



### **MEETING MINUTES**

**MINUTES UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED AT THE COMMISSION MEETING ON NOV. 18, 2020.**

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

### **AGENDA**

**Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting**

**Aug. 26, 2020**

**3-5 p.m.**

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **Recap of the Previous Commission Meeting**

Approval of Minutes

#### **General Updates from OSSE**

General Announcements

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

Environmental Literacy and Capital LEAF

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

Guiding Principles for Continuous Education

Health and Safety Re-Opening Guidance

Meal Service Guidance

Mental and Behavioral Health Support

#### **Operating within a Virtual School Environment**

Immunizations Enforcement

Health Education, Physical Education, and Physical Activity

School Gardens Program

Outdoor Learning

#### **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**  
**Aug. 26, 2020**  
**3-5 p.m.**

**Meeting Summary**

This meeting summary serves as a review of the Aug. 26, 2020 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, Kafui Doe, Kristy McCarron, Akeem Anderson, Charneta Scott, Beverley Wheeler, Taryn Morrissey, William Dietz, Danielle Dooley

**Welcome and Introductions**

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

**Recap of the Previous Commission Meeting**

- Chairman Travers asked commissioners to review the minutes from the June 18 meeting.
- Commissioner William Dietz motioned to approve the minutes, Commissioner Audrey Williams seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the commissioners.

**General Updates from OSSE**

- Commissioner Heidi Schumacher provided updates from OSSE.
- Commissioner Schumacher announced that OSSE has a new Assistant Superintendent of Early Learning, Sara Mead.
- Commissioner Schumacher provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2021 budget.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.
  - Commissioner Akeem Anderson commented that Councilmember Cheh was really helpful in finding the restored funding.
    - He also cautioned that the Chief Financial Officer will release updated revenue estimates in September, which may cause the Council to have to make some adjustments to the budget.
  - Commissioner Schumacher commented that a number of the restorations were one-time restorations, meaning that those funds will not carry through Fiscal Year 2022.

- Aimee McLaughlin, Manager of Data and Strategic Initiatives at OSSE, provided an overview of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey results.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.
  - Commissioner William Dietz asked whether OSSE has considered organizing the data in the report in order to compare across sexes and across races in the same graph.
    - Aimee McLaughlin responded that it is something that OSSE has considered. It is a challenge to put together in that way because it would take so many pages. OSSE has focused on that kind of format for two or three areas. The PDF files that OSSE publishes from CDC do have that kind of very detailed breakdown.
    - Commissioner Dietz responded that it would be helpful for the most concerning areas. He notes that the mental health data were really concerning, and it would be useful to know who is most affected.
  - Chairman Travers asked if there was anything particularly interesting or surprising with the ward data, given that it was the first time it was collected.
    - Aimee McLaughlin responded that the biggest finding was that most students responded that they did not know their ward. There were some questions where these data were pulled into the report.
- Grace Manubay, Environmental Literacy Coordinator at OSSE, presented updated on the Environmental Literacy Grant, Environmental Literacy Leadership Cadre, and the Capital LEAF program.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.

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

- Commissioner Schumacher provided an overview of OSSE's response to COVID-19 and supporting schools, child care, and families directly with resources to have effective and safe planning for reopening and for staying open for those who have remained open.
  - The [Public Charter School Board website](#) has the latest on reopening plans for charter schools.
  - OSSE continues to update the guidance on its website.
- Commissioner Schumacher provided an overview of the Guiding Principles for Continuous Education.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.
- David Esquith, director of policy, planning, and strategic initiatives at OSSE, provided an overview of the Health and Safety Guidance for Schools: COVID-19 Recovery Period.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.

- Kyle Flood, manager of policy and compliance at OSSE, provided an overview of the technical assistance that OSSE is offering for child care providers.
- Commissioner Akeem Anderson asked how the guidelines apply to students who are in the juvenile justice system.
  - Commissioner Schumacher responded that OSSE has been engaging with the mayor's team, DCPS, and DC Health directly. The instructional portions of the program does follow the schools guidance. The residential portions would follow other DC Health protocols. Commissioner Schumacher added that she would be happy to talk more offline if Commissioner Anderson has additional questions.
- Liz Leach, manager of school nutrition programs at OSSSE, provided an overview of the meals service guidance.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.
  - Commissioner Dietz asked to what extent the meals that are being distributed are consistent with the standards from the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act. A recent study has shown that there was a reduction in the prevalence of obesity among kids in poverty who were in the school meals program.
    - Liz Leach responded that a lot of the standards that were in place under that Act are still in place for meals in DC because of the Health Schools Act. Schools have been able to request meal pattern waivers because distribution of meals is so different than what schools are traditionally used to. OSSE considers nutritional content when reviewing waiver requests. Meals are not changing drastically nutritionally.
  - Commissioner Beverley Wheeler commented that she had heard that DCPS is not doing multiple meal pickup.
    - Liz Leach responded that that is different from what OSSE has heard, so they will circle back and provide an update.
  - Commissioner Wheeler asked whether OSSE is monitoring which schools are doing home delivery.
    - Liz Leach responded that schools that are doing home delivery have to submit a request to OSSE, and it has to be approved, so OSSE knows exactly who is providing home delivery.
  - Commissioner Wheeler asked if OSSE is monitoring which LEAs are forming partnerships for meal service.
    - Lindsey Palmer, director of nutrition programs at OSSE, responded that schools need to provide information to OSSE if they are forming partnerships. That is an extension of regulations within USDA guidelines. No LEAs have signed up at this time. OSSE would be part of the process but would not

necessarily provide specific one-on-one review because it would involve an MOU between LEAs. OSSE is fully supportive of this.

- Lindsey Palmer noted that OSSE still has oversight for all meals for which schools seek reimbursement. Meals must still follow the meal pattern.
- Claudia Price, Project AWARE coordinator at OSSE, provided an update on mental and behavioral health recovery efforts.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.

### **Operating within a Virtual School Environment**

- Caitlin Shauck, policy analyst at OSSE, provided an overview of the Immunizations Policy for In-Person Attendance.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Charles Rominiyi, manager of health education, provided an overview of the resources for health education, physical education, and physical activity during distance learning.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Sam Ullery, school garden specialist at OSSE, provided an overview of the technical assistance that the school gardens program provides to schools.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Grace Manubay, environmental literacy coordinator at OSSE, provided an overview of outdoor learning.
  - Additional information is available in the slides.
  - Commissioner Anderson commented that there is a significant increase in gun violence and questioned whether outdoor learning would put kids in danger. He also noted that this raises questions of equity for being an adequate option for kids who attend school in certain parts of the city.
    - Commissioner Schumacher responded that the entire OSSE team has been thinking about the issues of health and safety, which are not just unique to outdoor education. OSSE is in touch with colleagues at DC Health and the Deputy Mayor for Education about implications for Safe Passage.
    - Commissioner Anderson responded that the concern is some schools are on lockdown frequently. The concern is government is spinning its wheels because wealthy parents from certain parts of the city have determined this is best for their kids without the consideration of what is best for the vast majority of schools.
    - Commissioner Schumacher responded that Commissioner Anderson raises a good equity issue, and OSSE has talked about it internally.

### **Strategic Plan Updates and Comments from Commissioners on Current Work**

- Chairman Travers asked if commissioners had updates from the working groups or comments on their current work.
- Commissioner Taryn Morrissey asked if there is guidance for schools who are bringing back some students for child care.
  - Commissioner Schumacher responded that child care providers licensed by OSSE should follow the child care guidance. School-run programs follow the school guidance.
- Chairman Travers asked for input from the commissioners and attendees on topics for the next meeting on November 18.

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

- Chairman Travers closed the meeting at 4:53 p.m.