



**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**MINUTES UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED AT THE COMMISSION MEETING ON MAY 18, 2022**

**AUDIO IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST ([CAITLIN.SHAUCK@DC.GOV](mailto:CAITLIN.SHAUCK@DC.GOV))**

**AGENDA**

**Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting  
February 16, 2022  
3-5 p.m.**

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Acknowledgment**

**Recap of the Previous Commission Meeting**

Approval of Minutes

**Updates from OSSE**

General Announcements  
School Gardens Program Update  
Environmental Literacy Update  
Outdoor Learning Update  
Data and Strategic Initiatives Updates  
Legislative Update

**COVID-19 Response and Recovery**

Data and Trends Update from DC Health  
Health and Safety Guidance Update  
COVID-19 Testing Opportunities for Schools  
School Success Stories

**Comments from Commissioners on Current Work**

**Updates from Strategic Plan Working Groups**

**Final Discussions, Closeout and Priorities for Next Meeting**

**Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting**  
**February 16, 2022**  
**3-5 p.m.**

**Meeting Summary**

This meeting summary serves as a review of the February 16, 2022 Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting held virtually. A recording is available upon request ([Caitlin.Shauck@dc.gov](mailto:Caitlin.Shauck@dc.gov)). The purpose of the Healthy Youth and Schools Commission is to advise the Mayor and DC Council on health, wellness, and nutritional issues concerning youth and schools in the District of Columbia.

**Commissioners in attendance:** Jeff Travers, Audrey Williams, Akeem Anderson, Kafui Doe, Taryn Morrissey, Charneta Scott, Kristy McCarron, Danielle Dooley.

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Chairperson Jeff Travers opened the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

**Recap of the Previous Commission Meeting**

- Chairperson Travers asked commissioners to review the minutes from the November 17, 2021 meeting.
- Commissioner Morrissey motioned to approve the minutes, Commissioner Williams seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the commissioners.

**Updates from OSSE**

- Tia Brumsted, Interim Assistant Superintendent of the Health and Wellness Division at OSSE, provided general announcements including welcoming Dana Carr, COVID-19 Response Senior Advisor at OSSE, and Taylor Doctor, Health Education Manager at OSSE.
- Sam Ullery, School Gardens Specialist at OSSE, presented a school gardens program update including an overview of the 2020-2021 school year, examples of student engagement in school garden/outdoor spaces, and program initiatives including the Shared Roots program (in partnership with DPR and FoodCorps) support, community of practice, monthly newsletter, online forum, and site visits.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Chairperson Travers asked if the success of the school gardens program continues to be city-wide. Sam agreed and mentioned that while he believes there was a decrease in garden-based learning when most students were learning at home, the garden-based learning continued to happen virtually, and there are new gardens at schools.

- Jenn Mampara asked what has been the impact of not having the School Garden Grant on gardens and student engagement. Sam responded there are schools that have not been able to staff the garden, and they have had to find creative ways to maintain the garden by getting help from teachers and volunteers.
- Grace Manubay, Environmental Literacy Coordinator at OSSE, shared an environmental literacy update, including the recruitment of 12 elementary schools and two mentors for the Environmental Literacy Leadership Cadre and an update on the US Green Ribbon Schools Nominations. Grace also provided an outdoor learning update, including the DCPS outdoor learning efforts, public charter school re-opening facilities grant, technical assistance contract with OutTeach and a site assessment example, and current outdoor learning resources available for schools.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Chairperson Travers asked if outdoor learning is still taking place during the colder months. Grace responded that she believes that schools that are committed will continue outdoor learning regardless of the weather. Chairperson Travers asked a follow-up question on whether Grace believes these trends will continue even after COVID-19 is no longer a concern. Grace responded that she is hopeful they will continue as the research shows the benefits of outdoor learning to students' academic achievement and mental health.
- Rebecca Harnik and Tasneem Islam, Management Analysts at OSSE, shared a data and strategic initiatives update. Rebecca reviewed the existing student and school health datasets: Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) which looks at students' experiences and behaviors, Health and Physical Education Assessment (HPEA) which looks at students' knowledge, and the School Health Profiles (SHP) which looks at school level health services, practices, and resources. Rebecca also shared a 2021 YRBS administration update, including this cycle's school-level participation rate of 100 percent, a new sexual and dating violence fact sheet using 2019 YRBS data, and updates on HPEA administration. Tasneem shared SHP administration updates including the timeline.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Caitlin Shauck, Policy Analyst at OSSE, presented a legislative update including the Expanding Student Access to Period Products Act of 2021 and the Coronavirus Immunization of School Students and Early Childhood Workers Amendment Act of 2021.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.

### **COVID-19 Response and Recovery**

- Dr. Anil Mangla, State Epidemiologist at DC Health, shared an update on DC Health COVID-19 data and trends.

- Additional information is available in the slides.
- Commissioner Williams asked if DC Health has information on how many kids have received the COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Mangla responded that he will share the information with Caitlin so she can send.
- Commissioner Dooley asked what is Dr. Mangla's take on why there is a movement claiming that the data around using face masks is not accurate. Dr. Mangla responded that many organizations are providing wrong information to the public. The studies he shared during this meeting are peer-reviewed. He believes focusing on where the data comes from is key. Masks are not 100 percent effective at preventing exposure, and that is why it is important to implement layered mitigation strategies as the CDC has recommended since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Caitlin Shauck, Policy Analyst at OSSE, presented health and safety updates, including updates in the latest DC Health Guidance for Schools.
- Dana Carr, COVID-19 Response Senior Advisor at OSSE, shared an update on COVID-19 testing opportunities for schools, including asymptomatic testing, symptomatic testing, mail to home PCR tests for pre-k students and close contacts, test to return, and test to stay.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Commissioner Morrissey asked if the test to stay excludes before and after care. Dana responded that students can still participate in before and after care.
- Diana Bruce and Sharon Bostic, PCSB Health and Safety Consultants, shared success stories in schools as they respond to COVID-19.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.

### **Comments from Commissioners on Current Work**

- There were no comments from commissioners.

### **Final Discussions, Closeout and Priorities for Next Meeting**

- Chairperson Travers asked to send topic suggestions for the next meeting in May.
- Chairperson Travers closed the meeting at 4:50 p.m.