▪ Work with America's Promise to profile the school and generate additional interest in the school.
Facilities Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Images of the construction progress were shared. • The gym had a lot of water damage that had to be addressed. • The library will be one floor, but double the height it was before with floor to ceiling windows. • A concrete masonry unit will be going in the south vestibule where there will be lots of light. • All 700 seats were taken out of the auditorium and will receive new chairs in Phase2 of the modernization that will be complete next year. • Sunday work has started and will only be as needed - notification goes to the ANC7C in advance and he helps with getting the word out to the community. • The crawl space has exposed rebar which has rusted in the concrete beams. It will be addressed now while the walls are open and it is not expected to delay the timeline. • There is a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Deanwood Recreation Center moving forward for use of their fields for the RBHS students.
Mentoring Program in RBHS	<p>EXISTING DCPS MENTORING PROGRAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This video was shared with Cabinet members and highlighted the EMOC mission, theory of action, and the 3 foundational program elements (mentoring program, grants, and RBHS). • DCPS has 263 active mentors as of June 2016 and the approach to mentoring has included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partnering with community organizations who already do mentoring (i.e. Lifepieces to Masterpieces, Higher Achievement Program, Reading Partners, etc.); ○ Central office coordinated work (Saturday Strong Academy – high school upper classmen who serve as mentors to younger students; and ○ Support to existing school based programs. • Mentoring best practices and lessons learned include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is important for the mentoring program to have clear

	<p>goals and outcomes and to know this before starting to recruit mentors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DC is a service-oriented city, so it is competitive to recruit mentors. There has been an average of 1 confirmed mentor for every 4 recruited. • The following questions were asked by Cabinet members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Q: Will this be a central office run mentoring program? A: No, the school would manage it, with supports from the central office as needed. ○ Q: Who will develop the mentoring curriculum? A: Still TBD, but will be partnering with those who have created mentoring curricula. • One Cabinet member shared they have met with an all girls school in Chattanooga and the Center for Supportive Schools in NJ. They both have interesting best practices around how to support caring adult relationships which help with building the school culture. • Additionally, there is a Baltimore organization called Thread that has several layers of mentoring with multiple individuals who have different roles in the child's life. The emphasis should be on mentors who can make a multi-year commitment since there should not be adult mentors who drop into students lives for just a year since can do more damage since so many adults drop in and out of student's life <p>RBHS MENTORING PROGRAM CONCEPT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBHS students will be placed with students they mentor for 3 years (starting in 10th grade). • Goal will be for leadership roles to help develop students into young men. • Cabinet members encourages the school to consider expanding the mentor pool beyond college students since people from different backgrounds have a lot offer (i.e. mentors from different race, economic background, etc.). • A high-level draft mentoring proposal was presented by Adrian Adams. This nascent plan attempted to mirror the school's program goal and research. The primary goal of the program will be to get RBHS students in internships in fields they are interested in prior to college. • Cabinet members asked the following questions, considerations, and recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How will the mentoring program partner with Black Greek Letter organizations? ○ A resource for recruiting mentors should be LinkedIn.com. ○ Strategy for matching mentors and mentees should include setting up discussion prompts for a virtual
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	<p>conversation between the two and do “speed dating” to identify the right mentor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cabinet member, Brigitte Hudson, has some insights on identifying potential funding. ○ A mentoring organization that works on mentoring full time has challenges getting mentors to stay on board more than 18 months. The school may want to consider this as we approach potential mentors. It may be more successful if a four year commitment isn’t mandatory. ○ Program will need someone on staff to handle logistics, scheduling, and other supports. ○ Make sure we are looking at schools in Maryland like Bowie State University and Morgan State University to recruit. Thurgood Marshall College Fund which is based in DC and a smaller vision of UNCF and the Natiuonal Urban League should be considererd as a resource to recruit mentors as well. ○ With an internship being the goal, the school should look at the Department of Employment Sertvives (DOES) program model since this is something they already do, have relationship with employers, and more. ○ Cabinet member, Eboni-Rose Thompson offered to make a connection between the Vice Provost at University of Pennsylvania who has a lot of wisdom around getting and keeping college students engaged. ○ Cabinet member, Michael Taylor is the Community Chair for his Chapter for Alpha Phi Alpha and can help make some connections there in addition to the 100 Black Men of DC.
Forecasting the role of Community Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cabinet discussed the role of the Cabinet moving forward. The discussion included the following ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider Cabinet meetings continue through the end of the 1st school year with quarterly meetings. ○ School should determine what is needed and determine role of the group from there. ○ Have more specific jobs and roles for members to do. Make it easy for members to participate around areas they have a lot of knowledge around. ○ The group feels invested and want to continue, but don’t want to be a burden for the school to manage. ○ Principal Williams is committed to seeing this through for another year and will charge staff to continue this group moving forward.

Closing and Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meetings will be suspended during the summer months (July and August) and the next meeting will be Monday, September 19, 2016 at the school.
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