

## PAVE DC Parent Voice and Choice Week 2022

### Ward 5 Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie Meeting Agenda

#### Welcome - 2:15-2:20pm

- **Maya Martin Cadogan**, Founder & Executive Director of PAVE
- **Shaniola Arowolaju**, Policy Captain and Ward 5 PLE Board Member, KIPP Parent - Meeting Chair

#### Introductions - 2:20-2:22pm

- Name
- Ward of residence
- Where your children attend school

#### Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie remarks - 2:22-2:30pm

#### Parent Q&A - 2:30-3:10pm - see full questions below!

- **Tameka Garner**, Ward 5 PLE Board Member, Washington Yu Ying PCS and Dematha Catholic High School, Out-of-school time programs strategic plan
- **Carisa Stanley Beatty**, Ward 5 PLE Board Member, Burroughs Elementary, out-of-school time programs Funding
- **Melissa Bisagni**, Ward 5 PLE Board Member, Langley Elementary School, school-based mental health supports
- **LaKeshia Battle-Crimm**, Citywide and Ward 5 PLE Board Member, Rocketship Legacy Prep, school-based mental health supports
- Chat questions (as time allows)

#### Closing and next steps - 3:10-3:15pm

Parent Name	Question
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<p><b>Tameka Garner</b>, Ward 5 PLE Board Member, Washington Yu Ying PCS and Dematha Catholic High School, Out-of-school time programs strategic plan</p>	<p>My children have really benefited from Out of School Time programs such as soccer, enhanced Chinese writing, and more. These programs have helped them tremendously with their supplemental learning both academically and socially. Yet, these programs were very expensive for me, so my children have been unable to continue in these transformative programs.</p> <p>Many children don't even have these programs offered at all. Even if they do, there is not always enough financial support and spots available for them to access the programs. On top of this, I am raising three African American boys and I really want to make sure my kids stay active and engaged in safe environments which includes OST Programs. Think about how much safer our black children would be if they all have a place to go after school to keep them safe and on the right track.</p> <p>You have already invested in programs that advance racial equity like the Baby Bonds program and the payments to new and expecting mothers, which we are very grateful for. Now, in order to make sure every child can benefit from similarly transformative programs like out of school time, we need to assess where the gaps are in our current program offerings throughout the district. We need a clear, data-based community driven strategic plan to expand OST programs and make sure all children have access to OST programs in the district. How can you work with us to ensure a strategic plan is created to support OST expansion?</p>
<p><b>Carisa Stanley Beatty</b>, Ward 5 PLE Board Member, Burroughs Elementary, out-of-school time programs Funding</p>	<p>As a mother to a 3 year old Black son in Ward 5, I am really concerned with the lack of availability of Out School Time programs in my ward. I really hope that as my child gets older and heads into elementary school that he will be able to benefit from an OST program. But I am not sure that this will be the case. OST programs can have a big impact on a child's academic success and can keep them on the right path - which is closely tied to your goal with passing both the NEAR and REACH Act. Yet many children and families do not have the access to OST and many areas in the district have less access than others, especially communities east of rock creek park and east of the Anacostia river. There is a huge lack in funding for these programs and many schools have to use other resources of funding to supplement</p>

	<p>their OST programs. Similarly, many families don't have vouchers or financial aid and have to find out of pocket means to pay for OST programming.</p> <p>This shouldn't be the case. Every child should be able to go to OST programming regardless of where they live and their socio-economic status. We need an increase of at least \$25 million for OST programming so that all children have access to OST programs. How are you going to work to increase the OST budget to at least \$25 million?</p>
<p><b>Melissa Bisagni</b>, Ward 5 PLE Board Member, Langley Elementary School, school-based mental health supports</p>	<p>My young child has been in the same DCPS school since PK3, she is now in 1st grade, and we were very excited to hear that the school was proactive with mental health care as in the previous year. She has experienced several close deaths and her father is suffering from cancer this year. In addition, both myself and my child's father are first-time parents who have experienced extensive childhood trauma. After a mental health evaluation at her school, we were told that the type of health insurance we have does not allow us to use the school-based mental health services. I am sure our story is not unlike the story of many other students in DC. The mental health system is broken as is and then the one support we thought we could count on has also let us down. I know that in addition to being a Councilmember, you are also running for Attorney General right now and that office has a Public Safety Division that deals with youth who have committed a law violation. But we'd like to see a DC where young people's mental health needs are addressed in school - preventing them from needing to engage with that office. How can you work with us to build a system of accountability so that we can offer accessible school-based mental health care to ALL children?</p>
<p><b>LaKeshia Battle-Crimm</b>, Citywide and Ward 5 PLE Board Member, Rocketship Legacy Prep, school-based mental health supports</p>	<p>My daughter is often overlooked in the school-based mental health system because she is doing well academically. But I still have concerns about her mental and behavioral health because she has had many behavioral issues recently due to COVID-19, but has only been punished instead of recommended to mental health support. What I have learned in my experience with my</p>

	<p>daughter is that not every student has the same access and resources to SBMH (school-based mental health). From our Back to School survey, ONLY 49% of parents are aware of the availability of SBMH resources in their school. Too many academically high-performing students are overlooked and even if students are having behavioral issues or their grades start slipping, there is a lack of evaluation. Lastly, there is a lack of resources and trained professionals in many schools. DC can't address these issues when we don't even know what the current needs and gaps in the system are.</p> <p>We have appreciated your work as a Councilmember on the Council Office on Racial Equity (CORE) which has analyzed the inequities in our systems. How can you work with us to analyze the inequities in mental health and generate a needs assessment and analysis of the necessary supports for ALL kids so that EVERY child has access to the mental health care they need within our system?</p> <p><i>Info about CORE: <a href="https://www.dcraciaequity.org/team">https://www.dcraciaequity.org/team</a> Great outcome from this question could be CM McDuffie promising to have CORE take a look at the mental health system, and especially SBMH.</i></p>
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**Chat Questions**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lark Catoe, Ward 5 PLE Board Member, DCI Parent</b></p>	<p>In reference to the baby bond program - what about teenagers struggling now?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Crystal Gray, Citywide and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, KIPP DC Parent</b></p>	<p>How can you as a Councilmember work in your capacity to increase access to high quality and affordable OST programs? Especially during the summer time, DPR slots fill in 20 min and then we as parents are clueless about where we can send our kids for OST at a reasonable cost.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kisha Clark, Ward 6 PLE Board Member, Eastern HS Parent</b></p>	<p>Do you anticipate any big budgetary roadblocks to increasing funding for OST and SBMH? If so, what are they? If not, how much do you envision being able to increase with or without major objection?</p>

<p><b>Kisha Clark, Ward 6 PLE Board Member, Eastern HS Parent</b></p>	<p>Are you saying that you will look to close the funding gap between the Mayor’s budget and your budget? Or exceed the funding gap to meet the needs for OST and SBMH?</p>
<p><b>Crystal Gray, Citywide and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, KIPP DC Parent</b></p>	<p>For Mental Health, as a Councilmember, how can you help our students who are growing up with absentee parents and experiencing so much trauma as kids?</p>
<p><b>Lark Catoe, Ward 5 PLE Board Member, DCI Parent</b></p>	<p>Crime and education gaps are an issue now. How are you going to support low-income families and young adults now? As Councilmember and/or DC's Attorney General?</p>
<p><b>Crystal Gray, Citywide and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, KIPP DC Parent</b></p>	<p>For Mental Health, as a Councilmember, how can you help our students who are growing up with absentee parents and experiencing so much trauma as kids?</p>
<p><b>Ana Rodriguez, Ward 5 PLE Board Member and Advocacy Captain, Langley and Duke Ellington Parent</b></p>	<p>When I had Medicaid for my daughters it would pay for services in the school, but I don’t have that anymore because my income changed. My question is how can we make sure that the Title or Tier of the school doesn’t determine whether my child or someone else’s child gets the right services, especially when it’s not spread fairly across the schools in DC?</p>
<p><b>Meladie Tatum, Ward 5 PLE Board Member, DC Prep and Cap City Parent</b></p>	<p>We appreciate the funds that have been given so far for school-based mental health. But how can the Council hold DBH accountable for how the services are reaching students? Having the funds are only half the battle.</p>
<p><b>Lark Catoe, Ward 5 PLE Board Member, DCI Parent</b></p>	<p>would you support free college</p>
<p><b>Nakeasha Sanders-Small, Ward 4 PLE Board Member, LAMB Parent</b></p>	<p>I am fortunate enough that my children’s school has an excellent after-care program. It is igniting new interests and passions in them, keeping their minds and bodies engaged and I can really see the impact. Unfortunately, it is very expensive. Sometimes, quite frankly, it makes it very tough to ensure their continued participation. Thank you for stating your willingness to work towards making OST programs equitable across the city and</p>

	ensuring that we help those who are in the most need. But, how can you improve OST programs to not only help those with the most need financially, but in a way that helps those parents who don't have the same need but are still facing a very real financial struggle especially given how expensive life is in the District?
<b>Meladie Tatum</b>	The worst part about it is half of these families I see enrolled in the low cost programs are in need. How can we as partners make sure those in need get the help.
<b>Lark</b>	support canceling the rent? accumulated debt during the pandemic?
<b>LaKeshia Battle-Crim</b>	what happens to the funds if there isn't a physical body or consist body in the schools for sbmh? also how and what do it looking like as far as getting the slots filled?
<b>LaKisha Myrick, Ward 5 PLE Board Member, Friendship PCS – Woodridge Middle, Girls Global Academy, Washington Leadership Academy PCS, Brookland Middle School, and Academy of Hope Adult PCS Parent</b>	I see he sent out a survey for ward 5 residents to pick their top 2 areas of concern for the budget, in several needs based areas. If the numbers for OST programs and mental health services are not a majority concern, where does that leave him, in his decision making on assisting schools in getting what they need in these areas in his budget?