

PAVE DC Parent Voice and Choice Week 2022

Councilmember Trayon White Meeting Agenda

Welcome - 11:00 - 11:05am

- **Maya Martin Cadogan**, Founder and Executive Director of PAVE
- **Darya Davis**, Policy Captain and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Center City Congress Heights - Meeting Chair

Introductions - 11:05 - 11:07am

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

Councilmember Trayon White remarks - 11:07 - 11:15am

Parent Q&A - 11:15 - 11:55 am - see full questions below!

- **Tara Brown**, Citywide and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Friendship PCS-Online, Out of School Time (OST) Programs Strategic Plan
- **Kelita Boyd**, Organizing Captain and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Eagle Academy, Mental Health Accountability
- **Crystal Gray**, Citywide and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Dupont Park Adventist School, Mental Health Funding
- **Tyesha Andrews**, Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Jefferson Middle School Academy, Out of School Time Program Funding
- Chat questions (as time allows)

Closing and next steps - 11:55am - 12:00pm

Parent Name	Question
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<p>Tara Brown, Citywide and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Friendship PCS-Online, Out of School Time (OST) Program Strategic Plan</p>	<p>I am a Ward 8 mom, and my children and I live only 100 feet from a recreational center; however, my child had to travel all the way to Georgetown to participate in an art program that they were actually interested in. This was a major challenge for my child and me in terms of cost and transportation.</p> <p>Getting your child, or even more daunting, children into a quality OST program can be like the Hunger Games- after all there is, on average, only one OST program spot for every three DC children. We traveled to Georgetown for an OST program all because DPR spots activity spots fill up so quickly and there tends to be a lack of options where I live East of the River.</p> <p>As a champion for equity and the youth in DC combined with your position as chairperson for the committee of Recreation, Libraries and Youth Affairs, you have the power to help provide families with a diversity of affordable options for OST programs. How would you use the resources at your disposal to implement <i>a data-based, community-driven strategic plan to expand programs to address</i> this inequitable situation, especially DPR programs and programs East of the River?</p>
<p>Kelita Boyd, Organizing Captain and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Eagle Academy, Mental Health Accountability</p>	<p>As a parent, I had to figure out the mental health process in order to be able to hold the school accountable to getting my children the support that they need. And it only came after a lot of follow up and prodding from me - which all parents don't have the time to do. I had to schedule meetings with multiple people in the school and outside of the school and it was completely uncomfortable as a parent to witness the challenges of the system and to have to figure out what was going on in school and how to connect it to what I was seeing at home.</p> <p>I understand how much schools are doing and that they require support to do their work but it should not be this hard for parents to access our mental health system. At PAVE, we surveyed 630 families and only 49% even knew that mental health supports were available in their children's schools. We need to create an accountability system around mental health so that parents like me don't have to fight to get access to programs and so that we</p>

	<p>will know how schools are doing in delivering these services to our children. And we need to make more investments within schools to give them the training they need for teachers and clinicians to learn the best practices and from each other. I think we can use technology better to collect SBMH data to build action plans to make our schools have better informed practices, coordination, responses, and improved community engagement. How can you as a Councilmember push the Department of Behavioral Health to put in place a strong accountability system that supports each of our children getting the mental health services they need?</p>
<p>Crystal Gray, Citywide and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Dupont Park Adventist School, Mental Health Funding</p>	<p>My name is Crystal Gray and I've lived in Ward 8 for the past 12 years; right on 4th street near you, Councilmember, in fact. We met as neighbors a few years back, when I had the horrific experience of waking up to find my car riddled with bullet holes. The Councilmember helped me figure out what to do next when the impact of violence in our community hits so close to home. I'm grateful to you for being there for me and my daughter Amani that day still! This is a story I've shared before, but one I'm sharing again today because it's one of the most traumatic and impactful experiences I've ever had and truly, it highlights what ALL residents of Ward 8 are dealing with in one way or another.</p> <p>Right now, I think we can all see and feel the rise in crime and particularly violent crimes in our ward; many of them committed by minors! But It's important to keep in mind that many of our babies are in a mental health crisis! They are being traumatized and retraumatized at every turn. And although there are programs in place to help them, whether they are at school, received during an OST program, in collaboration with community-based organizations, or received when a young person is touched by the juvenile criminal justice system, we need to make sure that there is accountability for how these services are implemented across agency and areas - and that the</p>

	<p>agencies and organizations providing these services are coordinating.</p> <p>My question for you Councilmember is how will you work with The Deputy Mayor of Education and DBH to develop clear, publicly transparent, and strong accountability systems for any agency/organization providing mental health supports in schools?</p>
<p>Tyesha Andrews, Ward 8 PLE Board Member, Jefferson Middle School Academy, Out of School Time Program Funding</p>	<p>My name is Tyesha Andrews. I'm an advocate and a Ward 8 mom. When my kids get out of school, often I'm still working, which means they <i>need</i> enrichment programs. We know that children only spend 20% of their time in school and 80% is in the hours outside of school. What kids do with that time is so important but right now in DC, according to one of our partners in this OST advocacy, DC Action, 59% of DC families say that they can't participate because of the lack of available programs, 63% of DC families say the programs are too expensive, and 71% say they have no safe way to get their children to and from programs. Students living in wards 5, 7, and 8, on average travel further than students in other wards to attend school and participate in OST programs. And in addition to the unfair travel time, children with special needs are excluded from OST programs.</p> <p>Ward 8 in general is often neglected when it comes to extracurricular activities and sports. We need more OST programs focused on soccer, STEM, construction, chess, golf, wrestling, gymnastics, etc. as well as opportunities for mentorship! Councilmember White how can use your position as Chair of the Committee on Recreation, Libraries and Youth Affairs to support not only what Tara asked for earlier, which is helping to create a strategic plan with families, educators, OST providers and community partners to ensure access to in-demand programs for all kids, but increase OST funding by at least \$8 million in local, recurring dollars?</p>

Chat Questions

<p>Letisha Vinson,</p>	<p>We know you and Mayor Bowser have made additional</p>
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<p>Ward 7 Citywide and PLE Board Member, KIPP DC Parent</p>	<p>investments in mental health over the past few years and that has helped us to fund the DBH expansion. Which we truly appreciate. But we want to go further and make sure every one of our children has the mental health support they need and as parents, we know it's still not reaching all of our kids. How can you and your office put together a mental health needs assessment to determine what supports exist and what gaps still persist across all tiers of support? How does the DME coordinate with the Department of Behavioral Health? And can you bring together all of the agencies under the Mayor to ensure our SBMH programs are accounting for the increased and intensive needs of our students amidst the pandemic?</p>
<p>Letisha Vinson, Ward 7 Citywide and PLE Board Member, KIPP DC Parent</p>	<p>How can you advocate for or are there plans in the works to Expand partnerships and mentorship programs?</p>
<p>Letisha Vinson, Ward 7 Citywide and PLE Board Member, KIPP DC Parent</p>	<p>Have you considered and what are your plans regarding Redesign cost structure and requirements for vouchers and financial aid?</p>
<p>Letisha Vinson, Ward 7 Citywide and PLE Board Member, KIPP DC Parent</p>	<p>What strategy have you developed as it relates to Building and sustaining a pipeline of mental health professionals?</p>
<p>Letisha Vinson, Ward 7 Citywide and PLE Board Member, KIPP DC Parent</p>	<p>How can we Increase training for all school staff? -Training should include how mental health can manifest in many different ways, especially across cultures and age-levels.</p>
<p>Letisha Vinson, Ward 7 Citywide and PLE Board Member, KIPP DC Parent</p>	<p>There are so many talented and capable people in dc.. how are they advertising for staffing?</p>
<p>Crystal Gray, Ward 8 Citywide and PLE Board Member, Dupont Park Adventist School Parent</p>	<p>Councilman White, you have a role in the committee as a whole, how are you taking a leadership role during performance and budget oversight hearings with Mental Health Services.</p>
<p>Letisha Vinson,</p>	<p>There are a so many entrepreneurs and providers also... how can</p>

Ward 7 Citywide and PLE Board Member, KIPP DC Parent	we bring them to the same platform to collab and make it happen