



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

Community Schools Advisory Committee (CSAC)

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Final Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order

- Chairperson John-Paul Hayworth 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 (PCSB); John-Paul Hayworth, DC State Board of Education (SBOE); Kafui Doe, Department of Health (DOH); Carla Mike, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS); Megan Dho, Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA); Kim Bookard, Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative, Inc.; Keith Gordon, Fight for Children; Shana Townes, Kid Power, Inc.; Jose Munoz, Coalition for Community Schools (CCS); Rustin Lewis, Communities In Schools of the Nation's Capital, Inc. (CIS); George Garcia, Latin American Youth Center (LAYC); and Gail Sullivan, Parent of student in DCPS.
- The following staff from OSSE were in attendance: Aryan Bocquet (My School DC), Melissa Harper-Butler, and Whitney Meagher.
- The following guests from Briya-Mary's Center Community Schools Consortium (formerly (Mt. Pleasant Community School Consortium)): Stephanie Mintz and Lena Johnson.

3. Ascertainment of Quorum

- A quorum was present for the meeting in terms of membership with eight voting members present.

4. Adoption of the Minutes of the May 19, 2021 meeting

- Motion made by Mr. Gordon (Fight for Children) and seconded by Ms. Williams (PCSB) to adopt the meeting minutes from May 19, 2021.

5. My School DC Presentation:

- Before My School DC, families had to navigate through a lot of different deadlines and processes to apply to schools of choice (DCPS selective high schools and charter schools), which created concerns about access. My School DC was created as the common application and school lottery for DCPS and most charter schools in the District that serve student in PK3-12. (Three charter schools do not participate.)
- It is an online-only lottery application where families submit a ranked list of up to 12 schools for each student. Students are matched with one school. They may be placed on a waitlist for schools that they ranked above the school that they were matched with, but the waitlist is not a guarantee of an offer, and most schools close their waitlists annually by Oct. 5.
- Any student enrolling in preschool in the District is required to go through the lottery application process.
- The process starts in December with Ed Fest, and ends in May when students receive their matches. There is sometime activity over the summer if students are enrolled in schools where they were previously wait-listed.
- The goal is not for students to have to go through the lottery process each year, but to find a home school where they will stay.
- My School DC conducts extensive outreach and engagement to families, in multiple different forms and through many different languages. They will also do presentations upon request.
- The [My School DC website](#) is a primary outreach tool, with their hotline number being the second most-popular outreach tool.
- In the past, in person tours have been an important way for families to learn about potential schools. During the public health emergency, they have encouraged schools to create virtual tools and other videos.
- If a student is not happy with their match, they can enroll in their in-boundary school or become waitlisted at other schools through the post-lottery selection process. In situations where a student’s safety may be at risk, LEAs are able to make transfers to other schools within the LEA.
- Schools can indicate that they are a community school in the “points of pride” section of their profile.
- Slide deck was made available for review during the meeting and attached.

6. Grantee Highlight: BriyaMary’s Center Community Schools Consortium

- Briya PCS is a two-generation school (adult education and preschool). Preschool students are not able to enroll without a parent who attends the school. Their adult learners must be the parent of a student who is between zero and 18 years old. The child can live anywhere in the world and they do not have to attend the school. Most of the adult learners have students who attend schools in the District and about a third have children who are also enrolled at the school.
- Their adult track is mostly for students who are English language learners. They have students from 50 countries and their students speak 30 languages.

- They have four locations in the District, and they are co-located with Mary's Center at three of these. Sixty-four percent of their adult students are Mary Center participants, and 56 percent of their children participate.
- The school did a lot to adapt to a hybrid model in SY20-21. They created more flexibility in their schedule, and they worked to ensure that their adult students had access to technology and knew how to use it to attend class.
- Their preschool program has been hybrid since September 2020 with a strong focus on outdoor learning. They also hosted virtual child development groups in each student's first language, and virtual graduations.
- They have provided a lot of at home learning materials for the preschool students, organized an Amharic (their second most popular language) play group, and created opportunities for parents to join their child's class weekly.
- Their preschool has had an outdoor learning component since September 2020. They started it as half days, two days per week per cohort and expanded it to six hours per day for four days per week.
- After talking to families to assess needs, they created a fundraiser that allowed them to provide each student with weather-appropriate clothing, such as winter coats and rain boots.
- The outdoor learning helped them create a safe, trauma-informed environment for preschool students. They found that it reduced stress and anxiety, and increased security and trust, which is key to children dealing with the aftermath of stress and trauma. It also engaged all of a child's senses, which helps with all types of child development.
- Parents have asked for the outdoor learning component to continue, and they plan to expand it in future years.
- They intentionally work with families to help them with the My School DC process.
- Slide deck was made available for review during the meeting and attached.

7. Goals Discussion

- Ms. Townes (Kid Power, Inc.) shared a draft of a plan that she created with Ms. Elwell (WTU) to operationalize the Committee's Fifth Goal: First and foremost, we will focus on ensuring that schools and communities serving students that are designated as being part of at-risk populations should have access to a community school.
- Per Mr. Hayworth (SBOE)'s suggestion, Ms. Townes and Ms. Elwell's plan will be converted to a Google doc and shared with the Committee to receive feedback before the next meeting.
- Mr. Gordon (Fight for Children) and Ms. Williams (PCSB) were also prepared to present their ideas about the Committee's Second Goal: The CSAC will create a marketing and communications toolkit for community schools including sample social media, text for newsletters and websites, etc. Their materials will be added to this same google doc to receive feedback.

- Mr. Munoz (CCS) mentioned that the U.S. Department of Education recently released a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document about using federal relief funding to support community schools. Mr. Hayworth (SBOE) suggested that time be set aside during the Committee's September meeting to discuss funding, with a focus on the FY23 Mayor's budget.

8. Fiscal Year 2021 & 2022 Grant Activities

- Ms. Harper-Butler provided the Committee with an update about the Community School Incentive Initiative (CSII) grant.
- End-of-grant year reports are due by Sept. 30, 2021.
- Site visits will be conducted virtually in September. Committee members are expected to attend at least one site visit. Site visit schedule was provided the Committee. Members are requested to email site visit preferences to Ms. Harper-Butler.
- The Notice of Funding Availability for the CSII Competitive Application was posted on July 2 and the application was released on July 19. It will close on Aug. 30. There is an application meeting scheduled for July 22, 2021 at 10 a.m.
 - As a part of the Committee's functions; members are to participate in the selection process of grantees. Ms. Harper-Butler will need three volunteers and an alternate to review applications. Please email her with questions, or to volunteer.
 - A grant reader training is scheduled for Aug. 26, 2021 at 10 a.m.
 - The review period will take place from Sept. 1 - 15. If needed, a consensus meeting is scheduled for Sept. 17 at 10 a.m.
- There will be an application meeting on July 28 for the eight FY21 CSII Continuation Grantees. Continuation applications will be reviewed by OSSE program staff.
- Slide deck was made available for review during the meeting and attached.

9. Membership Update

- There was no update.

10. New Business

- Ms. Mike (DCPS) will email OSSE staff with an announcement to circulate with the meeting minutes.

11. Opportunity for Public Comment

- No public attendees.

12. Adjournment

- Mr. Munoz (CCS) made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Ms. Williams (PCSB). The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson John-Paul Hayworth at 12:02 p.m.

The next meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

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