

**Katrice Fuller**  
**District of Columbia Public Charter School Board**  
**ASPIRE Framework Public Comment**  
**Monday, April 8th, 2024**

Greetings Dr. Michelle Walker-Davis, the PCSB board, and staff. My name is Katrice Fuller. I am a Ward 5 resident and I serve as a PAVE Citywide member. I am also a proud mother of four boys who attend Monument Academy and Miner Elementary. Additionally, I am a bonus mom, teacher, counselor, and confidant to the hundreds of students and families I serve under my role as Chief of Family and Community Engagement at Monument Academy Public Charter School; a place that I consider to be a gem within our city due to the plethora of programming and resources we are able to provide for our school environment.

I want to start by thanking Dr. Michelle Walker-Davis and her team for meeting with myself and other PAVE parents last month where you gave a presentation about the ASPIRE framework and engaged in discussions with us. Following that initial meeting, I looked more into the framework and have some comments and suggestions I hope will be helpful as you move forward.

I will start by mentioning the pieces of the framework I was excited to see and think other parents will like engaging with. I'm happy about the school environment piece being included as school climate and culture hasn't been deemed as a crucial metric in the past. I think we all need to be asking students, parents, and other stakeholders if they feel like they are a part of a healthy and communal school environment and this framework hits on that. Additionally, I loved that the new framework is cognizant of the different types of students. It shows the flexibility and autonomy of the students and people being served. I am big on progression versus only achievement. As an educator, I have a good understanding of how important it is for students to be met where they are and to track how far they've come so I appreciate progression being a benchmark in the new framework.

With that being said, there are a few changes and additions to ASPIRE that I'd like to see. In the new framework charters are allowed to choose their own two metrics to be evaluated on. My question is: how can we ensure accountability and fidelity in regards to their achievement and progression if schools choose different items for that category? When thinking about specialized school programs, how can we make sure that let's say a school that says they are Dual Language and wants to be evaluated on this, is indeed a dual language school and operating the program



to fidelity? How can that be tied up? I would rather PCSB pick one metric and schools pick one of their own. I love the autonomy of charter schools as a charter leader myself, however as a parent first, we do need to streamline a few of these metrics.

Overall, ASPIRE has made a lot of things more digestible. I have to look at this all the time for work due to the nature of my job and I think it will be very useful. I do want to figure out a way to make it more digestible for parents and I think it may be good if in the future once ASPIRE is released if you all have webinars that show the similarities and differences between ASPIRE and the MySchoolDC report card because I could see families getting confused navigating the two different platforms.

Thank you for holding this hearing and for your time and consideration. I look forward to future collaboration and am available for questions.

Sincerely,

Katrice Fuller

Chief of Family and Community Engagement at Monument Academy PCS

Citywide and Ward 5 PLE Board Member, PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education)