



MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED AT THE COMMISSION MEETING ON NOV. 17, 2021

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

AGENDA

**Healthy Youth and Schools Commission Meeting
September 15, 2021
3-5 p.m.**

Welcome and Introductions

Acknowledgment

Recap of the Previous Commission Meeting

Approval of Minutes

School Reopening Landscape

In-Person Instruction
COVID-19 Health and Safety Updates
COVID-19 Positive Case Response
COVID-19 Testing
Outdoor Learning Update
Federal COVID-19 Relief Spending
Data and Trends Update from DC Health

Updates from OSSE

General Announcements
Environmental Literacy Update

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
Sept. 15, 2021
3-5 p.m.

Meeting Summary

This meeting summary serves as a review of the Sept. 15, 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: Jeff Travers, Heidi Schumacher, Charneta Scott, Audrey Williams, Danielle Dooley, Taryn Morrissey, Kristy McCarron, Akeem Anderson, Kafui Doe.

Welcome and Introductions

- Chairman Jeff Travers opened the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Recap of the Previous Commission Meeting

- Chairman Travers asked commissioners to review the minutes from the May 19, 2021 meeting.
- Commissioner Akeem Anderson motioned to approve the minutes, Commissioner Heidi Schumacher seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the commissioners.

School Reopening Landscape

- Commissioner Heidi Schumacher provided an update on the beginning of the 2021-22 school year and presented on the distance learning eligibility via medical consent and certification for distance learning form for students with a physical or mental health condition that requires distance learning due to COVID-19.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Caitlin Shauck, Policy Analyst at OSSE, presented COVID-19 Health and Safety Updates including key prevention measures included in DC Health's Guidance for Schools, Health and Safety Reopening Plans submitted by LEAs and schools, COVID-19 vaccination access, the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine, and routine pediatric immunizations.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Rebecca Harnik, Management Analyst at OSSE, presented on the COVID-19 vaccination incentives available for District youth and their parents.

- Additional information is available in the slides.
- David Esquith, Director of Policy, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives at OSSE, presented on the contact tracing supports for schools via the COVID-19 Positive Case Response process.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Dorothy Lowry, contractor at OSSE, presented on COVID-19 testing supports available for public and public charter schools, including the centralized COVID-19 school-based testing administered by OSSE in partnership with ShieldT3 and the subgrant for LEAs operating own new, expanded, or modified testing program.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Commissioner Anderson asked for the timeline for receiving test results after participating in the asymptomatic and symptomatic testing.
 - Commissioner Schumacher answered that results take an average of 6-8 hours from the time that the sample arrives at the laboratory.
- Commissioner Anderson asked for the timeline for identifying close contacts.
 - David Esquith answered that the team aims to respond within an hour or two of receiving the report to consult with the school and determine potential close contacts.
- Commissioner Anderson asked why a negative test is not required for students to exit quarantine.
 - Commissioner Schumacher responded that the reason why a negative test is not required to return from quarantine is because it is not the public health recommendation. There is an option to test out of quarantine after day 7 of quarantine if the individual is tested on day 5 or later. However, if an individual completes the full quarantine period, the public health recommendation is to not require a negative test.
- Commissioner Anderson asked at what point OSSE or Mayor Bowser will require the COVID-19 vaccine for eligible students and staff.
 - Commissioner Schumacher responded that she is not aware of a threshold that the Mayor may consider to require the vaccine but she is proud of the steps that the District has taken already. OSSE looks forward to full approval of the vaccine.
- Commissioner Anderson asked the status of verifying routine pediatric immunizations.
 - Commissioner Schumacher responded that the data show we are in a similar position as we were two years ago, in the beginning of the 2019-20 school year, which is a good indication.
- Commissioner Dooley asked if students will have access to same-day testing in school if they are exposed to a symptomatic student with COVID-19 and what the virtual learning options are for students in quarantine.

- Commissioner Schumacher responded that students will be directed to the testing locations and Test Yourself DC. OSSE is in discussions with the school-based testing vendor should they have an unsupervised COVID-19 test that schools can send home to families. The vendor is reaching out to FDA for approval. OSSE hopes to offer this option. In the meantime, schools are directing families to public testing locations and the Test Yourself DC program. In regard to the second question, on virtual learning options for students in quarantine, it depends on the LEA. DCPS has information on their website, and other LEAs have taken different approaches.
- Commissioner Morrissey asked if DC has thought about implementing a test to stay program to reduce quarantine.
 - Commissioner Schumacher responded that there have been discussions with Dr. Mangla from the DC Department of Health. At this point, the test to stay model that other states are doing, via daily PCR or antigen test, is not something that the DC Health guidance allows. DC Health Guidance allows for a shorter quarantine if the individual tests negative on day 5 or later after close contact.
- Grace Manubay, Environmental Literacy Coordinator at OSSE, presented on how OSSE promotes using outdoor learning as a recovery strategy.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Commissioner Travers asked how many schools are implementing robust outdoor learning plans.
 - Grace Manubay responded that the number is not available now but there are around 18 schools that have signed up for technical assistance and there is room to work with more schools if they are interested.
- Jessie Harteis, Deputy Assistant Superintendent, K-12 Systems and Supports at OSSE, provided an update on federal COVID-19 relief spending, including to address interrupted learning.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Commissioner Travers asked for the timeline on when the funds will be distributed and when the programs, such as high intensity tutoring, will take place.
 - Jessie Harteis responded that she does not have the details, she believes work is underway and that there are federal timelines that they need to adhere to. She offered to follow-up via email with any commissioners that had additional questions on timing.
- Dr. Anil Mangla, Supervisory Epidemiologist at DC Health, presented on COVID-19 trends and data.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.

Updates from OSSE

- Commissioner Schumacher shared that the new Acting State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Christina Grant, began on June 21.
- Elizabeth Leach, Nutrition Programs Manager at OSSE, shared that public, public charters, and private schools participating in school meal programs are serving meals at school and have contingency plans to continue meal service if and when students are unable to attend in-person.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Claudia Price, Project AWARE Program Coordinator at OSSE, shared a mental and behavioral health update including current work with the DC Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to support expanding school-based behavioral health to all DCPS and public charter schools.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Rebecca Harnik, Management Analyst at OSSE, shared information about 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Administration and updates to the questionnaire.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.
- Grace Manubay, Environmental Literacy Coordinator at OSSE, provided updates on the Environmental Literacy Advisory Committee, the Environmental Literacy Grant, and the Capital LEAF program.
 - Additional information is available in the slides.

Comments from Commissioners on Current Work

- Commissioner Scott shared information for teacher wellness virtual sessions that DBH will host in September. DBH will provide resources for teachers.

Updates from Strategic Plan Working Groups

- There were no updates from working groups.

Final Discussions, Closeout and Priorities for Next Meeting

- Commissioner Schumacher shared that she will be out of the office for the next few Healthy Youth and Schools Commission meetings.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17. Chairman Travers asked to send topic suggestions via email.
- Chairman Travers closed the meeting at 4:54 p.m.