

## Anacostia High School Community Working Group: Meeting #2 – 11/28/18

---

### Participants:

#### Community and School Staff

- Tiana Wilson, Parent, Kimball ES
- Troy Prestwood, ANC8A
- Kirk Keys, Community Schools Coordinator, Stanton ES
- Marla Dean, Ward 7 Education Council
- Kia Kirkland, Parent, Anacostia HS
- Michael Grier, Ward 8 Education Council
- Eboni-Rose Thompson, Ward 7 Education Council
- Roman Smith, Principal, Kramer MS
- William Haith, Principal, Anacostia HS
- Johann Lee, Principal, Kimball ES
- Terri Fuller, Principal, Plummer ES
- James Isreal, Ward 8 Education Council

#### DCPS Central Office Staff

- Emerald Becker, Director, Student Enrollment Initiatives
- Sarah Parker, Deputy Chief, Community Engagement
- Eli Hoffman, Manager, Community Affairs and Engagement
- Sharona Robinson, Coordinator, Community Action Team Wards 7 & 8

#### Other

- Clara Haskell Botstein, Associate Vice President, Bard Early Colleges

### DCPS Enrollment and Recruitment Strategy Overview and Discussion

- Emerald Becker, DCPS Director of Student Enrollment Initiatives, presented information about DCPS enrollment and recruitment strategy and differentiated enrollment supports provided to schools.
- Emerald also detailed new enrollment growth plan strategies, including feeder promotion and engagement, as well as recruitment from closing charter schools.
- Every DCPS school has an enrollment *projection* goal that they are expected to meet. A number of schools are also given a *growth* goal, and additional incentives to reach that goal and grow their student population.

- 
- Questions/comments from attendees included:
    - What supports/resources are available to encourage existing, particular newly recruited/enrolled students, stay with their DCPS school?
      - This varies school by school. If a school surpasses their growth goal, we work to flag the need for additional supports for the school to effectively serve those new students. The earlier that schools push past their projection, the easier it is to push for additional supports for them.
        - A principal in attendance indicated that some schools may not be experiencing this in the way that it was described, and that the Central Office teams responsible for projections, enrollment, and budget should work more closely together.
    - Schools undergoing modernizations should have their funding stabilized in order to ensure that they are supported even if they see enrollment fluctuations.
      - Emerald indicated that the Enrollment Team works closely with the Staffing and Budget Teams on this and is open to additional feedback to ensure these schools feel sufficiently supported.
    - Is Enrollment's definition of "growth" the same as growth detailed under ESSA?
      - In this case, "growth" is only described in terms of student enrollment. But the connection with ESSA is that we want to make sure that schools know how to communicate their STAR rating and promote themselves.
    - DCPS schools (administrators, teachers, etc.) are doing their best to market themselves, but it often seems like charters have a much greater focus and emphasis on marketing and it sometimes feels hard to keep up.
      - Outdated perceptions and lack of knowledge are often also factors that some DCPS schools find themselves having to counter.
    - One principal described a community feel and staff familiarity with the surrounding neighborhood and its residents as something that has contributed positively to their enrollment.
    - Another principal reported that Enrollment Team supports have been helpful, but sees another challenge as the loose connections between schools sharing a feeder pattern. To counter that, the school has been proactive in reaching out to create those connections.

### Bard High School Early College (BHSEC) DC

- Clara Haskell Botstein, Associate Vice President of Bard Early Colleges, spoke about the Bard Early College network and the announcement for Bard to bring their program to DCPS at a TBD site in Ward 7 or 8.
- Questions/comments from attendees included:

- 
- What is the preferred location for Bard?
    - Bard is flexible on the location, but it will be in Ward 7 or 8.
    - As far as stand-alone versus shared space, Bard has experienced success with both. If it ends up being shared space, the most important aspect is the relationship between the administrations at the two schools, particularly around logistics.
      - Principals in attendance agreed that there would need to be very close alignment for a shared space arrangement to work well.
  - Is the pay scale for Bard staff comparable to DCPS school-based staff?
    - Yes, and Bard is open to referring qualified candidates that might apply to them, to other schools in the area that have open positions.
  - Will teachers at Bard be evaluated through DCPS' IMPACT teacher rating system?
    - Yes
  - How do students access college-level classes?
    - All Bard students take all of their coursework in house; those college-level courses are typically the required entry-level courses.
  - Is there the possibility for students at other nearby high schools to take some courses at Bard DC?
    - Bard is open to exploring this idea, and has a similar arrangement in place at their school in New Orleans.
  - Is there any flexibility to Bard's model?
    - Yes. At BHSEC Baltimore, it was determined that students needed greater mental health supports, which they decided to provide. There are a number of both academic and support services that Bard can provide based on student need.

### Bard DC Location Survey Results

- Sarah Parker, DCPS Deputy Chief of Community Engagement, presented preliminary results from a survey designed to collect stakeholder thoughts around preferred location traits for Bard DC and transportation considerations.
- Questions/comments from attendees included:
  - Is it more important that the school enroll neighborhood kids or pull from different parts of the city?
    - Bard DC will want to draw heavily from Wards 7 and 8, but also wants to serve a geographically diverse student body.
  - DCPS and Bard should intentionally target kids who applied to a DPCS application high school, but did not get in, and then opted outside of DCPS.
    - DCPS will be doing this.

---

## Closing/Next Steps

- Participants were encouraged to:
  - Continue to spread the word about the Bard survey, which would be open until November 30.
  - Attend Ed Fest on December 8 at the DC Armory
  - Attend an ESSA Community Meeting at their school
  - Host or attend a Bard DC Community Meeting and/or Open House
- The next CWG meeting is scheduled for January 9 at 6pm at a location TBD.