



MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED AT THE COMMISSION MEETING ON SEPT. 15, 2021

AUDIO IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST (CAITLIN.SHAUCK@DC.GOV)

AGENDA

Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting

May 19, 2021

3-5 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Acknowledgment

Recap of the Previous Commission Meeting

Approval of Minutes

Planning for the 2021-22 School Year

Education Landscape

Funding Opportunities

DC Health Data and Guidance

Health and Safety Reopening Plans

Addressing Physical Education Interrupted Learning

Equitable Food Access Program

Updates from OSSE

General Announcements

Comments from Commissioners on Current Work

Updates from Strategic Plan Working Groups

Final Discussions, Closeout and Priorities for Next Meeting

Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting
May 19, 2021
3-5 p.m.

Meeting Summary

This meeting summary serves as a review of the May 19, 2021 Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting held virtually. A recording is available upon request (Caitlin.Shauck@dc.gov). The purpose of the Healthy Youth and Schools Commission is to advise the Mayor and DC Council on health, wellness, and nutritional issues concerning youth and schools in the District of Columbia.

Commissioners in attendance: Akeem Anderson, Heidi Schumacher, Danielle Dooley, Jeff Travers, Taryn Morrissey, Kafui Doe, Audrey Williams, Kristy McCarron, Charneta Scott

Welcome and Introductions

- Chairman Jeff Travers opened the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

Acknowledgement

- The commissioners formally thanked William Dietz and Beverley Wheeler for their years of service on the Healthy Youth and Schools Commission.

Recap of the Previous Commission Meeting

- Chairman Travers asked commissioners to review the minutes from the Feb. 17, 2021 meeting.
- Commissioner Akeem Anderson motioned to approve the minutes, Commissioner Heidi Schumacher seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the commissioners.

Planning for the 2021-22 School Year

- Commissioner Heidi Schumacher presented on the expectations for the 2021-22 school year, three priorities for LEAs to focus on as they plan for fall 2021 and available support from OSSE.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Linda Sun, Director of Federal Programs and Strategic Funding at OSSE, presented on recovery funding opportunities available for LEAs and how they will be distributed to LEAs.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Chairman Travers asked Linda Sun if she thinks that LEAs will be able to actually spend all the money available through the recovery funding.

- Linda Sun responded that the need definitely exists. The fact that the funding waterfalls makes it complicated and LEAs will need to be cognizant on how they spend the funds.
- Commissioner Morrissey asked what is the definition of an eligible LEA and if there are any LEAs that were eligible for the ESSER-I CARES funding and did not apply.
 - Linda Sun responded that eligible means that the LEA is eligible depending on Title I. There has been equivalent funding and other sources of funding to also support non-Title I schools and LEAs. All eligible LEAs have applied and OSSE is working closely with them, providing support through their application process to ensure they take advantage of the funding.
- Commissioner Morrissey asked what percentage of public schools are considered Title I in the District and the District's decisions given that rescue plan included funding for private schools and for Title I and non-Title I public schools.
 - Linda Sun responded that funding gets distributed to a Local Education Agency (LEA), instead of in a school-by-school basis. From over 60 LEAs, 20 are non-Title I.
- Commissioner Morrissey asked if DC has decided to focus the flexible funds in the federal package on Title I schools and whether they are also administering private school funds.
 - Jessie Harteis, Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Systems and Supports, K-12 at OSSE, responded that the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools fund is a separate funding source that does not compete with the formula of funding presented by Linda Sun. Eligible entities are private schools, they could apply and around 20 have applied and OSSE is in the process of confirming what they have requested. They can request both for reimbursement of costs that were previously incurred as well future services. There are many Federal limitations on what is and what is not allowed for spending.
 - The overall LEA subgrants that are being discussed represent 90% of the overall award that DC received. There is an additional 10% for which the State Education Agency (SEA) has in the reservation to support to emergency needs, response and recovery. The funds have not been distributed to LEAs, some are still being determined and some are being used for a variety of supports for reopening and recovery including in health and school behavioral health.
 - Jessie Harteis, Deputy Assistant Superintendent of Systems and Supports, K-12 at OSSE, presented additional federal recovery funding.
- Dr. Anil Mangla, DC Health, presented on DC Health Data and Guidance.

- Additional information is available in the slides.
- Chairman Travers asked if Dr. Anil Mangla knows the vaccination rate of school-aged children over the past week.
 - Dr. Anil Mangla responded that as the vaccine rollout occurs there will be vaccination campaigns. He reiterated that getting vaccinated is the best way to be safe and protect yourself and your family. Dr. Anil Mangla shared his key advice is to get everybody vaccinated as soon as possible.
- Commissioner Morrissey asked if there is data on whether the outbreaks in schools are among children and adults and how this can help shed light on how we think about how quickly the case rates decrease following vaccination.
 - Dr. Anil Mangla responded that the data is available in DC Health's School Data Dashboard and that the data is stratified by type of school (i.e., high school, middle and elementary) and whether an outbreak involved a student, staff, and/or teacher.
- Commissioner Anderson asked if the COVID-19 vaccine will be required for children once the emergency use of the vaccine is lifted by the CDC.
 - Commissioner Schumacher responded that it is a DC Health decision and that DC Health has said that until the COVID-19 vaccine is fully authorized beyond the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), and the CDC Immunization Policy Board weighs in on how the COVID-19 vaccine is incorporated into the standard pediatric vaccination schedule, they will not opine on whether the vaccine will be or will not be required for children. It is strongly encouraged but the District does not have a policy posture yet.
- Commissioner Anderson asked for how much is the decrease in school outbreaks related to decreased attendance at this time in the school year.
 - Dr. Anil Mangla responded that they have not looked at that yet but will review their data to take it into account.
- Commissioner Schumacher presented on OSSE Health and Safety Reopening Plans that all LEAs and private, parochial and independent schools are required to submit describing how they will safely reopen schools in accordance with the DC Health and OSSE health and safety guidance.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Chairman Travers asked if there are any plans for vaccination at schools.
 - Commissioner Schumacher responded that there will be a question in the Health and Safety Reopening Plan asking for the LEA/school's plan to support vaccination in the community. DC Health is in conversation with public schools about setting up school-based vaccination sites for students and their families. There are plans to allow charter schools to access similar vaccination opportunities,

although the details are not yet available. OSSE will keep charter schools apprised. There are charter schools in discussion with private health clinics to provide routine vaccination and other health services.

- Commissioner Morrissey asked if there are plans to differentiate physical distancing requirements as more staff and students get vaccinated.
 - Commissioner Schumacher responded that this is a decision for DC Health and their Epidemiology Team to weigh the risks and benefits. OSSE looks to DC Health to set the standards. OSSE also supports schools as they operationalize the COVID-19 guidance. The question regarding differences for individuals based on vaccination status has come up but has not been incorporated into guidance at this stage.
- Charles Rominiyi, Health Education Manager at OSSE, presented on Addressing Physical Education Interrupted Learning.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.

Equitable Food Access Program

- Jo-Ann Jolly, Program Manager at Nutrition and Physical Fitness Bureau at DC Health, presented on Equitable Food Access Initiative Programs.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.

Updates from OSSE

- Commissioner Schumacher shared that work continues in search a Superintendent for OSSE. Shana Young continues to serve as the Interim Superintendent.
- The USDA has released school meals guidance for the 2021-22 school year which allows for free meals to be provided for all students. OSSE is gaining clarity on additional waivers and flexibilities and will be providing LEAs with updated guidance.
- OSSE continues to support DC Department of Human Services in the implementation of the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program which provides food benefits on an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to District families with children who normally receive free or reduced-price school meals if not for virtual learning due to COVID-19.
- Commissioner Anderson congratulated Shana Young's work as Interim Superintendent.
- Commissioner Anderson asked for an update on the plans to increase immunization rates in students.
 - In response to questions, Commissioner Schumacher noted that OSSE continues to work to reinforce the importance of routine pediatric immunization compliance in schools. Having a vaccine, preventable epidemic on top of the COVID-19 pandemic is her

biggest concern. This is a major focus of OSSE's work as the District prepares for the upcoming school year.

- Commissioner Schumacher also commented that there has been an increase in adherence to immunizations across district schools.
- Commissioner Anderson shared concern that parents who are not getting children their required immunizations will use it as an excuse to remain in remote learning. In response, Commissioner Schumacher expressed that OSSE does not want to introduce vaccine non-compliance as a path to remote learning. OSSE is updating guidance to ensure schools are excluding students who are not in compliance with the required vaccines. Remote learning will not be an option for immunization non-compliance.

Comments from Commissioners on Current Work

- Commissioner McCarron shared that she testified at DC Council along with Commissioner Wheeler and Commissioner Dietz at the hearing for the Nutrition Equity Amendment Act. If passed, the Act would create an excise tax that is expected to generate about 20 to 25 million dollars in revenue for the District. The revenue will be spent on food education, nutrition education at homeless shelters, food as medicine programs, and also creates nutritional standards for meals that are distributed at homeless shelters. There were 176 people that signed up to testify.
- Commissioner Wheeler shared that she believes the bill will be marked up and that while it may look different as it goes through the three different committees it was referred to, she believes that it will be able to hold the essence of the bill.
- Commissioner Dietz added that it is a critical bill and asked Commissioner McCarron to share more information on pushback to the bill from public testimony. In response, Commissioner McCarron noted that the beverage association and the restaurant and beverage association shared an argument that this is a repressive tax and that it will greatly impact many of the restaurants and small stores that have been hurt throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Those in opposition noted they believe it is a bad time to implement the bill. Representatives from small corner stores shared that this is going to hurt their business. Additionally, some residents said that it was repressive and that it disproportionately affects black residents because of the distinction with the taxes. The tensest part of the hearing was when individuals expressed that this bill was put together by individuals who could directly benefit from the funds.
- Commissioner Williams shared that the Public Charter School Board (PCSB) will host its annual Ahead of the Curve Conference on Wednesday, May 26, 2021, which will include workshops on supporting schools prepare for

reopening, staff mental health, helping staff transition from virtual to in-person learning, and equity in the classroom.

Updates from Strategic Plan Working Groups

- There were no updates from working groups.

Final Discussions, Closeout and Priorities for Next Meeting

- Chairman Travers shared that there are two open seats in the Healthy Youth and Schools Commission. The selection is done through the Mayor's Office of Talents and Appointments (MOTA). Chairman Travers said that he will send a note with details and the link for people to submit their applications.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 18. Chairman Travers asked to send topic suggestions to him via email.
- Chairman Travers closed the meeting at 4:28 p.m.