

## Anacostia High School Community Working Group: Meeting #4 – 2/27/19

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### Participants:

#### Community and School Staff

- Tiana Wilson, Parent, Kimball ES
- Troy Prestwood, ANC8A
- Eboni-Rose Thompson, Ward 7 Education Council
- Marla Dean, Ward 7 Education Council
- Nadira Akina, Union Temple Baptist Church, State of Emergency Coalition
- William Haith, Principal, Anacostia HS
- Terri Fuller, Principal, Plummer ES
- Johann Lee, Principal, Kimball ES
- Roman Smith, Principal, Kramer MS
- Azikwofi Handon, Assistant Principal, Boone ES
- Littyce Boone, Parent, Boone ES
- Darrell Gaston, Ward 8 Education Council

#### DCPS Central Office Staff

- Dr. Lewis Ferebee, Chancellor, DC Public Schools
- Shanita Burney, Chief, Office of Family and Public Engagement
- Sarah Parker, Deputy Chief, Community Engagement
- Paige Hoffman, Deputy Chief, Design and Systems Improvement
- Sharona Robinson, Coordinator, Community Action Team Wards 7 & 8

### Time with Chancellor Ferebee

- Chancellor Ferebee opened the meeting with an overview of his commitment to DC Public Schools and his key priorities (*See [powerpoint presentation](#)*), including:
  - Ensuring that every neighborhood has a high-quality school at every grade level
  - Engaging the public –and partnering with parents, families, community members and educators
  - Expanding early childhood education
  - Creating clear career pathways and innovative high school programming options
- After providing an introduction of himself, Chancellor Ferebee talked about: The importance of leaning in to learn more about the Anacostia HS feeder pattern. His goal is to continue authentic engagement across the District. Chancellor Ferebee gave a shout out to Anacostia HS for the #whyAna campaign on social media and how the

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school is changing their own narrative. He shared insight on his school visit to Savoy – highlighted the intentionality of improving student attendance

- Questions/Comments from attendees to Chancellor Ferebee included:
  - Full-time special education programs
    - There are several BES (Behavioral Education Support) Programs coming to schools in Wards 7 & 8. As a result, it is difficult to retain good teachers to support this student population. Teachers also need more training, especially newer teachers, to learn more about how to support students with behavioral issues.
    - Students in the CES (Communication Education Supports) Program and BES Program are being placed in the same classroom and student behaviors are adversely affected as a result.
    - There was a request for additional professional development opportunities for proactive interventions, especially for teachers and staff who support the students with documented behavioral challenges.
    - Request for pay for behavioral staff (i.e. Behavior Techs, ISS Coordinators) to be increased to have the ability to recruit candidates with more skills and who have more experience working with these populations.
  - Supports for neighborhood schools and feeders
    - What will support from DCPS look like at schools like Anacostia, Ballou, Woodson? What is the overall plan for secondary schools?
      - Chancellor Ferebee shared he wants to work with school leaders, community members, staff to determine what school looks like - this cannot be done from Central Office and is not solely my decision alone
    - The community would be receptive to Anacostia, Ballou, and Woodson offering more vocational programs – could consider them as “destination schools” based on the offerings.
    - Why is DCPS opening Bard when schools like Anacostia, Ballou aren't getting what they need?
      - Schools in SE are not on the same level as the schools in NW
    - Boone Elementary School feeds into Kramer and Anacostia - school is high tech but the middle and high school does not have the resources that Boone has
  - Budget Concerns
    - Hope vs. what we get has never matched especially when budgets are disbursed – Chancellor Ferebee and past Chancellors have said the same thing. We want to be able to trust that you will do what you say.
    - Attendees shared frustration with school budgets not being equitable across the city, especially with schools in Wards 2 & 3. If schools are

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slated to receive at-risk funds those funds should be in addition to what schools should already be receiving.

- How is DCPS addressing budget inequities?
  - Looks like HD Woodson HS lost approximately \$1 million from their FY20 budget
- It is imperative for the school district to take heed to really making sure these children are prepared for the future
- Attendees shared being confused about the outcomes for the Anacostia Community Working Group, especially since multiple meetings focused on Bard Early College High School

### Possible School Transformation Options at Anacostia High School

- Paige Hoffman, DCPS Deputy Chief of Design and Systems Improvement, shared potential school improvement options that could be implemented at Anacostia High School as a part of the Every Student Succeeds Acts (ESSA) transformation work ([See powerpoint presentation](#))
- Questions/Comments from attendees included:
  - How drastically different is the turnaround model from the ones that we are no longer implementing (i.e. partnership with Friendship Schools & DC Scholars)?
  - Concerns were raised that teachers will not come from quality teacher prep programs - so how will they be able to support their students; teachers will not just be able to come to teach; they aren't understanding that the behaviors that are playing out in the classroom are the responsibility of the teacher
  - Where will the additional staff come from? Is there an increase in the number of staff members for Anacostia?
  - How is it decided which schools get the transformation pathway support?
  - What supports/resources are being provided to the rest of one-star schools that are not deemed comprehensive?
  - Outside of redesign what are the other options?
  - Teachers and staff at Anacostia have been receptive to High Tech High model
  - Curriculums are different and the schools in the feeder are not learning the same thing at the same time
  - Is there a way to pilot an aspect of the model before it is fully implemented?
  - How can members of the Anacostia CWG we talk about what to offer Anacostia without spending time in the building?
    - This seems unfair to the principals for people who have not been in the school to "diagnose" and say what is needed
  - These models do not address school culture and school support
    - Leadership at Anacostia was thanked for the support that was provided when a student was killed in December

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### Closing/Next Steps

- Participants were asked to share their thoughts on the topic(s) they would like discussed at the next Anacostia CWG Meeting in April.
- The next CWG meeting is scheduled for April 10 at 6pm at a location TBD. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> New meeting information - April 22 from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm at Anacostia HS in the Library Media Center