



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

Community Schools Advisory Committee (CSAC)

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Final Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order

- Chairperson Audrey Williams called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Roll Call

- The following members were in attendance: Audrey Williams, DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB); John-Paul Hayworth, DC State Board of Education (SBOE); Kafui Doe, Department of Health (DOH); Natasha Herring, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR); Abigail Hable, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS); Megan Dho, Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA); Antoinette Mitchell, Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE); Kim Bookard, Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative, Inc. (FSFSC); Keith Gordon, Fight For Children (FFC); Shana Townes, Kid Power, Inc. (KP); Sarah Elwell, Washington Teachers' Union (WTU); Rustin Lewis, Communities In Schools of the Nation's Capital, Inc. (CIS); Kristine DuPree, Edgewood/Brookland Family Support Collaborative (E/BFSC); George Garcia, Latin American Youth Center (LAYC); and Gail Sullivan, Parent of DCPS student.
- The following staff from OSSE were in attendance: Melissa Harper-Butler, OSSE Division of Systems and Supports, K-12 (SSK12); and Whitney Meagher, SSK12.
- The following Dance Makers guests were in attendance: Executive Director Robin Pitts, Program Director Samantha Wiles; Community School Coordinator Oslynne Buckner.

3. Ascertainment of Quorum

- A quorum was achieved for the meeting with eight voting members in attendance.

4. Adoption of the Minutes of the Jan. 19, 2022 meeting

- Motion made by Mr. Hayworth (SBOE) and seconded by Mr. Gordon (FFC) to adopt the meeting minutes from Jan. 19, 2022.

5. Grantee Highlight: Dance Makers – Houston Community School

- Samantha Wiles and Oslayne Buckner gave a presentation about their programming at Houston Elementary School.
- The 2021-22 school year is the first year of implementation of OSSE's Community Schools Incentive Initiative grant, though they were previously a Truancy Prevention and Literacy Pilot Program grantee.
- Dance Makers implement a STEAM curriculum that integrates performing arts. The program is named SMARTS, which stands for Students Motivated through the Arts.
- Dance Makers presented several videos that highlighted the implementation of their program goals.
- Ms. Williams (DC PCSB) asked if Dance Makers provides focused mental health support. Ms. Buckner said that she works on site with the school's mental health providers and she is also in graduate school for social work. In addition, Dance Makers partners with One Step Forward Wellness Center to provide therapy services.
- Ms. Sullivan (parent) asked about the timing of the provision of services. Programming takes place primarily after school but is open to all students.
- Slide deck was shared during the meeting and available [here](#).

6. Funding Discussion

- Ms. Williams (DC PCSB) began the discussion by reminding members that the District's funding season had begun and there would be upcoming opportunities to provide comment on the proposed budgets. The Mayor's budget is due to city council this week.
- Ms. Sullivan (parent) asked a question as to whether the CSII grant and the DCPS Connected Schools initiative are competing for funding. Ms. Hable (DCPS) clarified that funding is separate and the two programs are not competing for funds. In addition, the DC Connected Schools initiative received federal funding and DCPS assists schools with seeking additional funding opportunities. DCPS does not plan to advocate for additional local funding for the DC Connected Schools program.
- Ms. Harper-Butler (OSSE) provided some context about the history of OSSE's budget for the Community Schools Incentive Initiative (CSII) grant. Most recently, the budget was cut in response to the public health emergency. The current number of grantees was retained; however, the allocation amount per grantee was decreased. She is interested to see how this will impact programming and particularly carryover funds.
- The Committee discussed the need to fund both Community School Coordinator position and ensure that additional partners are funded to provide services at the schools.
- Ms. Harper-Butler (OSSE) also provided some context about the way the CSII grant is structured. The grant is one grant with one pot of funds that is split

between two cohorts (competitive and continuation). The grant initially began with one cohort of six grantees. As funding has increased over time and ability to add grantees; has resulted in an additional cohort. Currently, there are grantees in the first and second year of grant implementation. Upon completion of the three-year cycle; grantees are able to re-compete for a new grant cycle.

- Mr. Hayworth (SBOE) suggested that the CSII grant should be used for grantees that were creating community schools for the first time. Grantees are required to provide a sustainability plan during the application process for alternative funding sources that should be operational in the event grantees no longer receive the CSII grant after the three-year cycle has ended
- Members suggested that the Committee work on creating resources for grantees to plan for sustainability after the conclusion of their first CSII grant term.

7. Membership Update

- There was discussion about the Committee seats that are currently vacant. The Mayor's Office on Talent and Appointments (MOTA) is responsible for identifying candidates for the government seats; while the Committee can make suggestions for the non-government representatives. MOTA will vet potential members of both type.
- Ms. Williams (DC PCSB) observed that the Committee seemed to be able to get their work done with the current membership.
- Ms. Elwell (WTU) commented that adding additional members may provide access to different resources and may create opportunities for the Committee's work to reach a new audience.
- No vote or decision was made to pursue filling the vacant seats or for membership to remain as currently constructed.

8. New Business

- Ms. Herring (DPR) shared that registration for the DPR summer camps will open online at noon on April 4, 2022.
- If families are not able to access the online registration, or anticipate needing language help, contact DPR at (202) 673-7647, before April 4, so DPR can find a way to accommodate them.
- Families can also visit DPR sites that have computer labs ahead of April 4, to learn more about the registration system and make sure their pre-registration information has been set up correctly.

9. Opportunity for Public Comment

- No public attendees.

10. Adjournment

- Mr. Hayworth (SBOE) made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Ms. Herring (DPR). The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Williams at 11:30 a.m.

The next meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Questions/Comments? Please contact Melissa Harper-Butler at (202) 478-2409 or Melissa.Harper-Butler@dc.gov.