



PAVE DCPVCW Meeting with Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

Agenda:

- **Welcome - 5 minutes**
 - Maya Martin Cadogan, PAVE Executive Director
 - Caroline Pahaham, Citywide and Ward 4 PLE Board Member, Mundo Verde and DCI PCS - Meeting Chair
- **Introductions - 2 minutes**
 - Name
 - Ward of residence
 - Where your children attend school
- **Councilmember Janeese Lewis George Remarks - 8 minutes**
- **Parent Q&A - 40 minutes - See full questions below!**
 - *Miguelina Zapata, Ward 4 PLE Board member, Breakthrough Montessori PCS - Food Access*
 - *Marisa Goldstein, Ward 4 PLE Board member, CentroNia - Child Care*
 - *Chelly Jones, Citywide and Ward 4 PLE Board member, DCI PCS - Funding for Mental Health Supports*
 - *Maurice Hemphill, Eaton ES and Hardy MS - School Reopening*
 - *Meaghan Mountford, Citywide and Ward 4 PLE Board member, Shepard Elementary and Washington Latin - Equitable School Funding*
 - *Open chat questions*
- **Closing and Next Steps - 5 minutes**

Parent Name	Question
<p>Miguelina Zapata, Ward 4 PLE Board member, Breakthrough Montessori PCS</p>	<p>Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, as of December 2020 there have been over 162,358 filed unemployment claims in DC, with many facing ever-increasing anxiety about how to put food on the table - especially those who are excluded from relief benefits like undocumented immigrants. 16% of all adults who live with children in DC do not have enough food. We know physical wellbeing is directly connected to how well kids can learn, and we know that children cannot achieve their full potential when they are hungry. Kids need healthy, nutritious meals, and decades of studies have proven that without them, kids' academic achievement suffers and they can suffer from toxic stress, depression, anxiety, or a number of other health challenges. The same is true for their families. In our district, no one should go hungry and have to put their health at risk because of lack of food. How can we, as parents and caregivers, partner with you to ensure that food and grocery pick-up and drop-off options will meet the diverse needs of all families and communities across our city?</p>
<p>Marisa Goldstein, Ward 4 PLE Board member, CentroNia</p>	<p>I am a Ward 4 resident and my son is in PK3. We are fortunate that his child care center reopened last year and that he has been able to learn and thrive with his teachers and peers, but I worry about the ability of his center and of providers across the city to be able to keep their doors open amidst decreased enrollment and an uncertain financial future. We know that before COVID, the high cost of child care and shortage of seats meant that many families were</p>

	<p>unable to access child care -- let alone high-quality care. Now, the Center for American Progress projects that as many as 20% of the District's child care slots could be lost if there is not a sustained, multi-year effort to stabilize funding for childcare providers, and that closures are likely to disproportionately impact our neighbors who are Black, brown, and experiencing economic disadvantage. How will you plan to devote funding to stabilizing child care so that families across the city can continue to access needed care?</p>
<p>Chelly Jones, Citywide Board member and Ward 4 PLE Board member, DCI PCS</p>	<p>Mental health supports and trauma-informed training has been a PAVE Parent priority for the last two years because statistics - and our lived experiences - show that our children are suffering. We are years away from quantifying the mental, emotional and physical toll that the COVID-19 pandemic has had but preliminary data from an EmpowerK12 survey shows that 77% of DC students are concerned about the health of their family. As a parent that extremely high number alarms me even when I see my own children struggling to acclimate to this new normal. An additional two-thirds of students no longer are able to participate in normal activities that make them happy. Data shows children who have access to school based mental health services are more likely to have favorable outcomes like staying in school. But to get these positive outcomes we need those services available in schools. Where do you stand on expanding mental health supports in all schools and what action will you take to restore the \$4 million cuts to community based behavioral health services last year?</p>
<p>Maurice Hemphill, Ward 4 PLE Board member, Eaton ES and Hardy MS</p>	<p>My name is Maurice Hemphill and I have three kids in DCPS - 2 at Eaton Elementary and 1 at Hardy Middle School. As you can imagine, school reopening in a safe manner is critically important to me and my family, as I do not want my kids to have learning loss.</p> <p>Over the past few months, PAVE parent leaders have revisited what is needed for response, recovery, and now school re-opening in the face of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The result was a revised Statement of Beliefs, which calls on DC officials such as yourself to ensure that these plans incorporate engaging all key stakeholders, developing comprehensive guidance for health and safety, building community trust, and communication with families - all centered in safety and equity.</p> <p>As you can see, parents are prepared to partner with policymakers on the issue of school reopening and recovery from this crisis. What is your plan to include parent voices in these plans, and how can we work with you to ensure parent voices are heard on these issues?</p>
<p>Meaghan Mountford, Citywide Board member and Ward 4 PLE Board member, Shepard Elementary and Washington Latin</p>	<p>I grew up in a household with a single mother and three kids. Our air was permeated with near-constant financial stress, the remnants of which I still carry today. When my first daughter entered the DC school system in 2011, I immediately recognized that same near-constant financial stress that permeates our schools.</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." While the Mayor added 3% to the UPSFF last year, a partial win during a pandemic, there is still a gap of \$348 per student and the at-risk funding is \$1,511 lower than recommended by the DC Education Adequacy Study when adjusted for inflation.</p> <p>How can we work with you to fully fund the at-risk weight in the UPSFF to promote and ensure</p>



	equity in our schools, so that we give students, educators, and families support to meet the needs of our at-risk kids?
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Parent Name	Chat Questions
Miguelina Zapata, Ward 4 PLE Board member, Breakthrough Montessori PCS	How about if those families do not qualify for those benefits? I am asking because I know many families that cannot go pick up food because either they are working and by the time they get out of work, the centers are already closed.
Darya Davis, Ward 8 PLE Board member, Center City	Do you believe school counselors are effectively trained to deal with the trauma our city students are currently dealing with on a daily basis? Do you believe every school should have their own clinically trained mental health provider with some schools having multiple?
LaJoy Johnson Law, Ward 8 parent leader, Rocketship Rise	Budget time is here and my question is: How can you on the legislative side ensure that DC has a collaborative plan for both DCPS and DC PCS and ensuring funding is given to both sectors to help all children? And how will you ensure your colleagues are on board to help with ensuring all students receive Covid relief equitable funding?
Tara Brown, Ward 8 PLE Board member, Friendship PCS	How do we hold up outdoor learning in the winter? It does not seem safe to have our babies outside in this type of harsh weather.
LaJoy Johnson Law, Ward 8 parent leader, Rocketship Rise	Great question Maurice. As a follow up question: would the Council consider putting together an advisory school/reopen committee that includes parents? We hear so much about parents but we don't hear parents---and parents are the ones home with our children and are the ultimate deciding factor in whether our child goes back to school. There is no longer a Committee on Education and we must ensure parent voice is valued and not used for a survey option or a box checked off
Kesara Brewster, Ward 4 parent leader, KIPP Lead/Grow, Washington Global, Washington Jesuit	In regards to Barnard Elementary: When school reopens will there be an assigned crossing guard at New Hampshire and 4th street so children coming from the neighborhood can cross safely during school hours? There hasn't been one in at least 7 years.
Fairouz Gebreyohannes, Ward 4 parent leader	Any plans to vaccinate the kids?

<p>Corinne McKeever, Ward 4 parent leader, Cesar Chavez Parkside</p>	<p>My grandson has dyslexia and needs access to services. What will you do (councilmember), to make sure that SPED families are getting the services they need whether or not parents decide for their kids to go back to in-building instruction? Are they going to have an online program for dyslexia?</p>
<p>Carletta Allen, Ward 6 PLE Board member, Banneker HS</p>	<p>It will be one year in March since students have been home distance learning. How much longer will the families have to wait for what's needed for their children?</p>
<p>Alicia Williamson, Ward 4 PLE Board member, Shepherd ES</p>	<p>Because the schools are closed and there are limited options and opportunities for interaction with the Ward 4 school/educational community, are there some actions you and your office can or plan to take in order to become familiar with the Ward 4 community as a whole as well the as the unique issues and topics that are important to Ward 4 parents as well as DCPS parents?</p>
<p>Sindy Holmes, Ward 4 parent leader</p>	<p>I have a child entering the lottery this year for PK3. The Parent advisory committee you mentioned sounds great. I am hopeful that you will be reaching out to PAVE and local ward 4 schools to invite those parents to apply to the committee, ensuring diversity in all demographics. How will you be creating the Parent Advisory Committee?</p>
<p>Kristin Baldwin, Ward 4 parent leader, Shepherd ES</p>	<p>Would you update us on the status of Lafayette Elementary's planned expansion into the former LAMB campus on Military Road? Because of the Walter Reed expansion, the need for affordable, high quality early childhood education options is quite high. Are you currently contemplating any specific solutions to increase offerings in Ward 4?</p>
<p>Amber Golden, Ward 4 parent leader, Duke Ellington School of the Arts</p>	<p>At Duke Ellington, our students are continuously exceeding expectations due to our dual-curriculum approach - where our academic scores are amongst the highest in the city and over 95% of our seniors are graduating. Allowing students to excel in both their arts discipline inspires them to do more academically - many of our kids come from below grade level. Yet, the arts are constantly underfunded in all schools and most of all Ellington - where teachers make significantly less than other DCPS teachers. How do you approach 1) the arts and the role it can play in education and 2) funding for the arts in DC public schools?</p>
<p>Clarice Ulu, Ward 4 parent leader, Capital City PCS</p>	<p>What are your top 3 top priorities for Ward 4 families/students during this long term pandemic? What 3-5 issues are you hearing from Ward 4 families?</p>
<p>Clarice Ulu, Ward 4 PLE Board member, Capital City PCS</p>	<p>In relation to mental health, how do you deal with student anxiety now and moving forward with school openings? This is so real to a lot of students who have been home and not engaged physically in the classroom with their teachers and peers for almost a year.</p>