
Anacostia High School Community Working Group: Meeting #1 – 10/17/18

Participants:

Community and School Staff

- Nadira Akina, Union Temple Baptist Church, State of Emergency Coalition
- Ajibade DaSilva, Anacostia HS
- Terri Fuller, Principal, Plummer ES
- Michael Grier, Ward 8 Education Council
- William Haith, Principal, Anacostia HS
- Kirk Keys, Stanton ES
- Wanda Lockridge, Office of Councilmember Trayon White
- Philip Pannell, Anacostia Coordinating Council
- Troy Prestwood, ANC 8A
- Maisha Riddlesprigger, Principal, Ketcham ES
- Roman Smith, Principal, Kramer MS
- Davia Walker, Assistant Principal, Kramer MS
- Pastor Willie Wilson, Union Temple Baptist Church
- Tiana Wilson, Kimball ES

DCPS Central Office Staff

- Matthew Floca, Director of Facility Management
- Millissa Hare, Specialist, Early College and Dual Enrollment Programs
- Eli Hoffman, Manager, Community Affairs
- Juliana Herman, Deputy Chief, Policy
- Claudia Luján, Deputy Chief, Strategic School Planning and Enrollment
- Sarah Parker, Deputy Chief, Community Engagement
- Eugene Pinkard, Chief, School Design and Continuous Improvement
- Sharona Robinson, Coordinator, Community Action Team Wards 7 & 8

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Overview and Discussion

- Juliana Herman, DCPS Deputy Chief of Policy, presented information about the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), School Report Cards, and the School Reporting and Transparency (STAR) Framework.
 - Juliana spoke about DCPS's commitment to supporting schools in response to the STAR ratings including plans for community engagement, a districtwide improvement framework, supports for schools with one-star ratings and

approaches to accelerating progress in DCPS's lowest performing schools (refer to pages 9-10 in the presentation).

- Questions/comments from attendees included:
 - "Comprehensive" schools should be able to use funds made available through OSSE however they see fit without additional requirements.
 - There will be a menu of transformation strategies that schools will use
 - Community Schools or other models that provide family support, mental health support, and other community supports should be components of any improvement strategies
 - Resources at DCPS Central Office should also be spread out in a way that supports schools most in need
 - DCPS should consider what strategies have been employed previously to improve schools (40/40 schools) in order to glean best practices and ensure that efforts that did not work are not repeated. Practices are more important than the funding.
 - There were conflicting thoughts about the timeline for this:
 - There was agreement that we should move swiftly because there is a clear need right now.
 - However, the overall ESSA timeline for schools to improve in three years did not feel like enough time.
 - Fear that ratings will stigmatize schools and harm morale of parents, staff and others in school communities who receive a low rating. There was a strong sense from parents in the room that "ratings matter".
 - DCPS should ensure that supports are in place for schools to communicate effectively with their communities about their rating.
 - Support for students will be important-there was a suggestion that schools have an assembly to ensure students understand the ratings as well as families.
 - Consider how to allay fears that this may lead to school closures or privatization.

Bard Early College East of the River Overview and Discussion

- Millissa Hare, DCPS Specialist for Early College and Dual Enrollment Programs shared information about the Early College Model and the Bard Program (refer to pages 15-20 in the presentation).
- Questions/comments from attendees included:
 - How many students will be able to earn their Associate of Arts (A.A.) degrees?
 - How are students in other early college sites (School Without Walls) selected for their program?

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- Ensure we build in equitable opportunities for our lowest performing students with this process
 - Interest in more information and possible in-person and virtual tour of Bard
 - Why does the admissions criteria require a recommendation from a math teacher?

Bard Location Discussion

- Matthew Floca, DCPS Director of Facility Management led a discussion about considerations for the location of the Bard Early College site, which will be located East of the River in either Ward 7 or 8.
- Matt discussed short and long-term considerations and also discussed pros and cons with the group around a shared, co-located school site versus a stand-alone site.
- Questions/comments from attendees included:
 - Participants expressed a clear preference for the program to have its own stand-alone site as opposed to co-locating with another school.
 - DCPS should get feedback from other principals who have experienced schools co-locating.
- DCPS will solicit more feedback on potential sites from the CWG before the next meeting take place in late November, possibly through a conference call or online survey.

Closing/Next Steps

- Participants were encouraged to attend upcoming opportunities to learn more about ESSA directly from OSSE at one of three upcoming engagement events:
 - **Ward 7 Education Council Meeting** - November 1 at Kimball ES @ Davis (4430 H Street, SE) (6:30-8:30)
 - **Ward 8 Education Council Meeting** - November 8 at Hart MS (601 Mississippi Avenue, SE) (6:00-8:00)
 - **ANC 8A Monthly Meeting** - November 13 at DHCD (1800 ML King Avenue, SE) (7:00-9:00)
- The next CWG meeting is scheduled for November 28 at a location TBD. Participants were encouraged to recruit others, in particular more parents, to attend the next meeting