

## PAVE DC Parent Voice and Choice Week 2022

### Ward 1 Councilmember Nadeau Meeting Agenda

#### Welcome - 11:30 - 11:35am

- **Kerry Savage**, Director of Policy at PAVE
- **Jake Fishbein**, Policy Captain and Ward 1 PLE Board Member, Capital City Parent - Meeting Chair

#### Introductions - 11:35 - 11:37am

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

#### Councilmember Nadeau remarks - 11:37 - 11:45am

#### Parent Q&A - 11:45 - 12:25am - see full questions below!

- **Renee Davis**, Citywide and Ward 1 PLE Board Member, Capital City PCS, Out of School Time Funding
- **Maria Vanessa Magana Martinez**, Citywide and Ward 1 PLE Board Member, Cleveland Elementary School, Out of School Time Strategic Plan
- **Ivania Zelaya**, Ward 1 PLE Board Member and Organizing Captain, Columbia Heights Educational Campus and Apple Tree Institute, Mental Health Needs Assessment
- **Yael Meirovich**, Ward 1 PLE Board Member, Centronia Public Charter School, Mental Health Accountability
- Chat questions (as time allows)

#### Closing and next steps - 11:25am - 12:30pm

Parent Name	Question
<p><b>Renee Davis</b>, Citywide and Ward 1 PLE Board Member, Capital City PCS, Out of School Time Funding</p>	<p>This year my daughter Alexa participated in SYEP for the first time. Alexa is autistic, and when her site opened virtual options, it was really great for us because it opened up the opportunity of employment to her for the first time. The benefit wasn't just the experience of working, but also the independence of earning money and having the confidence to live outside of the traditional notions of what children with disabilities can or cannot do.</p> <p>Access to high-quality OST programs, especially for special education students, provides so many benefits, but as we know, there are also so many added barriers to participation for the same group. And fixing that takes money. In 2018, you supported our ask for \$25 million for OST. Now, when the need is greater than ever, how will you work to ensure at least \$25 million in recurring, local funding for OST programs is included in the budget, which can go towards special education resources, and training for all publicly-funded OST program staff to support students with disabilities, and more?</p>

<p><b>Maria Vanessa Magana Martinez,</b> Citywide and Ward 1 PLE Board Member, Cleveland Elementary School, Out of School Time Strategic Plan</p>	<p>My son Alexis has an IEP and was enrolled in an OST program at Cleveland Elementary. But due to the lack of transportation options for getting us to and from the program, our family could not afford to re-enroll him. My mom helps me with taking care of Alexis after school, but she's a senior, the metro waits are long especially in the cold winter months, so traveling with him to the program was out of the question. I eventually ended up enrolling him at the Sitar center, but it was only once a week and the enrollment cost depended on my income. This is great because it partially addresses the issue of affordability, but doesn't address the real barrier which is transportation.</p> <p>A friend of our family suggested that we try to get it written into Alexis's IEP that he would benefit from OST programs, in order to gain access to transportation support, but after doing some research I learned that isn't yet a possibility. CM Nadeau, how will you, as a Councilmember work to create a strategic plan with families, educators, OST providers, and community partners to ensure access to in-demand programs for all kids that addresses challenges around transportation, information-sharing, and special education supports?</p>
<p><b>Ivania Zelaya,</b> Ward 1 PLE Board Member and Organizing Captain, Columbia Heights Educational Campus and Apple Tree Institute, Mental Health Needs Assessment</p>	<p>Espanol: Mi nombre es Ivania Zelaya, y en este momento en muchas de mis comunidades escolares, los padres y madres están realmente ansiosos acerca de cómo las escuelas están manejando el COVID-19. Esta preocupación es importante, pero ha creado un sentimiento de caos e impotencia entre los padres y madres y la niñez. Ha creado un ambiente general de ansiedad - cuando se añade a eso, lo que se siente al ir a la escuela con mis hijos en la zona de Columbia Heights y la estación de metro de la calle 14 - donde hemos visto tantos incidentes violentos y peleas entre los niños de la escuela cada día - , es casi como si no pudiéramos escapar de la sensación de ansiedad. Demasiada de nuestra niñez está siendo herida o asesinada en disputas violentas en el Distrito, está fuera de control.</p> <p>A primera vista parece un problema de seguridad, pero en el</p>

	<p>fondo creo que también es un problema de apoyo a la salud mental. Les niños y las familias están en crisis y a veces no saben cómo obtener la ayuda que necesitan para prevenir los actos violentos antes de que se produzcan.</p> <p>Concejal Nadeau, ¿cómo va a trabajar con el Consejo y la oficina de la alcaldesa para resolver esta situación y crear un mapa de las necesidades y apoyos de salud mental que existen actualmente, así como dónde hay brechas en cada escuela para que podamos asignar equitativamente el apoyo adecuado a las escuelas?</p> <p>My name is Ivania Zelaya. Right now in many of my school communities, parents are really anxious about how schools are dealing with COVID-19. This worry is important, but has created a chaotic and helpless feeling among parents and kids. It has created an overall environment of anxiety-- when you add to that, what it feels like to commute to school with my children in the area of Columbia Heights and 14th street metro station where we have seen so many violent incidents and fights among school children each day - it's almost like we can't escape the anxious feeling. Too many of our babies are being hurt or killed in violent disputes in the District, it's out of control.</p> <p>On the surface this looks like just a safety issue, but at the root, I believe it's also a mental health support issue. Children and families are in crisis and sometimes don't know how to get the help they need to prevent violent acts before they even happen.</p> <p>Councilmember Nadeau, how will you work with the Council and the Mayor's office to resolve this situation and create a map of what mental health needs and supports currently exist, as well as where there are gaps in each school so we can equitably allocate adequate support to schools?</p>
<p><b>Yael Meirovich</b>, Ward 1 PLE Board Member, Centronia Public Charter School , Mental Health Accountability</p>	<p>With the onset of the pandemic and keeping our kids at home for an extended period of time, I saw the impact on my children, especially my youngest, having lost their routines and many</p>

forms of social interaction, which greatly affected their everyday life and their mental well-being.

After six months, we were able to send my youngest child back to CentroNia. Partly due to the isolation, we didn't realize at the time that his speech was delayed. Upon his return to CentroNia, his teachers helped identify the issue and connected him to services through Strong Start, which coordinated care with his teachers, a speech therapist, a mental health professional, and others. I am thankful CentroNia helped connect me with these services.

Unfortunately, not many families have this same experience. There is a huge gap in access to in-person services and delayed identification of children that are not in-person at community-based childcare centers. Now, the need is even greater.

We are so grateful for your work in the past to pass a tax policy that increases funding for mental health. Now we need to ensure that critical dollars are not being wasted. What will you do as a Councilmember to create an accountability system and ensure that all children have access to these crucial programs that support their development?