

Katrice Fuller
All Budget Legislation
Budget Oversight Hearing Testimony
Friday, May 3rd, 2024

To: DC Council Committee of the Whole, Committee of the Whole Chairman Phil Mendelson, Committee of the Whole committee members, and Committee of the Whole staff
From: Katrice Fuller, Citywide Board member at PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education)
Date: May 3rd, 2024

Greetings Chairman Mendelson and the representative of the Committee of the Whole. 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 can provide for our school environment.

I want to begin by thanking the Mayor for the \$7.2 million to maintain the DC School Connect program and the \$6.5 million increase for the OSSE special education transportation program.

As a school leader, I am also grateful for the:

- 12.4% increase in UPSFF and 0.6 increase in the at-risk weight;
- Enhancement of \$4.8 million for high-impact tutoring;
- Enhancement of \$5 million to support Reimagining High Schools strategy, including Advanced Technical Center, Career Ready Internship, Advanced Internship Program, and Dual Enrollment.
- \$668,000 funding increase to the Office of Education through Employment Pathways for their Education through Employment Database.

I am testifying today both as an educator and parent to talk about the opportunities, or lack thereof, for students to access quality specialized school programs and the lack of information families have about programs that do exist. One of my many responsibilities at MA is high school transition coordination. My job is to work with students and their families to create an individualized plan that aligns with their goals, interests, and talents. As a high school transition coordinator (& mother of a current 8th grader), I see and feel every day the stressful process

families must go through to find a high school that best suits their child. We at MA have been blessed to build out a program that allows us to manage the transition of our students for their first-year post-transition to high school to guarantee their families' success, as data has shown me that no matter how academically sound a student may be, that a strong support system is what propels them to secondary and post-secondary success. With that being said, I urge you Chairman Mendelson, and other members of the Council to:

- 1) Create systems that do a better job at communicating to families what their options for programming are such as providing \$750,000 in funding for the creation of a school navigator system that would connect families with someone like me who can help identify best-fit schools for all families in DC,
- 2) Create a system of accountability that communicates how well programs are operating, and if the programs are teaching with fidelity to the program framework, if it even exists. Can this information be adequately reflected in something like the DC School Report Card or PCSB ASPIRE framework?
- 3) Require the Office of Education through Employment Pathways to collect and communicate data for their Education through Employment Database that includes information about which schools and school types have led to college enrollment and completion, securing jobs in high-demand and well-paying fields, and what life outcomes look like for students once they graduate. This information can help families make informed decisions about what schools will best serve their children.

As a parent, the main thing I want for my sons and all my bonus children is for their education to lead to college and/or a career. I would like to know what the ideal trajectory is for them and that is very hard to do with the way our educational landscape is now. Students and parents should not have to work so hard to find out basic information about a school. We must work together to do better for all our kids.

Thank you 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 6 PLE Board Member, PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education)