

Call to Order

Attendees: Oliver M. Barham, Ginalisa Cortez, Rachel Evans, Laura Fuchs, Miranda Hansen-Hunt, Robert Henderson, Grace Hu (guest speaker), Quabilah Hubbard (guest speaker), Lynn Jennings, Brianna McGowan, Jeff Miller, Sherice Muhammad, Zachary Parker, Loretta Thompson, Leah Vaughan, Cassie Michelle Walther

Discussion Topics: DC Education Budget, [Digital Equity in DC](#)

Guest speakers: **Quibilah Huddleston, [Education Policy Analyst, DC Fiscal Policy Institute](#)**
Grace Hu, parent lead for Digital Equity in DC and member of Ward 6 PTO

DC Education Budget

[Overview of how education budget is prepared](#) (Huddleston)

- Announcement: May 5th—Budget hearings and need advocacy
- DC Education Budget: \$1.1B-- uniform per students funding formula is the base/foundation which is supplemented with weights for special learners and students considered “at risk”
- Mayor sets base, therefore has most power
- Funding based on projected enrollment
- Individual school budgets: mostly for personnel and most positions are not flexible, schools must petition for positions; [Local School Advisory Teams \(LSAT\)](#) serve in advisory role
- City Council reviews and approves
- [FY '22 Projected Budget for Ward 5 Schools—Highlights](#)
 - 8 schools experience enrollment decline
 - Decline of at-risk students
 - No cuts larger than 3%
 - 5 schools increase in budget
- Questions:
 - Every year, seems like rollout and review time is getting shorter?
 - Tell councilmembers, especially since so many are new and may not know that time has become truncated
 - Possible time could be legislated, but need to weight pros and cons of
 - How can we find out more about the reconciliation? How money is spent? Whether targets are reached? What can we do to find out?
 - To improve transparency and reconciliation need to continue push
 - Ask principals questions
 - School Finance Transparency law will help but it doesn't go into effect until 2024
 - How does the projected school enrollment account for transients?
 - DCPS has an “enrollment reserve”—funds for schools that exceed projected enrollment; however, transients often have additional needs

- requiring additional funding and therefore schools do not receive adequate funding to serve students
 - Charters at an advantage because they do not have to absorb transients and are more likely to lose students, while DCPS must enroll students
 - How are enrollment predictions made given COVID-factor? Should we be concerned that schools will be underfunded?
 - Used same methodology as last year
 - Unclear how projected for COVID
 - How do schools access enrollment reserve? Do schools have to seek the funding, or does DCPS have a touchpoint with schools to see if they need they funding?

Federal Funding due to COVID— [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\)](#) signed into law on March 12th

- DCPS still has \$22M from December 2020 relief funding
- Funding to DC from ARP will be in form of a state grant, so mayor will make most of the decisions on how it's allocated not city council
- 20% set aside for lost instruction time, includes summer enrichments, afterschool programs
- Has to be spent in 3 years
- Includes two provisions: Maintenance of Effort and Maintenance of Equity
- DC will not use federal funding for loss of staff

DCPS Tech Investment (Hu)

- DCPS has invested \$27M
- Need a multi-year plan so we don't need to fight for investment every year
- Goal: predictability towards schools
- [DCPS Technology Equity Act—needs support to get bill to a vote and then passed](#)
- [“Emergency Broadband Benefit,” included in COVID relief funding \(Dec 2020\)](#)
 - Temporary programs
 - Need to get word out about it
 - \$50/month discount on broadband
 - Internet providers' participation is voluntary
 - Ward 5 lagging in participation

Announcements:

- Soon to be released and adopted [SBOE teacher survey](#): (43.4 percent) have considered leaving the teaching profession because of the challenges of teaching during COVID-19
- Ward 5 Education Trust: will fundraise and distribute money to Ward 5 public schools
- Next meeting April 20th; focus will be policymaking and decision-making agencies in education (Mayor's office; OSSE; and SBOE)