Call to Order

Attendees: Andrea Anderson, Ginaelisa Cortez, Armand Cuevas, Lakeeshia Fox, Benjamin Fritsch, Laura Fuchs, Robert Henderson, Danielle Henry (guest), Faith Gibson Hubbard, Paul Kihn (Deputy Mayor of Education), Brianna McGowan, Jeremiah Montague, Sherice Muhammad, Chika Onwuvuche, Zachary Parker, Angela Robinson, Rahima Rice, Loretta Thompson, Ron Thompson, Jhonna Turner, Cassie Walther, Sabrina Wesley-Nero (guest), Leah Williams Vaughn,

Acknowledgement of George Floyd verdict

Tributes/Memories to Elizabeth Davis

Discussion:

Topic: Education Equity

Guest speakers: Dr. Sabrina Wesley-Nero, Director of Education, Inquiry, and Justice at Georgetown University

Danielle Henry, Ward 5 PLE PAVE Board Member

Discussion Facilitator: Zachary Parker

How do you think about equity?

- Dr. Wesley-Nero: 1) Building inclusive bridges: build bridges to and for students furthest away from opportunity; 2) We are not a-beings—we are human beings full of history and culture that has a legacy and this legacy is built in systems that need to be disrupted and dismantled

- Ms. Henry: Equity is about growth and investment, having students and children grow

How central is disrupting system to achieving equity?

- Dr. Wesley-Nero: Must disrupt if our goal is to move towards equity-- must recognize how got here in the first place and then disrupt, dismantle, and create new inclusive bridges that support students' strengths, recognize their assets, and address their needs

What systems in DC do we need to disrupt?

- Ms. Henry: Disrupt the tax structure— if wealthier paid fair share of tax we could truly and fully fund education and invest in our future

- Dr. Wesley-Nero: Dismantle and reimagine funding system, so that can fund whole child needs—all learning not just subjects for standardized testing; Pay attention to how teachers (and others) engage and respond to those furthest away from opportunity

What would you put on your wish list for DC school system?

- Ms. Henry: [Mental health providers in all schools-- trauma-informed training for our teachers and to support our students/children; COVID (pandemic) has impacted all students so all children are part of a trauma-informed conditions](#)
- Dr. Welsey-Nero: Focus on mental and socio-emotional health and create "Healing centered" schools to deal with challenges that all students are facing; reintroduce students to the joy of learning, school-based learning that reminds students the fun of learning when they are back in classrooms

What role does philanthropy play in education reform?

- Depends on goals of philanthropic investments
- Some philanthropy is focused on giving to so-called broken people
- Needs to start with recognizing the strengths and assets of communities; ask what can communities already do for themselves; find out what do they say they want; and then figure out how to change or disrupt and create a system that accommodates and supports the changes that the community wants

How can teachers disrupt systems?

- Partner with parents
- Using social media as a platform
- Innovative disruptive—hit and meet learning outcome targets with texts and learning materials based in social justices, with people who look like students, issues/topics relevant to students
- Honor and recognize what teachers are already doing, because they are doing this work (disruption)

Will the development of a citywide school reform plan work if the approach is top-down?

- No. Top-down approach won't work because parents/families are missing out on different things
- Need to hear students/youth voices

How do you gauge success? What are education equity metrics that we should be examining?

- We don't know who is getting it right because we're still in it
- Both socio-emotional and academic needs/metrics need to be met

Education Governance in DC:

- How are decisions made?
- Laura Fuchs Oversight: "D.C.'s Education Governance Structure: Mayoral Control" (See attachment)
- SBOE resources: Office of the Student Advocate and the Office of the Ombudsman here https://sboe.dc.gov/

Outstanding Questions:

- DC's governance system is unwieldy so where do we go? Go to whom to advocate for changes?
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Other resources:

- HISTORY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL GOVERNANCE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: A Brief Summary