

**Simone Scott**  
**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 Simone Scott. I am a Ward 7 resident and I serve as a PAVE Citywide PLE Board member. I am a parent of two children. My son is a Junior at Digital Pioneers Academy and my daughter attends I Dream in 1st grade. I also am a parent board member for both schools.

I want to start by thanking each of you for being here today and having this hearing about the new ASPIRE framework. Dr. Michelle Walker-Davis, it is good to see you again and I enjoyed chairing the meeting we had last month between you and your team and PAVE parents. We enjoyed hearing about ASPIRE and engaging in conversation with you.

I will keep my testimony brief and straightforward. I think that the newly introduced ASPIRE framework for assessing schools success and communicating the results to parents, is certainly a step in the right direction. I believe that District parents like myself need more of a robust understanding of our Public Charter School options. It will be great to plainly see what and how charter schools are going to be measured moving forward while having that information publicly available. With the accumulated data the ASPIRE system should be easy to navigate and the framework to be much more user friendly. In addition, I also support the one year acclimation period schools will need to adjust to the framework process. I'm sure any preparatory opportunities provided, the schools will greatly appreciate.

I do have a few areas to offer some suggestions I believe many parents would agree on. My main concern is the levels that will be assigned to schools. When schools get a rating, what exactly does that rating entail? If two different schools get a 4 on one of the metrics, what does that accountability mean exactly? What proof/data will schools provide to conclude their scored metrics? Furthermore, how will that proof be translated effectively to communicate it to families through the framework? For example If a school gets a 3 on school climate, how will the framework communicate accurately what that area is or is not doing to receive that score? My concerns are about true accountability and transparency to families how schools are proving a schools true state and services being provided to their scholars and families. Most importantly how this information is communicated through the framework. I believe how schools address



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their academic growth, their goals, and whole child model has to be assessed before ASPIRE goes live because parents and families deserve to know not only the rating of schools on certain metrics but also how those metrics are operating in each individual school whether it's through a publicly posted checklist or some sort of collected data. I hope to see these concerns addressed and would be happy to collaborate with you all.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I am available for questions.

Sincerely,

Simone Scott

Citywide and Ward 7 PLE Board Member, PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education)