

Dear OSSE Team,

I have big news to share! On Friday, Mayor Fenty approved our Transition Plan! The expeditious approval of this plan speaks to its thoughtfulness and overall exceptional quality. It was a tremendous effort by our team. A resounding round of applause must go to Rob Thorne and the transition team, Glenda Partee, Bob Boik (who were literally sequestered in a conference room for a solid week), the transition task forces, the Leadership Team and everyone who took the time to read and comment. The process resulted in very strong document of which I am extremely proud. Thanks, team!

Now the real work begins ...

Only one week to go before the official transition date! After reviewing the responses to the survey questions, it seems you all are as excited about it as I am! Your feedback is valuable and continues to inform transition and integration efforts. If you haven't taken the survey already, please consider doing so. The link to the survey is:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=daq6IEM1h6PFYOdYaLpntw_3d_3d.

On Monday, October 1st, we will hold our first official OSSE All-Hands Meeting. The meeting will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and end at 11:00 a.m. All OSSE employees from legacy SEO to DCPS state transfers to the SEA at UDC should plan to attend. You will receive important information on the new OSSE and the organizational structure. It will be held in the auditorium at Van Ness Elementary School, 1150 5th Street, SE, 5 blocks east from the Navy Yard metro (green line). All-Hands meetings provide a venue for information sharing, fun and teambuilding. Building teams of high-performing public servants will be critical to the successes we must achieve to positively impact learners in our city.

Today, the Mayor kicked off College Awareness week. This week will be filled with events to raise the awareness of postsecondary options available to the District's high school students. It is a part of the city's Double the Numbers effort – to double the number of 9th graders who go on to complete college in five years. (Please take a moment to read the Double the Numbers report on our website www.OSSE.dc.gov).

The week will conclude with the 2nd Annual Mayor's College Fair on Thursday, September 28th and Friday, September 29th. This OSSE event, hosted by our Higher Education Financial Services department, provides a forum for students and parents to learn about college and scholarship opportunities. We are expecting more than 3,000 students and their parents and over 115 colleges and universities, scholarship organizations and college access providers to be on hand for this event. Volunteers are needed to help manage during peak traffic hours between 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. each day. If you're interested in having a very rewarding volunteer experience, please contact Ken Howard (Kenneth.howard@dc.gov), HEFS Operations Manager.

Last week was another very busy and productive week. The first State Board of Education meeting held last Wednesday was a success! We swore in the newest member of the board, Ms. Mary Lord; elected the first ever State Board of Education Vice President, Ms. Tonya Kinlow; and heard some very enlightening testimony regarding school performance.

The Information Sharing Session held last Thursday was very well-attended! I hope you found it informative and took the opportunity to connect faces with names. If you weren't able to attend, you can still use the suggestion boxes or continue to raise issues or concerns to Dr. Eurmon Hervey (eurmon.hervey@dc.gov). I'd also like to remind everyone that the organizational chart that is part of the transition plan, both of which can be found on the OSSE website, is *interim*, reflecting the organizational

structure to support the transfer of authority. We will continue to engage you for ideas as we move into the reorganization and realignment phases.

The Policy Forum Breakfast also held last Thursday at Bell Multicultural High School had an excellent turnout. A preliminary peek at the feedback received suggests that participants found the panel discussions informative and pertinent to their ongoing work.

Hosting this event is an important reminder that while we are in the midst of transition we maintain our highest standards for delivering quality products and services to OSSE's stakeholders and District residents. Without a doubt, these next few weeks will hold surprises and challenges. However, we must keep the ambitious, but critical goal of no service disruptions in the forefront of our minds.

Have a great and productive week. I'll look forward to seeing you all promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Monday!

Deborah

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