



DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES WILL BE ADOPTED AT THE NEXT FULL COMMISSION MEETING

AUDIO IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST (CAITLIN.SHAUCK@DC.GOV)

AGENDA

Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting

Feb. 17, 2021

3-5 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Recap of the Previous Commission Meeting

Approval of Minutes

Updates from OSSE

General Announcements

Environmental Literacy Update

Charter School Operations

COVID-19 Testing in Schools

Updates from Strategic Plan Working Groups

Comments from Commissioners on Current Work

Final Discussions, Closeout, and Priorities for Next Meeting

Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting

Feb. 17, 2021

3-5 p.m.

Meeting Summary

This meeting summary serves as a review of the Feb. 17, 2021 Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting held virtually. A recording is available upon request (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, Heidi Schumacher, Audrey Williams, Kristy McCarron, Akeem Anderson, Charneta Scott, Taryn Morrissey, William Dietz, Danielle Dooley, Kafui Doe, Beverley Wheeler

Welcome and Introductions

- Chairman Jeff Travers opened the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Recap of the Previous Commission Meeting

- Chairman Travers asked commissioners to review the minutes from the Nov. 18, 2020 meeting.
- Commissioner William Dietz motioned to approve the minutes, Commissioner Akeem Anderson seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the commissioners.

Updates from OSSE

- Commissioner Heidi Schumacher presented on the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, which will provide funding in the education space.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Chairman Travers asked what strategies are being used to address learning loss.
 - Commissioner Schumacher responded that there are many discussions occurring, including around high-intensity tutoring, summer programming, and other data-driven investments.
- Commissioner Morrissey asked if there is any data on where students are spending time when not in school and how that feeds into strategies to address learning loss. She also asked whether there are any lessons to be learned from private schools.
 - Commissioner Schumacher responded that she has not seen data on where students are spending their time. Related to private schools, 28/29 of the independent schools in the Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington have more or less full time in-person

instruction for students. DCPS just brought back several thousand students and more and more charter schools are in the process of opening for in-person activities. OSSE continues to elevate lessons learned in the biweekly health and safety calls.

- Commissioner Akeem Anderson asked if there is uniform data to measure missed learning.
 - Commissioner Schumacher responded that there is a lot of data analysis happening, but she will defer to colleagues and get back to Commissioner Anderson.

Charter School Operations

- Commissioner Audrey Williams gave an overview of charter school operations:
 - 42 schools are fully virtual,
 - 61 are virtual and have limited in-person,
 - 15 are virtual and have learning hubs,
 - 5 hybrid adult schools, and
 - 5 are hybrid.
- Commissioner Williams introduced Cheri Harrington, Chief Operating Office at Washington Yu Ying Public Charter School.
- Cheri Harrington presented on Washington Yu Ying PCS's health and safety precautions.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Commissioner Williams commented that the Public Charter School Board has provided a health consultant who will visit every campus that plans to reopen to ensure they are being compliant with the health and safety guidance.
- Commissioner Morrissey asked about the situation for teacher vaccines and what barriers, such as resources, are impacting public schools not being able to open for more students, whereas private schools are open.
 - Cheri Harrington responded that Washington Yu Ying has three leaders with a lot of experience, which has played a key part in helping the school move forward. They are also taking advantage of the CARES Act grant, which gives them some flexibility to overspend in areas of their budget where they would not typically.
 - Commissioner Williams responded that vaccines are available for schools who have students in-person in February.
- Chairman Travers asked if Cheri Harrington has an estimate of how much money Washington Yu Ying has spent.
 - Cheri Harrington responded that they have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars beyond what they thought they would spend this year.

- Commissioner Anderson asked about how Washington Yu Ying addressed parent and teacher buy-in.
 - Cheri Harrington responded that they surveyed staff throughout the fall and continued to strengthen procedures to make the building safe.
 - Washington Yu Ying has hired additional part-time and full-time teachers to fill in-person gaps.
 - They also surveyed families to gauge interest in being back in-person.
 - They are working to figure out how to increase the number of spots available for in-person.
- Commissioner Anderson asked if Washington Yu Ying prioritized at-risk students for in-person instruction.
 - Cheri Harrington responded that the most vulnerable students were brought back to campus in September. This included at-risk students and children of essential workers who have to work outside the home.
- Commissioner Anderson asked if OSSE and PCSB are collecting demographic data around which students are in-person.
 - Commissioner Schumacher responded that OSSE captures attendance data that is disaggregated by in-person and virtual that she believes can be broken out by demographics.
 - Commissioner Williams responded that she can find out more.
- Commissioner Anderson asked how Washington Yu Ying is addressing students' mental health challenges.
 - Cheri Harrington responded they have two counselors who continue to work with students. She will take this back to leadership to see what else they could be doing.
- Commissioner Anderson asked how much money Washington Yu Ying is spending on testing and what they would be using that funding for if not testing.
 - Cheri Harrington responded that testing has cost them anywhere between five and ten thousand dollars per testing event. Costs will increase as they bring more students back on campus. Having the CARES funding will help with the budget and help them run the three programs: virtual only, the in-person program for the most vulnerable students, and the hybrid in-person program.

Updates from OSSE

- Caitlin Shauck, Policy Analyst at OSSE, presented a legislative update on the Minor Consent for Vaccinations Amendment Act which is currently under congressional review.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.

- Elizabeth Leach, Nutrition Programs Manager at OSSE, presented updates related to National School Breakfast Week, Hear the Crunch, and the NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- In response to questions, Commissioner Schumacher noted that OSSE is planning to administer the statewide assessment and is waiting for additional guidance from the US Department of Education.
 - Commissioner Schumacher also commented that it is up to LEAs to assess students' knowledge and skills, differentiate instruction, and monitor performance. OSSE will be updating the continuous education principles to address more on learning loss, and LEAs will update their plans accordingly.
- David Esquith, Director of Policy, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives at OSSE, presented updates on the COVID-19 vaccine for educators.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
 - Chairman Travers asked if OSSE knows the percentage of eligible people who have been vaccinated.
 - David Esquith responded that the information is still coming in, so OSSE does not have total numbers at this point.
 - Commissioner Morrissey asked if there are plans to open up eligibility to schools that are opening in March and April.
 - David Esquith responded that at this point they are not eligible, but the expectation is that at some point in the near future they will be.
- Tia Brumsted, Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Health and Wellness at OSSE, presented an update on mental and behavioral health support.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Charles Rominiyi, Health Education Manager at OSSE, presented updates on the Parent Navigator program's training for families of children with special needs and the Healthy Schools Grant.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
 - Miriam Kenyon asked why LEAs cannot use the Healthy Schools Grant funding to purchase health and PE teachers.
 - Charles Rominiyi responded that that is out of the scope of this grant. The scope of this grant is limited to developing resources.
 - Tia Brumsted commented that this grant allows for opportunities to build out resources that can be used equitably for many or all schools across the city. The funding is not large enough to provide personnel.
- Grace Manubay, Environmental Literacy Coordinator at OSSE, provided an update on Environmental Literacy.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.

COVID-19 Testing in Schools

- Lisvette García Acosta, Management Analyst at OSSE, presented on the convenience testing pilot and other asymptomatic testing programs.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
 - Chairman Travers asked about the timeline for the programs.
 - Lisvette García Acosta responded that the convenience testing pilot was extended through February.
 - Commissioner Schumacher commented that the pilot started in December and the idea was to see over time how well it was utilized. The CDC released updated guidance for schools last Friday, including guidance on testing. OSSE is in active discussions with DC Health about the future of the program, with an anticipated decision in the coming weeks.
 - Commissioner Morrissey asked if the convenience testing was required or voluntary.
 - Commissioner Schumacher responded that at the state level, it is a voluntary program.
- Dr. Kafui Doe, Child, Adolescent, & School Health Division Chief at DC Health, presented on symptomatic testing in school health suites.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
 - Commissioner Dietz asked if there were any instructions about multi-system inflammatory syndrome.
 - Commissioner Doe responded that there is not a high positivity for the virus given the tests that are performed. They have not come across this situation at this time.
- An audience member asked if there is any guidance specifically on outdoor education.
 - Commissioner Schumacher responded that OSSE's guidance encourages schools to use outdoor spaces. Schools are required to follow all existing requirements.

Updates from Strategic Plan Working Groups

- There were no updates from strategic plan working groups.

Comments from Commissioners on Current Work

- Commissioner Dietz commented that he has submitted a paper that looks at the effect of physical activity on immune response. They have also recently heard evidence that the lockdown increased overweight and obesity among Medicaid children.
- Miriam Kenyon commented concerns about learning loss related to gross motor skills.

- Commissioner Schumacher responded that this is one of the reasons the American Academy of Pediatrics have been concerned about getting students back into school. The OSSE Health and Wellness Division has been collaborating with partners for resources on outdoor learning.
- Commissioner Danielle Dooley commented that she was among the hundreds of volunteers that vaccinated school staff at Dunbar HS.

Final Discussions, Closeout, and Priorities for Next Meeting

- The following topics were suggested for future meetings:
 - Additional presentations on operations from charter and DCPS schools.
 - Supporting learning loss.
 - Approaches to supporting mental health.
- Chairman Travers closed the meeting at 4:50 p.m.