

**Safe Passage to School Expansion Act of 2021 Testimony Guide**  
Committee on Transportation and the Environment &  
Committee of the Whole  
Tuesday, October 12, 2021

**To:** Chairman Phil Mendelson, Committee of the Whole members, Councilmember Cheh, Committee on Transportation and the Environment members, and staff

**From:** Tyesha Andrews

**Date:** October 12, 2021

Good morning, Council of the District of Columbia, Chairman Mendelson, and all District family and friends. Thank you for allowing me to speak this morning. My name is Tyesha Andrews, and I serve as a Ward 8 PLE board member for Parents Amplifying Voices in Education (PAVE).

I will only present two issues in my speech today about safe passages and transportation for our children. I say our children because if you are a part of this meeting today, you work in a field that supports children even if you don't have children. Therefore, the children that we speak on are OUR children.

First, on September 29, 2021, at approximately 3:45 p.m., an individual was a victim of a crime in front of Plummer Elementary School, causing a significant police presence near the school grounds. Fortunately, there were no staff or students harmed during this incident. Details on this incident were not provided to parents. Parents did receive an introductory/general email from the principal informing us of the incident. However, details were not provided, so we are not aware of the extent of the incident. However, I believe that the staff at Plummer have continued the school days regularly, as planned.

But what if the Plummer community is not so lucky next time. What measures will DCPS put forth for further protection in our schools based in higher crime areas? Will DCPS partner with MPD to ensure security in these communities? These are questions and concerns that should be addressed.

Next and last, I am genuinely concerned about how informed our school representatives are when it comes to the protocols and procedures of the OSSE transportation division.

In August of this year, I informed the proper representative at Plummer Elementary that my son would be changing drop-off locations. However, there was a slight miscommunication, so I had to clarify that the new drop-off would not begin until the second week of September.

All of this happened within 48 hours. I even contacted OSSE myself directly to ensure that an error would not occur. Not even two days later, my son was dropped off at the wrong location. I was leaving a doctors appointment when my husband called me to inform me that he had not arrived home yet, and then I received a call from an OSSE telling me that they had been at the drop-off for almost 20 minutes waiting.

Luckily, the drop-off location was less than a 5-minute drive from my home. My husband could rush over and retrieve our son right away. This is unacceptable because had I been unavailable to answer my phone due to my doctors appointment, my child may have been taken into CFSA. I informed both OSSE and the school representative that this was unacceptable, and my husband and I received no apologies.

Proper training needs to be conducted for the representatives responsible for scheduling our children bus schedules, and parents need to be adequately informed on the protocols and procedures. Please take these concerns into serious consideration as OUR children deserve a safe learning environment. Thank you.