



PAVE DCPVCW Meeting with Councilmember Brianne Nadeau

Agenda:

- **Welcome - 5 minutes**
 - Kerry Savage, PAVE Director of Policy
 - Christine Miller, Citywide and Ward 1 PLE Board member, Oyster-Adams Bilingual School - Meeting Chair
- **Introductions - 2 minutes**
 - Name
 - Ward of residence
 - Where your children attend school
- **Councilmember Brianne Nadeau Remarks - 8 minutes**
- **Parent Q&A - 40 minutes - See full questions below!**
 - *Mabel Hernandez, Ward 1 PLE Board member, LAMB PCS - Equitable Funding*
 - *Yizel Romero, Citywide and Ward 1 PLE Board member, Briya, Mundo Verde, and DCI PCS - Mental Health Supports*
 - *Ivania Zelaya, Ward 1 parent leader, Columbia Heights Education Campus and HD Cooke Elementary - Family Engagement*
 - *Katrina Davis, Ward 1 parent leader, Mundo Verde PCS - Food Access*
 - *Luz Valera - Ward 1 PLE Board member, Hearst Elementary - Language Access*
 - *Open chat questions*
- **Closing and Next Steps - 5 minutes**

Parent Name	Question
Mabel Hernandez, Ward 1 PLE Board member, LAMB PCS	<p>I'm fortunate that my children have received technology and academic support from their school while in the virtual learning space. However, that is not the case for all DC students, and this further exacerbates the inequities within our system and across our city.</p> <p>Every student in DC deserves to attend an adequately funded public school. Yet the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) is failing to keep up with the rising costs of education and is particularly under-serving students who are identified as "at-risk." In order to serve students and families equitably in this unprecedented time of crisis and need, DC needs to fully fund the at-risk weight in the UPSFF to the recommended adequacy level in order to meet the needs of at-risk students.</p> <p>How can we work together to secure resources that promote and ensure equity in our schools so that we give students, educators, and families what they need to help our children become successful? What can we expect from you on this incredibly important issue?</p>
Yizel Romero, Citywide and Ward 1 PLE Board member,	<p>My name is Yizel Romero and I am a member of the PAVE Citywide board and the Ward 1 PLE board. As a parent of three children who attend public charter schools in Ward 1, the issue of school-based mental health support is so important to me, because it is essential that my children and all children in our community have access to these services in their schools.</p>

<p>Briya, Mundo Verde, and DCI PCS</p>	<p>My personal experience as an adult throughout the pandemic is that I have often felt overwhelmed and at a loss for how to move forward - and that same emotion is felt by our children. It is urgent that we avoid any tragedies and future harm by investing in mental health supports - proactively and powerfully. The burden of the pandemic is taking an outsize toll on the mental health of children and families. We need to ensure that children and families across DC have access to the mental health services that they need to thrive.</p> <p>Especially with all that students and families have faced over the past year, we need to urgently ensure that schools have access to mental health professionals. How can we partner with you to ensure that, this year, our city funds the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) school-based mental health expansion AND reverses the \$4 million cuts to community-based providers? Furthermore, what can we expect from you to ensure that schools and educators are equipped with culturally responsive and trauma-informed training to meet all the needs of ALL our city's children?</p>
<p>Ivania Zelaya, Ward 1 parent leader, Columbia Heights Education Campus and HD Cooke Elementary</p>	<p>When it comes to the reopening of schools we have grounded ourselves in the reality of the increase in covid cases in our district and in our world. Although we may be a little bit closer to vaccinations and a cure, we are not there yet. Distance learning for my high schooler has been difficult, I see her struggling to concentrate on her studies, I know because I see her try her best every day but it is not easy. I also know because I see my granddaughter at 4 years old also starting her first year of school with distance learning. It is difficult for them and for me to support learning at home but at the same time I continue to see the cases rise and I am very afraid of the risk of exposing them to the virus.</p> <p>It is extremely important that the schools in the district establish trust between schools and families. They need to do this by being realistic and honest about their plans and expectations. We need the schools and school leaders of our children's educational system to treat us with dignity and involve us in the planning and execution of the deep cleaning and reopening plans. How can we collaborate with your office to make this possible?</p> <p>----</p> <p>SPANISH VERSION</p> <p>Entendiendo que ya se tiene un plan de reapertura de las escuelas progresivo pero como mama me preocupa bastante los casos de resultados positivos y muertes de esta enfermedad siguen subiendo.</p> <p>Cuando se habla de de la reapertura de las escuelas siento que es esencial basar nos en las realidades de el progreso de este virus. Yo se que difícil es que mi niña se concentre en la escuela virtualmente, lo se porque la veo cada día intentar lo mejor que puede pero no es fácil. También lo se porque veo a mi nieta también empezar su primer año de escuela con el aprendizaje a la distancia a la misma ves sigo viendo los casos subir y temo mucho el riesgo que</p>

	<p>tengamos que llevar acabo si siguen abriendo las escuelas sin ninguna garantía que están llevando acabo los protocolos necesarios para mantener a nuestros niños sanos y salvos. Es supremamente importante que las escuelas de el distrito establezcan una confianza entre las escuelas y las familias. Necesitamos que las escuelas y los líderes del sistema educativo de nuestros niños nos traten de manera digna y nos involucren en la planificación y ejecución de los planes de limpieza profunda y reapertura. Como puede usted colaborar con nosotros para que eso sea posible?</p>
<p>Katrina Davis, Ward 1 parent leader, Mundo Verde PCS</p>	<p>Hi my name is Katrina Davis and I am a proud mom of a Mundo Verde student. Last year was my first experience as a parent navigating a dual language school during my daughters first year of PK4. One thing I love about my daughter’s school experience is that she has access to an agricultural curriculum that teaches our kids the importance of eating delicious and nutritious meals as well as the knowledge to grow and cultivate food. It is sad to say my daughter is one of a very small group of kids in our city that has access to something like this. I have seen the way this pandemic has only increased the already existing inequities in our district from achievement gaps, health outcomes and lack of access to food resources. All of these are connected. My heart breaks to see that so many families in our ward and across the district are going hungry because they are asked to go to great lengths to access free food for their families.</p> <p>How can we work together to ensure that grocery pick up and drop off options and information about grocery pick up and drop off options are accessible to more families in our district?</p>
<p>Luz Valera, Ward 1 PLE Board member, Hearst Elementary</p>	<p>Hello, I am a mother of three girls, a 10-year-old who attends 5th grade, a 6-year-old twins who are in Kindergarten at a DCPS school. Personally, living through this pandemic has been very difficult for my family. My oldest daughter connects to all her classes independently, it is difficult for her to receive instructions, listen to her lessons, participate in class or understand Mathematics in English because it is not her first language. However, she connects every day and tries to do her best to learn. In the case of my twins, we arrived to this country in December 2019, we started classes in January and March 15 they cut classes due to the pandemic it has all still been a shock..</p> <p>With support from their School and the larger community, we connect to Canvas without fail every day but how do you explain to a child who does not speak English, does not read English, does not understand English each of the videos, stories and instructions that are in English?</p> <p>I have done my best to help them in their classes. I am a Mom who does not know the language very well myself but I have the desire to see my daughters learn and succeed. It is a struggle every day to see them cry, and say they don’t want to be in class. It is very difficult for them to understand the circumstances of our world, that mixed with the fact that all their school applications are in English and their instructions in English, I see my daughters struggle and follow along without understanding much.</p> <p>I know I am one of many parents facing this challenge in our city but as we continue to be teachers of distance learning to our children it is so important that parents like me (native spanish speakers) receive the information from the school and from our city in our language. I know that is KEY to building trust in the education system of our kids but it is also important that our children, especially children who are learning English, classified here as the 'ELL', receive the highest quality education and attention they need to continue to focus on their</p>

	<p>virtual classes. How can we collaborate to expand access to high quality at home learning resources for families?</p> <p>---</p> <p>SPANISH VERSION</p> <p>Hola, soy Mamá de tres niñas una de 10 Años que asiste a 5to grado, unas Gemelas de 6 años que están en Kinder Garden en una escuela de DCPS. Quiero compartir mi experiencia personal en cuanto el Regreso a Clases de Manera Virtual y ayudándonos en Casa Seguro, La verdad es Bastante desafiante !!! La niña Mayor se Conecta a todas sus clases de Manera independiente para aprender en sus clases, es difícil para ella que no habla inglés recibir instrucciones, escuchar un Tema , participar en clase o lo que es más difícil para ella entender Matematicas....</p> <p>Sin embargo se Conecta todos lo días y trata de hacer lo mejor posible para aprender, en el Caso de las Gemelas llegamos en diciembre del 2019, empezamos en Enero clases y 15 de Marzo cortaron las clases por la emergencia del Covid 19.... Empezamos clases ... Si bien es cierto que hemos recibido material de apoyo, equipo y coneccion y que nos conectamos a Canvas sin falta todos los días en un horario de 830 a 1130...</p> <p>Como le explicas tu a un niño que no habla inglés, no lee inglés, no entiende ingles.... cada uno de los Vídeos, historias e instrucciones que son en inglés?... e hecho hasta lo imposible por ayudarlas en sus clases yo una Mamá que tampoco se el idioma pero tengo las Ganas de verlas aprender y seguir adelante... Se inquietan, lloran ... no quieren estar en la clase....Simplemente no entienden.... eso mezclado a que todas las aplicaciones están en Inglés y sus instrucciones en inglés y a Diario cuando se conectan por 20 minutos o más sólo siguen perdiendo su tiempo sin entender la actividad...</p> <p>Como padres y madres a cargo de nuestra familia seguimos siendo los maestros de nuestros niños, y es muy importante poder recibir información en nuestra lengua porque haci empieza a crecer la confianza en el sistema educativo de nuestros niños pero también es importante que nuestros niños, especialmente los niños que están aprendiendo ingles, clasificados aqui como el grupo 'ELL' reciban la educación de mas alta calidad y las atenciones que ellos necesiten para seguir enfocándose en sus clases virtuales. Se que familias en mi cazo hay muchas en nuestra ciudad. Como podemos colaborar para fortalecer los recursos para guiar el aprendizaje a la distancia para las familias como la mia, en nuestra ciudad?</p>
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Chat Questions

<p>Renee Davis, Ward 1 PLE Board member, Capital City PCS and Children's Guild DC PCS</p>	<p>One of my children, Alexa, is 16 and has a private placement at The Children’s Guild in PG county with IEP support from Capital City Public Charter School along with my 12 yo Michael who is in an inclusion setting at CCPCS.</p> <p>Due to their dual diagnosis - Autism spectrum and mental illness - COVID has required more home based services as provided through Medicaid. If this would have been a normal day, Alexa would have interacted with more than 7 people by now to support her, including but not limited to a medical nurse at home, a dedicated aid on the bus, a 1:1 aid in the school classroom, her teachers, and her job coach, the school psychologists, and the school nurse.</p> <p>Due to COVID, my Children's medical needs are being met through HSCSN health services for children with needs. This is a Medicaid benefit but it has provided home health nursing and</p>
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	<p>Behavioral based therapy in my home.</p> <p>How can we work together with you as you create plans to support students with disabilities while they are at home - including increasing access to medical professionals and services, as well as your plans for returning to school especially transportation and health and safety?</p>
<p>Yizel Romero, Ward 1 PLE Board member, Briya PCS, Mundo Verde PCS, and DC International PCS</p>	<p>Do you have something specific or any target that we can do as parents or as an organization in order to increase the funding for school-based mental health?</p>
<p>Zulma Barrera, Ward 5 PLE Board member, Briya PCS, DC Prep PCS, and Paul PCS</p>	<p>Why have they not shared with families about the EBT pandemic emergency cards? It is very difficult for parents to travel to each school for meals and leave their kids alone as they travel. I think it is very convenient for families to receive the EBT cards to buy meals instead of families going to schools to find meals.</p>
<p>Luz Valera, Ward 1 PLE Board member, Hearst Elementary School</p>	<p>I'd also like you to take into account, among the free meals for families, that healthy and kid-appropriate foods be included. Unfortunately, most of them are canned, not appropriate for kids, and are unhealthy. In addition, they don't come with meat or proteins</p> <p>---</p> <p>SPANISH VERSION</p> <p>También me gustaría que tomaran en cuenta entre los alimentos gratis para las familias, que incluyan comestibles sanos y para niños , lamentablemente la mayoría son enlatados que los niños no consumen y no son saludables... además las proteínas de carnes no vienen</p>