

PAVE DC Parent Voice and Choice Week 2022

Councilmember Allen Meeting Agenda

Welcome - 1:00 - 1:05pm

- **Maya Martin Cadogan**, Founder and Executive Director of PAVE
- **Katrice Whittaker**, Advocacy Captain and Ward 6 PLE Board Member, Miner Elementary, Digital Pioneers PCS, Monument Academy PCS - Meeting Chair

Introductions - 1:05 - 1:07pm

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

Councilmember Allen remarks - 1:07 - 1:15pm

Parent Q&A - 1:15 - 1:55 pm - see full questions below!

- **Mable Boler, Ward 6 PLE Board Member**, Edison Armstrong and Barnard Elementary School, Out of School CM Allen, I wanted to ask how can you rally around, support and push OST SBMH at the top priority at the tables for folks who are in position to make change?Time Programs Strategic Plan
- **Karen Gray, Ward 6 PLE Board Member**, Howard Middle School and Paul PCS International High School, Out of School Time Funding
- **Cassandra Gentry, Citywide and Ward 6 PLE Board Member**, Inspired Teaching School PCS, Mental Health Accountability
- **Monique Cole Gary, Organizing Captain and Ward 6 PLE Board Member**, Mundo Verde PCS, Mental Health Needs Assessment
- Chat questions (as time allows)

Closing and next steps - 1:55 - 2:00pm

Parent Name	Question
<p>Mable Boler, Ward 6 PLE Board Member, Edison Armstrong and Barnard Elementary School, Out of School Time Programs Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Good morning Councilmember Allen. I am the great grandmother one 5-year old boy and one 10-year old boy. We have all been struggling during the pandemic and for my great grandchildren they have not been able to be as social the last two years. Out of School programs can have an impact on their emotional and social health and my grandchildren would greatly benefit from a before or after school program. Especially my great grandson who really needs a program that can help him stay healthy and can tutor him and give him 1:1 support.</p> <p>Unfortunately we do not qualify for our schools after school programs. I hope that we can get him into an electronic program such as robotics next year, but I don't know if it will be available or if we can afford it. Many children are not getting the access to OST programs and there are many gaps across the district. We need to evaluate and create a strategic plan so that all kids have access to OST. I want all children to be able to get a great education and that includes OST programs which have a major impact on future success.</p> <p>Councilmember Allen, how will you work to create and implement a data-based, community-driven, strategic plan to expand access to OST programs so that all kids have a quality education? And how will you make sure that a diversity of families in Ward 6 - not just those with privilege - can have an equitable voice in sharing the type of programs we want brought to our Ward and communities??</p>
<p>Karen Gray, Ward 6 PLE Board Member, Howard Middle School and Paul PCS International High School, Out of School Time Funding</p>	<p>Before the pandemic, my grandchildren went to after school programs at Howard Middle School. It was a safe place where they could get help with their homework and engage in activities that they enjoyed such as computer gaming and Girls on the Run. Now since the pandemic they have not been able to do any of these activities and have been isolated more, which has really affected their social and learning skills. For now, I am thankful that I am able to be home with my grandchildren after school, but as a parent, I am sure you understand that even me being</p>

	<p>with them after school is not the same. Unfortunately, many children who live in the District of Columbia don't have someone who can be there after school or access to a program. This is important because children who don't have someone to care for them after school sometimes end up hanging with the wrong people and in unsafe places. Out-of-school time programs can improve outcomes for children and youth by helping improve academic success. They provide access to a safe place and supportive social environment - all directly connected to your work on the Public Safety Committee.</p> <p>To keep our children safe and in OST programs they enjoy, we need at least \$25 million for OST programs - an increase of \$8 million. How can you make sure OST funding is protected and increased in the budget?</p>
<p>Cassandra Gentry, Citywide and Ward 6 PLE Board Member, Inspired Teaching School PCS, Mental Health Accountability</p>	<p>My granddaughter really needs to see a school mental health professional at least once a week. Despite these recommendations for a weekly check-in, my granddaughter has not received weekly meetings with her school counselor. This is due to the fact that so many children are in need of mental health support right now, especially due to the pandemic, and there aren't enough mental health professionals at my granddaughters school. There is also a lack of communication between the school and me and I tend to not find out whether she received her weekly check-in unless I ask her when she comes home from school.</p> <p>I know my family is not the only one experiencing issues in mental health support. There are major gaps in service in our school-based mental health system - and we know that in DC these gaps mostly impact students of color. This is due to overwhelmed staff, but also due to lack of accountability. We understand that there are difficult challenges, especially for mental health professionals, however the lack of services that I and many families have experienced makes us question how we are evaluating the system and how we are evaluating outcomes. ALL of our children deserve a strong school-based mental health</p>

	<p>system so that they can receive the help they need and thrive in their academics and overall life.</p> <p>How are you going to work to make sure a mental health accountability system is created and implemented so we can work towards equitable outcomes in Ward 6 and across the city?</p>
<p>Monique Cole Gary, Organizing Captain and Ward 6 PLE Board Member, Mundo Verde PCS, Mental Health Needs Assessment</p>	<p>I think we all can agree that the pandemic has been hard on all of us. We've had to deal with many uncomfortable truths - one of which is the shortcomings in our health systems, particularly our mental health system. While we as adults have our own difficulties, at least we have some ability to more fully understand what's going on. What about our kids? About 10 percent of the school population—9 to 13 million children—struggle with mental health problems. We've recognized the importance of mental health support in the past but now it's important to assess what we have and what's needed like we had to assess our needs for PPE and the like. We need to treat our children like they are living through not just a COVID-19 pandemic but also a mental health pandemic. It is so important that we address the shortcomings of our school based mental health system including gaps in the system, where needs are not being met, and where more funds and staff are needed. We appreciated your work in 2017 on the amended Youth Rehabilitation Act to make sure our young people can learn from their mistakes but we also want to figure out a way that we can take care of our youth now, while they are in school, starting at the earliest ages, so that they don't have to have these challenges at all. How can you partner with us to create a mental health needs assessment for our school system to ensure that every child has access to the mental health supports they may need?</p>
<p>Chat Questions</p>	
<p>LaKeisha Battle-Crim, Citywide and Ward 5 PLE Board Member, Rocketship Legacy Prep Parent</p>	<p><i>CM Allen, I wanted to ask how can you rally around, support and push OST SBMH at the top priority at the tables for folks who are in position to make change?</i></p>

<p>Katrice Whitaker, Advocacy Captain and Ward 6 PLE Board Member, Miner Elementary, Digital Pioneers PCS, Monument Academy PCS Parent</p>	<p>That all boils down to for our students with disabilities, what accommodations or preferences are or could be in place for those families?</p>
<p>Yolanda Corbett, Ward 7 PLE Board Member, Inspired Teaching and WLA Parent</p>	<p><i>We also do not have an account for programming that could adequately service families that have a child with a disability.</i></p>
<p>Russchelle Moore, Citywide and Ward 6 PLE Board Member, McKinley Tech Parent</p>	<p>Councilmember Allen, how would you partner with us to make sure that our Sped kids are included in OST, because they are often left behind or left out of the process and they also want to be able to have an even brighter future and future careers?</p>
<p>Yolanda Corbett, Ward 7 PLE Board Member, Inspired Teaching and WLA Parent</p>	<p>Maybe a door to door action could help with getting the information into the community. If you can come pass to tell me about Stay DC and getting vaccinated, you can come by to tell me about OST availability.</p>
<p>Darya Davis, Ward 8 PLE Board Member and Policy Captain, Center City PCS - Congress Heights Parent</p>	<p>How can you as a CM work in your capacity to increase funding for OST programs and create a strategic plan that centers on what our kids need both academically and mentally</p>
<p>Mable Boler, Ward 6 PLE Board Member, Friendship Edison Armstrong and Barnard Elementary School Parent</p>	<p>They know where these programs are and if they are affordable and you are saying you will continue to advocate for OST How can you make sure that these programs are available and affordable?</p>
<p>Euclides Rengifo, Citywide and Ward 4 PLE Board Member, DC Bilingual and DCI Parent</p>	<p>I'm a DC teacher and I notice that when students at my school have small behavioral issues they are sometimes removed from classes. This is a problem because the instruction and information they are missing adds up over time. The continuity of learning is important!</p> <p>I see these things happening all the time. It's good when kids are given the mental health support they need, but who is keeping</p>

	<p>track to make sure all the parts are working together?</p> <p>How can we work together with parents, schools and the Council to create a strong accountability system? If done well, this can give key stakeholders access to this information so we can know what the different long term impacts are of these types of behavioral interventions, especially for special needs students - and make plans to improve.</p>
<p>Leigh Sims, Citywide and Ward 6 PLE Board Member, Parent of children in Child Care Center</p>	<p>So happy to see you again CM Allen - can you share with me how the budget transparency is going with DCPS this year?</p>
<p>Henderson Long, Ward 7 PLE Board Member, Washington Latin PCS Parent</p>	<p>CM Allen, can we create a system to gauge the effectiveness of OST and mental health programs as it relates to public safety, violent crimes, gun related offenses, and carjackings? How can we measure reductions or increases through our mental health and OST programs?</p>
<p>Tara Brown, Citywide and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Friendship PCS Online Parent</p>	<p>We have met with all but one CM this week and there seems to be a consensus that there is a need for an increase of OST funding. The worry is that this initiative will not make the final cut in everyone's budget priorities. Can you help PAVE elevate OST amongst your colleagues to make sure OST continues to be a priority and is protected throughout the budget process?</p>
<p>Yolanda Corbett, Ward 7 PLE Board Member, Inspired Teaching and WLA Parent</p>	<p>I would double down on that Tara and ask how we can ensure that funding is set aside specifically to increase access for families that have children with disabilities?</p>
<p>Yolanda Corbett, Ward 7 PLE Board Member, Inspired Teaching and WLA Parent</p>	<p>Is the problem that there is no legislation in place to help enforce adequate services (smart dumb question)? Genuinely interested.</p>
<p>Tara Brown, Citywide and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Friendship PCS Online Parent</p>	<p>Mental health is foundational. It is the solution to a plethora of social ills: violence, learning, physical health, suicides, bullying, the school to prison pipeline, the list goes on. I think we all agreed that SBMH is important; hence, the \$81 million for the expansion of clinicians in every school. Now that we have the expansion, would you be willing to support the increased</p>

	investment it would take to make sure that SBMH is able to do what it needs to do for every child. Not to seem ungrateful, but one clinician at every school is not enough to really serve our students.
Yolanda Corbett, Ward 7 PLE Board Member, Inspired Teaching and WLA Parent	Is there anything that we can do on the federal level in advocacy that could be helpful towards our asks?
Tara Brown, Citywide and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Friendship PCS Online Parent	We have talked a lot this week about the budget and how to increase money in one area, you need to take from another. Do you have an idea where the fat can be trimmed in order to support these fundamental programs like OST and SBMH?
Leigh Sims, Citywide and Ward 6 PLE Board Member, Parent of children in Child Care Center	What is the best way to get to the mayor?
Mable Boler, Ward 6 PLE Board Member, Friendship Edison Armstrong and Barnard Elementary School Parent	Is there money in SBMH that is not being used
LaKeisha Battle-Crim, Citywide and Ward 5 PLE Board Member, Rocketship Legacy Prep Parent	please put us in position to get the right folks to help us? help us led us in the right direction