



PAVE DCPVCW Meeting with Councilmember Trayon White

**Agenda:**

- **Welcome - 5 minutes**
  - Maya Martin Cadogan, PAVE Executive Director
  - Crystal Gray, Ward 8 PLE Board member, KIPP PCS parent - Meeting Chair
- **Introductions - 2 minutes**
  - Name
  - Ward of residence
  - Where your children attend school
- **Councilmember Trayon White Remarks - 8 minutes**
- **Parent Q&A - 40 minutes - See full questions below!**
  - *Andrew Lee, Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Inspired Teaching PCS - Out of School Time Programs*
  - *DaSean Jones, Citywide and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Columbia Heights Education Campus and Eagle Academy PCS - Equitable School Funding*
  - *Loretta Jones, Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Ingenuity Prep PCS - School-Based Mental Health Supports*
  - *Jonida Spahija, Citywide and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Whittle School - School Reopening*
  - *Temidayo Ojo, Ward 8 parent leader - Child Care read by Crystal Gray*
  - *Open chat questions*
- **Closing and Next Steps - 5 minutes**

Parent Name	Question
<p><b>Andrew Lee, Ward 8 PLE Board member, Inspired Teaching PCS</b></p>	<p>I am a Ward 8 resident, father, arts advocate and music educator. I remain very concerned about out of school time opportunities for students East of the River, particularly in music and the arts. Through my work with PAVE and DC Strings I know firsthand the trauma our youth and their family’s are experiencing as a result of gun violence and how music can serve as an important therapy and bridge for them to receive the support they need. We know many of the root causes of gun violence: Food insecurity, housing insecurity, and lack of support systems. Unfortunately, too few therapies and programs exist for the most affected students, often leading them to lose interest in school, fall behind in their studies. Gun violence destroys our sense of community and no one, especially our children should have to live in fear. In 2020, there have been over <u>200 homicides this year</u> and 86.5% of the homicides were a result of increased gun violence. Too many of these victims were school-aged youth. Across the District, 29 of the homicide deaths were under the age of 19. How can we count on you to continue to expand access to music and art-therapies through Out of School time funding for youth, particularly victims and perpetrators of gun violence in our communities and support the mayor’s task force to examine gun violence in the District?</p>

<p><b>DaSean Jones, Citywide Board member and Ward 8 PLE Board member, Columbia Heights Education Campus and Eagle Academy PCS</b></p>	<p>I am a Ward 8 parent of 4 children, including PK4 at Eagle Public Charter School in Ward 8, and grades 11th, 8th, and 7th at Columbia Heights Education Campus in Ward 1. I would have preferred for my middle schooler to attend school in their own neighborhood, but my family couldn't find the great educational options we were looking for in our own community. Across our Ward, this is a challenge faced by many families, including families of children who are identified as "at-risk."</p> <p>It is important to note that, according to the DC Policy Center, many schools in D.C. have a strong track record of helping students classified as at-risk improve their learning outcomes - but neighborhoods with the highest concentration of at-risk students lack access to those schools. Large swaths of the city in wards 7 and 8, east of the Anacostia River, have the highest concentration of "at-risk students." But the schools most likely to serve those students well are far out of reach. All kids deserve a great education, and we know that with the right resources, it IS possible, as seen in the report on leveler schools who are successfully supporting at-risk kids. We need to make sure EVERY school can level the playing field for kids by increasing the UPSFF and at-risk weight.</p> <p>I understand that last year's increase in the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula of 3% was excellent compared to other states; however, we are still falling short of providing a quality education for at-risk students and students of color. 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 ensure that these funding needs are finally met?</p>
<p><b>Loretta Jones, Ward 8 PLE Board member, Ingenuity Prep PCS</b></p>	<p>My experience as a mother during this pandemic has laid bare the urgency of funding for mental health supports in our city. Before the pandemic I had very high energy and happy children! You could hear the joy and laughter in the house when all of the kids were home from school, but now that we've been going through the pandemic for almost a year, I'm beginning to really see the toll it's taking on my family. My kids have become very depressed and one has even expressed suicidal thoughts. My kids and kids across the District need greater access to school mental health services. Students who use mental health services in school-based health centers are <u>two times more likely to stay in school</u> than students who did not use school-based health center services. Our education system needs to support schools in providing virtual access to social emotional learning programs, school staff trained in trauma-informed practices, and high-quality mental health professionals for kids and families. How can I, as a mother of children who are struggling emotionally during this unprecedented and challenging time, partner with you to ensure that schools have access to funding for mental health professionals - especially those that support our students with the greatest needs?</p>
<p><b>Jonida Spahija, Citywide Board member and Ward 8 PLE Board member, Whittle School</b></p>	<p>My question is regarding representation of parent voice in school re-opening. Students are coping with a lot of new stressors from the effects of the pandemic; stressors that we, as their parents, experience first-hand. I have seen my 5-year-old daughter's behavior shift from a curious and fearless little girl to one who is constantly anxious and scared of everything and everyone due to social isolation. As you know, COVID-19 related stress has taken a toll on children's mental health, as noted by the proportion of emergency department visits which increased by 24% for kids ages 5-11 and spiked by 31% among adolescents, ages 12-17, compared to the previous year. Given the impacts, we want our students to be able to return to normal, but many parents, caregivers, and guardians will face new and difficult choices</p>

	<p>about how their child will return to school in the coming months, such as deciding between in-person and virtual learning. As it stands, we do not feel heard from our policymakers and quite frankly we are having a hard time trusting the system. On behalf of the community and other parents in DC, we want more representation of our voices as we move towards school re-opening.</p> <p>What is your plan to include representation of parent voice in these plans?</p>
<p><b>Temidayo Ojo, Ward 8 parent leader</b></p>	<p>My name is Temidayo Ojo, a Ward 8 resident and mother of a three year old little girl. When I came to the United States from Nigeria four years ago, I came because I wanted a better future for my family, but when the COVID-19 pandemic started, my family and I were affected in every way. I was laid off from my job in the Hotel industry and I couldn't pay my bills. My daughter's early childhood learning center went 100% virtual and I had a hard time finding full time work because I had no real child care options.</p> <p>Creating safe and equitable access to child care is important for families like mine because the benefits of boosting and supporting women's labor force participation through providing more and better child care access and affordability are potentially huge! Women are half of the potential workforce, and with each 1% increase in the overall workforce the total national income increases by 1%, which is about \$180 billion.</p> <p>How do you plan to preserve and expand access to child care especially for families, like mine that need it most, in order to get back to work and get back to normal?</p>
<p><b>Chat Questions</b></p>	
<p><b>LaJoy Johnson Law, Ward 8 parent leader, Rocketship PCS</b></p>	<p>What can we do to decrease the homicides? Many of the students are on social media and there are many correlations between both? Have you looked into creating funding specifically for ward 8 to help bullying and other social media disputes besides the violent prevention programs that already exist?</p>
<p><b>Elizabeth Reddick, Ward 7 PLE Board member, Stanton Elementary</b></p>	<p>Stanton Elementary is our home school. I am curious if the new hospital will be able to bring partnerships and funding for clinicians to do work directly in Wards 7 and 8?</p>
<p><b>LaJoy Johnson Law, Ward 8 parent leader, Rocketship PCS</b></p>	<p>What are your thoughts on the committee of education being consolidated into the Committee of the whole? How will you make education a priority on the legislative side for all ward 8 students? Please note like DaSean said that many ward 8 students attend school all over the city.</p>
<p><b>LaJoy Johnson Law, Ward 8 parent leader, Rocketship PCS</b></p>	<p>How do you plan to rally your CM colleagues to hold OSSE accountable to ensure students with disabilities are getting FAPE? The council has oversight over the executive agencies. How will you ensure oversight given there is no longer an education committee to look deeper at these issues?</p>

<p><b>Andrew Lee, Ward 8 PLE Board member, Inspired Teaching PCS</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Will the money from sports betting</a> actually go to funding for birth to three?</p>
<p><b>Quentin Hairston, Ward 8 PLE Board member, Rocketship Rise, AppleTree Early Learning PCS, and Douglas Knoll</b></p>	<p>Learning has been different since last March. There are a great number of students who, at the beginning of learning from home, did not have the resources to engage in learning. When students eventually return to the building, they are going to need intensive interventions to catch them up from nearly a year of, in some cases, inadequate learning. Are you committed to ensuring that funding is available to assist those students who are going to need highly-targeted interventions?</p>
<p><b>Yolanda McLeod, Ward 8 PLE Board member, Rocketship Legacy Prep</b></p>	<p>What does it realistically look like for the budget to reflect what or where the money is going for mental health supports even though we are currently in a virtual atmosphere?</p>
<p><b>Darya Davis, Ward 8 PLE Board member, Center City PCS</b></p>	<p>While we are asking for support from schools for our babies mental health we also as parents have to seek out these services from our health care providers. It must be a joint venture. Too often school mental health providers do not have sufficient time to give our students the attention they deserve. School counselors are not versed enough in mental health. Do you think school counselors are trained enough to assist our students with the trauma our students are dealing with in Ward 8? or should every school have a licensed mental health provider. (Some schools need multiple)</p>
<p><b>Tanya Jernigan-Rush, Ward 8 parent leader, Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS</b></p>	<p>Good afternoon, my question is concerning the vaccine. Our community (Ward 8) is always last to receive anything of quality. First, why is this, when state and federal taxes are being paid? Personally my family is not comfortable at all with the vaccine at this time. However, I feel this is not the time for no students to return to schools until it is absolutely safe for our children. Households, jobs, public transportation, etc. Nothing's safe right now and our children are first priority. What is the city truly doing to prepare us for the future regarding this pandemic.</p>
<p><b>Andrew Lee, Ward 8 PLE Board member, Inspired Teaching PCS</b></p>	<p>Can we be tougher on these cabinet agencies and directors who are being evasive about information? What can we do to support you in accountability? It is unacceptable that district agencies do not answer questions from the council or detail spending (budgeted/actuals).</p>
<p><b>Claire Taylor, Ward 8 PLE Board member</b></p>	<p>I want to ask about transportation especially for kids in Wards 7&amp;8 because catching the metro is not safe for these students. I am a long time DC resident and DCPS graduate from 1984 and when I attended Ballou for the Science &amp; Math program for which students from NW would attend there were school buses that brought them across town. Also some charter schools are currently offering transportation. I think this is needed for the safety of our children. Do you have any ideas on how schools could be required to provide transportation?</p>



<b>LaJoy Johnson Law, Ward 8 parent leader, Rocketship PCS</b>	CM can you talk a little bit more about the new vaccine bill that just passed where 11 year olds can give a doctor permission to get a vaccine? I know you voted No on that bill. How can the Council ensure parent's legal rights are not being violated?
<b>Lisa Weddington, Ward 8 parent leader, KIPP DC</b>	What will be done concerning violence in and around our public high schools? There are fights at the bus stops and metro stations. Having a black son, I find that terrifying.