

Dominique Moore
Committee of the Whole
Education Agencies Budget Hearing
Friday, April 5th, 2024

Hello, Chairman Mendelson and DC Council staff. My name is Dominique Moore. I serve as a PAVE Ward 4 PLE board member.

I have been living in Washington DC since 2002. I have personally experienced the devastating impact of inadequate security measures and lack of support for our youth. In 1994, my father, who was a yellow taxi cab driver, was tragically murdered by two young men in southeast DC. This experience has shown me how important it is to have proper security measures, programs, and transportation options in place in our city.

As a parent, I face limitations in transportation options for my own child, who is on the autism spectrum. And I will be honest there are no suitable modes of transportation available for him to attend regular or after-school programs. That means I am his sole means of transportation in a city with a supposedly robust transportation system, and it is disheartening. I am grateful to Mayor Bowser and her staff for allotting \$9.7 million to maintain the safe passage program, the \$6.5 million increase in funding for the special education transportation program, and the one time allotment of \$7.2 million to maintain the DC School Connect program. These are all great investments in transportation options for students and it is my hope that they continue to be funded and expanded over the years.

Today, I have two budget friendly asks today that I and other PAVE parents believe will make a huge difference in the safety of our children. First, the District of Columbia Public Charter School leaders and all DCPS school leaders should convene in person for a citywide meeting, at least annually, with MPD, WMATA PD, and Safe Passage program leadership to build relationships and discuss ways they can collaborate around safe passage. The funding for DC School Connect, safe passage, and the special education transportation programs alone are not enough to help all DC kids get to and from school safely. There must be other systems in place that help coordinate all these moving pieces so that kids in public charters and in DCPS can have a safe commute. Additionally the DC Public Charter School Board (PCSB) should create a list of all of the security leads at each of their local education agencies (LEAs) and post it publicly to add an additional layer of coordination.



Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to the solutions you develop and am available for questions.

Sincerely,

Dominique Moore, Citywide and Ward 4 PLE Board Member, PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education)