

**Dominique Moore**  
**All Education Agencies**  
**Performance Oversight Hearing Testimony**  
**Committee of the Whole**  
**Wednesday, March 1st, 2023**

Chairman Mendelson and council members thank you for having me see you today. First, I wanna say thank you all for your commitment to DC kids. I know and I've heard today that everyone here has our children at the top of their mind and their priorities just so they should be. My name is Dominique Moore. I'm a ward 4 citywide Parent Leader with PAVE, Parents Amplifying Voices in Education and I'm here today to talk about my experience in the DC public charter school systems.

Presently I am the proud parent of a second grader who is testing on a first grade level in mathematics due to a social emotional disability. Despite my presence AT school and in my child's life I am still meeting significant barriers to access for support services. While I recognize the difficulty of the task before us NOW, we must make significant changes to change the trajectory of our systems future. As a federally employed single parent I was able to intentionally devise and implement a program to provide socialization for children in my community during the lingering pandemic. My city should be able to provide better.

It is evident from today's performance oversight hearing that this city is filled with some amazing leaders and individuals who want and are actively working towards a better future for DC children, and despite that we are still not adequately meeting students' needs. Some of these challenges can be negated if only we would improve information sharing about programs and cost savings options through an OST Community Advisory group, increased transparency in the oversight of OST programs, and expand access to scholarships, financial aid, and emergency legislation to increase the maximum income allowed to qualify for a childcare vouchers.

In the coming weeks I will be taking a position that will put me over the \$60,000 maximum income allowed for a two person household by just \$4,000.00, all while the middle class in DC starts around \$74,000.00 for a single individual. As an emerging middle class citizen continuing to live in DC is looking rather grim for my child.

While we run a deficit on school based mental health clinicians we need to improve family engagement and education, with public commercials and advertisements about emotional coping mechanisms and practices. Plase use the data from the SBMH cost study to provide



adequate resources to meet individual community needs, and redesign what the pipeline of a mental health professional looks like beyond the status quo social worker.

This is not a You, or them problem. This is a We problem and until all stakeholders are engaged and educated we will continue to run a deficit.

I believe in our city and our future and if ever there is a time you need me to meet you at the table, I am ready and available to take off work and be there just as I am today.

Best,

Dominique Moore  
Citywide and Ward 4 PLE Board Member