

DC Public Charter School Board

Hearing and Meeting Minutes: March 17, 2014 7:30 PM

Meeting Location:
DC Public Charter School Board
3333 14th Street, NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20010

Public Hearing

Board Members in attendance: John “Skip” McKoy (Chair); Darren Woodruff (Vice Chair); Sarah Mead; Barbara Nophlin; Scott Pearson (Ex-Officio); Don Soifer; Herb Tillery.

Mr. McKoy called the public hearing to order at 7:35 PM.

I. **Early Childhood 2013-14 Performance Management Framework (“PMF”) Technical Guide**

A. **PCSB Representative:** Ms. Erin Kupferberg, Specialist, School Quality and Accountability

B. **Discussion**

- Ms. Kupferberg stated the 2013-14 Early Childhood PMF Technical Guide (“Tech Guide”) was opened for public comment during the board’s monthly board meeting on February 19, 2014. She noted that the public comment period will close on March 21, 2014, and the Board will vote on the Tech Guide on April 23, 2014.
- Mr. McKoy asked how long the Early Childhood Task Force PMF had worked on the Tech Guide. Ms. Kupferberg replied that the Task Force had worked on the Tech Guide for about a year and a half.
- Mr. McKoy asked about the most significant recent changes to the Tech Guide. Ms. Kupferberg replied that since September 2013, the Task Force has focused on the floors and targets for all PMF indicators.
- No members of the public addressed the Board.
- Ms. Mead noted that there are no early childhood schools that currently need an alternative education framework, but such a need may emerge in the future. She asked whether the Early Childhood PMF is flexible enough to accommodate alternative education, or if PCSB would likely need to create an alternative education framework for this grade span. Ms. Kupferberg noted St. Coletta Public Charter School serves the early childhood grades and is not included in this framework. She stated that whether alternative education can be accommodated under this PMF would need to be considered by the Board in the future.

II. **KIPP DC Public Charter School (“KIPP DC PCS”) Charter Amendment Request – Enrollment Ceiling and Facility Notification**

A. **Representatives**

1. PCSB: Ms. Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Director
2. Schools: Ms. Irene Holtzman, Policy Director and Senior Advisor, KIPP DC Public Charter School (“KIPP DC PCS”)

B. **Discussion**

- Ms. DeVeaux stated that KIPP DC PCS is requesting an enrollment ceiling increase for its high school as well as for each campus. She added that KIPP DC PCS is notifying the board that it will move its high school campus to a new facility in school year 2014-15. Finally, Ms. DeVeaux stated that the Board has already received notice that KIPP DC PCS will open a new middle school next year.
- Mr. Pearson asked if the new high school would accommodate students from all KIPP DC PCS middle schools. Ms. Holtzman replied that the high school can accommodate 1,080 students, and therefore will be able to accommodate all KIPP DC PCS middle school students.
- Dr. Woodruff asked about the geographic range of the student body. Ms. Holtzman replied that the Hamilton campus is in a more central location, and noted that students from the Shaw campus have been choosing not to attend KIPP DC PCS’ high school due to its location. She further noted that the location was not in a residential neighborhood, and that the school is collaborating with Gallaudet University.
- Ms. Nophlin asked if KIPP DC PCS would retain its current high school campus. Ms. Holtzman replied that the campus currently contains four schools serving students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade, and that the other schools will slowly expand following the relocation of the high school.
- Mr. Soifer asked if the relocation precipitates that need for a second campus. Mr. Holtzman replied that the relocation does not precipitate a second high school, and that the new facility can serve a freshman class of up to 300 students.
- Dr. Woodruff asked if any other high schools are close by. Ms. Holtzman stated that there were not any other high schools nearby.
- Ms. Mead asked if KIPP DC PCS anticipates that the high school will only serve students from other KIPP DC PCS schools, or if it will take in additional students. Ms. Holtzman replied that the school wants to take in as many students as it can possibly serve.
- Ms. Mead asked if the high school will grow by adding a grade each year, or if all grade levels will be filled from the beginning. Ms. Holtzman replied that the school will grow by adding a grade each year.

- Mr. McKoy asked if KIPP DC PCS is making any special curriculum adjustments for students currently attending Arts and Technology Academy Public Charter School (“ATA PCS”). Ms. Holtzman replied that although all of the KIPP DC PCS schools already offer a robust arts curriculum, KIPP DC PCS intends to offer additional arts programming at the former ATA PCS campus. Additionally, the director overseeing arts programming will work primarily at the ATA campus.
- No members of the public addressed the board.

III. **IDEA Public Charter School (“IDEA PCS”) Annual Report Out Regarding Probation Status**

A. **Representatives**

1. PCSB: Ms. Emma McGann, Specialist, School Quality and Accountability
2. Schools: Ms. Joanne D. Forte, Board Vice President and General Counsel; Mr. John Goldman, Executive Director; Mr. David Owens, Board Chairman; Mr. Justin Rydstrom, Principal

B. **Discussion**

- Ms. McGann summarized the conditions of the school’s probation as well as the school’s progress according to data submitted in its probation reports.
- Mr. Owens noted that at the time the school applied for renewal of its charter, it was in the second year of a turnaround period and was placed on probation.
- Ms. Forte stated that the school met all probation conditions. She noted that the school made an unprecedented gain in its PMF performance, in reading as well as math performance.
- Mr. Goldman noted that the school was one of ten charter schools to obtain “Reward” status, the top ranking from the Office of the State Superintendent (“OSSE”) for its DC CAS testing performance, and the middle and high schools were ranked the highest in performance growth. He added that the school has the highest reading and math scores in Ward 7, and that the school had a 100% teacher return rate. He noted that the school intends to have a ninth grade class of 75 students, and because only 76 students ranked the school among their top three preferences in the MySchoolDC system, the school will likely continue to make an enrollment push this summer. He stated that the school is striving to receive a Tier 1 ranking, and would be the only Tier 1 school in Ward 7 primarily serving students east of the river.
- Mr. Rydstrom stated that the school implemented professional development programming to improve school culture, including early dismissal for students each Wednesday so that teachers have time to focus on professional development. He noted that the school implemented a school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (“PBIS”) model to reward students for consistent attendance, and that the school revised its office discipline referral system. He

stated that these changes foster a positive relationship among students and teachers, and that the school has improved communication with families.

- Mr. Rydstrom said that the school hired a new academic director and implemented a new teaching framework. He stated the school has also put a co-teaching model in place to serve special education students.
- Mr. Rydstrom stated that the school now uses the Northwest Education Association (“NWEA”) math assessment and Achievement Network (“ANet”) assessments. He stated that there is a dedicated block of time meeting for an hour four times per week to provide additional instructional support. He noted that the school has seen improvement in student PSAT and SAT scores.
- Dr. Woodruff congratulated the school and stated that he was impressed with the school’s improvement. He noted that the new strategies described created substantial change for students, and asked how the school’s culture has changed. Mr. Rydstrom replied that the school continues to see some challenges, including in mid-year withdrawals, but also noted that reenrollment is rising. He stated that the majority of students who left in school years 2012-13 and 2013-14 were out-of-state transfers, and noted that the school is accepting mid-year transfers.
- Dr. Woodruff asked how the school is addressing its high suspension rate. Mr. Rydstrom replied that the school is addressing suspensions through PBIS, and noted that suspensions are due to drug possession, assault, and other serious offenses. He stated that the majority of suspensions are short-term with a low recurrence.
- Mr. Soifer noted that one area in which he wanted to see improvement was in instructional support for teachers regarding content and lesson planning. Mr. Rydstrom replied that the school is focusing on this area this school year, and has moved to a more regular coaching model for teachers. He stated that the school utilizes iObservation for teaching evaluation and coaching.
- Mr. Soifer asked how the school uses data to guide instruction. Mr. Rydstrom replied that after each interim assessment, the staff dedicates a day to examine the data and revise teaching plans.
- Mr. Soifer asked what interim assessment the school utilizes. Mr. Rydstrom replied that the school uses ANet as well as some of its own assessments created in partnership with the TenSquare Group. Mr. Soifer asked how many times per year the school collects data. Mr. Rydstrom replied that the school collects data four times per school year.
- Mr. Soifer asked if the school retained its Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (“ROTC”) program. Mr. Rydstrom replied that the school retained the program, which is a strong asset to the school. He noted that program requirements changed

from two to four years. Ms. Forte stated that data is presented to the board during every meeting, and the school's leadership reviews that data with the board.

- Ms. Nophlin commended the school for its growth, and asked what teacher recruitment and retention strategies have been implemented. Mr. Goldman replied that the school retained all teachers but one, and the teacher who left had received a full scholarship for a PhD program. He stated that the school treats teachers as professionals and creates an environment for teachers to excel.
- Mr. McKoy congratulated the school on its progress. He commented that it is not surprising that some students have left with the substantial change in school culture, but asked the school to monitor truancy. He asked how the school ensures it is not overwhelming students with assessments. Mr. Goldman stated that the school has a multi-year implementation plan, and assesses students in a manner similar to other high-performing schools. Mr. Owens added that the school's board is actively involved in monitoring student assessment.
- No members of the public addressed the board.

IV. **Democracy Prep/Imagine Southeast Public Charter School (“Imagine Southeast PCS”) Asset Acquisition Agreement**

A. **Representatives**

1. PCSB: Ms. Monique Miller, Manager, New School Development
2. Schools: Dr. Barbara Bazron, Board Chair, Board Chair, Imagine Southeast PCS; Mr. Ben Feit, Deputy Chief of Staff, Democracy Prep Public Schools (“DPPS”)

B. **Discussion**

- Ms. Miller stated that Imagine Southeast PCS' Board of Trustees elected DPPS to operate a public charter school to acquire its assets, and the terms of the asset acquisition agreement are being finalized.
- Ms. Bazron summarized the process of the Imagine Southeast PCS board to identify a charter operator to take over the school. She stated that the school's board wanted the school to continue to serve students in the neighborhood, and that DPPS agreed to do so as a condition of the agreement. She noted the school's board and DPPS have met with the staff, parents, and community stakeholders about the transition, and the response to the change has been positive. She added that the Board has found DPPS to be very cooperative, and that the finalized agreement should be ready within a few days and the acquisition process concluded by the end of June.
- Ms. Nophlin asked if the building was included in the agreement. Ms. Barzon replied that the building was included in the agreement.
- Dr. Woodruff thanked the Imagine Southeast PCS board for ensuring the students made a smooth transition, and asked if the school has a sense of the percentage of students who will continue to attend the school following the takeover by DPPS.

Ms. Barzon replied that the Imagine Southeast Board requested that DPPS consider retaining staff that met DPPS' requirements, and a substantial number of staff members indicated they would like to interview with DPPS. Mr. Feit added that as of Thursday, Thursday, March 13, 2014, 300 students stated they would reenroll. He added that only 50 students currently attending Imagine Southeast PCS have elected to attend other schools in the *My School DC* system, although he also noted that this may be a low estimate.

- Mr. Soifer complemented Ms. Bazron on her strong leadership during the transition process, and asked her to discuss the timeline for the process. Ms. Bazron replied that she expects the asset acquisition agreement will be completed in the next few weeks. She noted that Imagine Southeast PCS had an agreement with Schoolhouse Finance LLC regarding the building, and Imagine Southeast PCS is not a party to Schoolhouse Finance LLC's agreement with DPPS. She stated that some of the tasks associated with closing the school will be finished by June 30, 2014, although there will be some outstanding tasks that will continue for a few months after that date.
- Mr. Sofier asked to be updated regarding the status of the lease. Ms. Bazron and Mr. Feit replied that there were no issues related to the lease agreement, and Mr. Feit stated that DPPS will prepare a marked up version of the lease by the end of the week.
- No members of the public addressed the board.
- Ms. Bazron asked about PCSB's remaining requirements regarding the asset acquisition agreement. Mr. Pearson replied that after the agreement is completed, it will go before the Board for a vote.

The public hearing was adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Public Meeting

Board Members in attendance: Skip McCoy (Chair); Darren Woodruff (Vice Chair); Sarah Mead; Barbara Nophlin; Scott Pearson (Ex-Officio); Don Soifer; Herb Tillery.

Mr. McKoy called the public meeting to order at 8:39 PM.

- I. **Public Comments by Elected Officials.** No elected officials addressed the Board.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda.** Dr. Woodruff moved to approve the agenda, and Mr. Tillery seconded. The Board approved the motion 6-0.

- III. **Approval of the February 19, 2014 Board Minutes.** Ms. Mead moved to approve the minutes, and Mr. Soifer seconded. The Board approved the motion 6-0.
- IV. **Administrative Contracts over \$25,000.** Dr. Woodruff stated that the contracts would be read into the minutes unless an objection was raised. No objection was raised.
- V. **Approval of Technology Plan.** Dr. Woodruff stated that the technology plan would be read into the minutes unless an objection was raised. No objection was raised.
- VII. **Somerset Prep Public Charter School (“Somerset Prep PCS”) Request to Expand to Ninth Grade**
- A. **Representatives**
1. PCSB: Ms. Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Director; Ms. Monique Miller, Manager, New School Development
 2. School: Mr. Jim Griffin, Principal and Chief Administrative Officer
- B. **Discussion**
- Ms. Miller asked that the Board grant Somerset Prep PCS permission to serve students in ninth grade in 2014-15, and added that the school met the deadline for submitting its curriculum.
 - Dr. Woodruff asked Mr. Griffin to provide a summary of the school year. Mr. Griffin replied that the school had a 94% reenrollment rate and a 90% attendance rate. He noted that the school wants to steadily grow its program, and will focus this growth on communication technology. He stated that the school builds in a remediation program daily, and the school uses a program called i-Ready diagnostic to assess student learning.
 - Mr. Tillery asked how many additional students the school will add by the end of ninth grade. Mr. Griffin replied that about 75 to 100 students will be added, including additional sixth graders and students in other grades.
 - Mr. Tillery asked if there are any middle schools near the school. Mr. Griffin replied that Hart Middle School and Ballou High School are near Somerset Prep PCS. He noted that the school took in students from other charters as well as traditional public schools. He stated that the school has 127 students on the waiting list, and that 40 to 50 of those students are ninth grade students, although the school only has seven or eight open ninth grade seats.
 - Dr. Woodruff asked if most of the ninth grade class would be comprised of rising eighth graders at the school. Mr. Griffin replied that most of the ninth grade class would be comprised of current eighth graders at the school. He added that current diagnostic tests indicate that the majority of students are at grade level, although they started school three grade levels behind.

- Ms. Mead asked about the school’s staff retention. Mr. Griffin replied that the school has not lost anyone, and that all teachers put in letters to return next year. He noted that there was some turnover due to staff leaving who were not a good fit for the school. He stated that the school offers a strong professional development program and teacher support.
 - Ms. Nophlin asked how students were able to progress three grades in one school year. Mr. Griffin replied that he attributed student progress to three factors: (1) the school’s strong curriculum; (2) relationships that establish high expectations for students; and (3) a pathway that allows students to enjoy and celebrate success. He stated that the school’s remediation provides immediate help for students, offers tutoring support, and includes data checkpoints for students to see their progress.
 - Ms. Nophlin asked Mr. Griffin to clarify whether the school offers a 90-minute daily remediation period for each student. Mr. Griffin replied that students are offered a 90-minute daily remediation period for support in reading and math. He added that the school’s policy only permits students to participate in extracurricular activities after they’ve attended the scheduled tutoring session.
 - Dr. Woodruff asked if most students live near the school, and Mr. Griffin replied that most students did.
 - Mr. Tillery asked about the school’s student-teacher ratio. Mr. Tillery replied that the school’s student-teacher ratio is about 18:1, although this is lower for students who need more individualized attention.
- C. **Vote:** Mr. Soifer moved to grant Somerset Prep PCS permission to serve ninth grade, and Ms. Nophlin seconded. The Board approved the motion 6-0.

VI. **Vote to Fully Approve Democracy Prep Public Charter School (“Democracy Prep PCS”) Charter**

A. **Representatives**

1. PCSB: Ms. Naomi DeVeaux, Deputy Director; Ms. Monique Miller, Manager, New School Development
2. School: Mr. Ben Feit, Deputy Chief of Staff, Democracy Prep Public Schools (“DPPS”)

B. **Discussion**

- Ms. Miller stated that the school met 14 of the 16 conditions required as part of the Board’s approval of the school’s charter, and that the school requests to defer the remaining conditions: (1) a signed management agreement between the school and DPPS, and (2) liability insurance. She added that these conditions must be met before the Board signs a charter agreement with the school.
- Ms. DeVeaux noted that at the time DPPS’ charter was approved, there was no discussion of an asset acquisition agreement with Imagine Southeast PCS. She

stated that the decision before the Board is to approve the school's original charter to serve students in pre-kindergarten-three through fifth grade, and that DPPS will return to the Board soon with a request to amend the school's charter to increase the school's enrollment ceiling, as well as serve students in middle school grades.

- Mr. Tillery noted that the school's enrollment ceiling included in the memorandum to the Board was for 650 students. Ms. Miller clarified that the school's enrollment ceiling after five years was 650, and that the school would serve 250 students in its first year and grow one grade level per year.

C. **Vote:** Mr. Tillery moved to fully approve DPPS' charter, and Ms. Mead seconded. The Board approved the motion 6-0.

VIII. **Renewal Vote: Roots Public Charter School ("Roots PCS")**

B. **Representatives**

1. **PCSB:** Ms. Sarah Medway, Charter Agreement Specialist
2. **School:** Ms. Beverly Galloway, Teacher Representative; Ms. Rasheki Kuykendall, Vice Principal; Ms. Roseanna Nwaogu, Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Gilda Sherrod-Ali, Board Chair; Dr. Bernida Thompson, Founder and Principal

B. **Discussion**

- Ms. Medway summarized the standard for charter renewal as well as the staff findings contained in the school's renewal report. She stated that the PCSB staff recommended renewal with two conditions: that the school adopt (1) specific goals about special education compliance, and (2) math goals related to growth and achievement, at the elementary, middle school, and early childhood levels.
- Dr. Woodruff asked the school to describe its future direction. Dr. Thompson replied that the school would remain small, with no more than 120 students. She stated that the school has a high level of community, parent, and staff support. She added that the school finds gifts in all students, and that many parents do not want their children labeled as special education students. She stated that the school creates student portfolios because, although the school is working to ensure growth in standardized test scores, students have more talents beyond those measured by standardized testing.
- Ms. Sherrod-Ali stated that in providing students with an education rooted in Afrocentric history and values, the school teaches them confidence. She added that the school has a full-time special education teacher who is working with students.
- Ms. Kuykendall noted that she was involved in the CityBridge Program in school year 2012-13. She stated that the school is working closely with teachers to integrate technology into the classroom and implement data-driven instruction.
- Mr. Tillery commended the school for staying true to foundational mission and its focus on non-cognitive skills.

- Dr. Woodruff asked the school to talk about what unique aspects of its program instill confidence in students. Dr. Thompson stated that students see themselves reflected in the school’s curriculum and culture. Ms. Kuykendall noted that because a teacher has a student for several grades, the teacher is able to build a relationship with students’ families.
 - Ms. Nophlin asked what high schools students attend when they leave Roots PCS. Dr. Thompson replied that students go to the school of their choice, and added that Roots PCS alumni are attending schools such as Banneker Academic High School, School Without Walls, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, and St. John’s College High School.
 - Mr. Soifer stated he was supportive of the school’s renewal, and noted that he would like to see improvement in Roots PCS student growth over time. He asked how the school intends to move students forward. Ms. Kuykendall replied that the school uses the Common Core math and reading standards. She stated that she is a member of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (“PARCC”) initiative as well as a PARCC advisory group. She noted that the school adopted a strong math curriculum and has integrated one-on-one instruction. She added that the special education teacher also works closely with students.
 - Ms. Mead asked what systems have been put in place to ensure effective identification and service to students with special needs since concerns regarding the school’s special education compliance was first identified. Ms. Kuykendall replied that the school employs a special education teacher and a student support teacher, and has contracted with a speech pathologist as well as a school psychologist. She added that the school has a student support team to serve students with disabilities.
 - Ms. Mead asked if students come to the school already with Individualized Education Programs (“IEPs”). Ms. Kuykendall replied that some students come to the school with IEPs already in place.
- C. **Vote**: Dr. Woodruff moved to approve renewal of Roots PCS’ charter, and Mr. Tillery seconded. The Board approved the motion 6-0.

IX. **Charter Amendment Vote: DC Bilingual Public Charter School (“DC Bilingual PCS”)—Adopt the Performance Management Framework (“PMF”) as Charter Goals**

A. **PCSB Representative**: Ms. Medway, Charter Agreement Specialist

B. **Discussion**

- Ms. Medway stated that the staff recommended approval of DC Bilingual PCS’ request to amend its charter to adopt the PMF as its goals. Ms. Medway noted that the school was high performing, and had achieved Tier 1 status in 2012-13.
- C. **Vote:** Ms. Mead moved to approve the school’s charter amendment request, and Ms. Nophlin seconded. The Board approved the motion 6-0.

X. **Lift Notice of Concern for Compliance in Governance: Washington Math Science and Technology Academy Public Charter School (“WMST PCS”)**

A. **PCSB Representative:** Ms. Rashida Kennedy, Manager, Equity and Fidelity Team

B. **Discussion**

- Ms. Kennedy stated that PCSB staff is requesting that the Board lift the notice of concern for WMST PCS because the school has provided a board roster showing it is compliant with the School Reform Act.
- Dr. Woodruff asked how many members sit on the school’s board. Ms. Kennedy replied that the school has 11 board members.

C. **Vote:** Ms. Mead moved to lift the Notice of Concern, and Dr. Woodruff seconded. The Board approved the motion 6-0.

XI. **Notice of Concern: Truancy Policy—Multiple Schools**

A. **Representatives**

1. **PCSB:** Mr. Tim Harwood, Data and Policy Analyst
2. **School:** Mr. Mike Cucciardo, Executive Director, Hospitality High Public Charter School (“Hospitality High PCS”); Mr. Steven Foster, Assistant Principal, Maya Angelou Public Charter School (“MAPCS”) – Evans High School; Mr. Harold Miles, Principal, MAPCS

B. **Discussion**

- Mr. Harwood summarized PCSB’s truancy policy and the truancy rates, based on data through January 31, 2014, for Hospitality High PCS as well as MAPCS’ middle and high schools. He stated that PCSB staff requests that the Board issue a Notice of Concern for these schools with truancy rates surpassing the threshold included in PCSB’s policy on truancy, and added that the Notices of Concern will be lifted if the schools show improvement in their performance.
- Ms. Nophlin asked about the truancy policy in general, as well as the timeframe during which the schools must show improvement. Mr. Harwood replied that PCSB will review the school’s data through the end of April to compare whether the attendance rates for truant students, as well as the attendance rates of the entire school have improved from the previous period.
- Mr. McKoy asked about how many students are truant at Hospitality High PCS and MAPCS. Mr. Cucciardo stated that 77 students at Hospitality High PCS were

classified as truant. Mr. Pearson noted that half of these students need to show improvement for the Board to lift the Notice of Concern.

- Mr. Soifer asked what strategies the schools would implement to minimize truancy. Mr. Cucciardo replied that Hospitality High PCS has reached out to parents, and noted that one issue for the school has been a lack of internal consistency with follow-up. He stated that the school's policy automatically writes off an absence as unexcused and places the burden of proof on students to show that the absence was unexcused. He added that the person responsible for the lack of follow up is no longer with the school, and the school hired a new person to ensure proper attendance procedures are followed. Mr. Miles stated that MAPCS changed its attendance clerk position from part-time to full-time, and is sending out Metropolitan Policy Department ("MPD") truancy letter. He stated that the school is reviewing its records to ensure absences are accurately recorded.
- Mr. Soifer asked whether MAPCS has students who are just below the truancy threshold. Mr. Miles replied that 60 students are chronically truant, and of these students, 40% are new to the school as of this year. He added that the school is reaching out to parents to ensure they are aware of procedures for notifying the school of an absence. Mr. Foster stated that at the high school level, MAPCS has revised its attendance system so that counselors reach out to parents regarding attendance.
- Mr. Soifer asked about MAPCS' overall behavioral and discipline issues. Mr. Foster replied the school specifically recruits students with behavioral and discipline issues. He stated that the school has a strong Social and Emotional Learning ("SEL") Department so that students can focus on academics. He noted that although disciplinary actions may be higher-than-average, the school is working with students individually to improve behavior. Mr. Soifer asked how the school is doing with behavioral and discipline issues this year. Mr. Foster replied that the school reduced its expulsion and suspension rate, and he noted that although there has been an uptick in neighborhood violence, the counseling department has worked with students to reduce its impact.
- Mr. McKoy asked what the schools offer to help students achieve their potential. Mr. Foster replied that MAPCS helps students find a connection to education, including what opportunities are open to high school graduates. Mr. Miles stated that the school hired a new eighth grade teaching staff, and that building relationships with students will take time. He added that 50% of the seventh grade staff returned. He noted that changing attitudes towards education proceeds gradually. He stated that the school hired an in-school suspension coordinator as part of the discipline team. Mr. Cucciardo replied that he ties attendance to career skills.

- C. **Vote:** Mr. Soifer moved to issue the Notices of Concern, and Ms. Mead seconded. The Board approved the motion 6-0.

XII. **Policy Vote: Revisions to Alternative Accountability Framework Policy (“AAF”)**

A. **PCSB Representative:** Ms. Rashida Tyler, Manager, School Quality and Accountability

B. **Discussion**

- Ms. Tyler stated that PCSB staff recommended the Board vote to approve revisions to the AAF, and summarized the proposed changes.
- Ms. Nophlin clarified whether schools qualifying for the AAF would be measured under the PMF or their goals. Ms. Tyler replied that schools would establish their goals through the policy.
- Mr. Soifer asked why the qualifying threshold of alternative students is 60% instead of 70%. Ms. Tyler replied that research shows that setting the bar too high is not good for students. PCSB concluded that the threshold should be lowered while still excluding most schools.
- Ms. Nophlin asked which schools meet this threshold. Ms. Tyler replied that PCSB invited MAPCS, Options Public Charter School (“Options PCS”), and St. Coletta of Greater Washington Public Charter School (“St. Coletta PCS”) to discuss development of the AAF. She stated that PCSB collected data on two risk factors: (1) students receiving level three and four special education services and (2) students at least two years over-age and under-accredited for their grade level, and found that Options PCS and St. Coletta PCS surpassed the 60% threshold, but that MAPCS did not, although these are just two of the factors AAF considers.
- Dr. Woodruff asked if there is a fourth school that would come close to qualifying for AAF. Mr. Tyler replied that there is not a fourth school that comes close to qualifying for AAF. Ms. DeVeaux added that there was consideration to ensure the threshold was not set too high. She noted that with the 60% threshold, students with multiple risk factors are only counted once, while under the 70% threshold, these students would be counted multiple times.
- Ms. Nophlin asked if there are measurable goals in the AAF. Ms. Tyler replied that if the three schools want to move forward with being held to this framework, they will submit an application and complete additional data collection. She stated that PCSB will begin talking to schools about goals in May, and emphasized that the selected goals must be rigorous.
- Ms. Nophlin asked if the schools held accountable under the AAF will be measured against a lower expectation for progress. Ms. Tyler replied that PCSB asked schools to look at their historical data to set rigorous targets aligned to growth. Mr. Pearson stated that the AAF only designates which schools set alternative goals. He emphasized that each school must renegotiate its goals and

the Board will vote on those goals. Ms. DeVeaux stated that the AAF will be used to identify schools, not to measure school performance.

- Dr. Woodruff asked if having a strict bar related to truancy is the correct way to look at data, or if PCSB should dig deeper and be more proactive to see if students attending schools qualifying for AAF are truant for different reasons than non-alternative school students. Mr. Pearson noted the bar was higher for alternative schools. Ms. DeVeaux stated that the South Capitol Street Memorial Act requires schools to report a family if a student who is between ages five and thirteen has ten or more unexcused absences in a school year.
- Ms. Mead asked about the duration of the AAF designation. Ms. Tyler replied that the original policy asked schools to submit data annually, but a school's status will only be reviewed at the time of charter review unless the school submits data showing its demographics have significantly changed. Ms. Mead asked if any other schools will be able to apply for the AAF at renewal or when their charter agreement is first signed. Ms. Tyler replied that schools could submit an AAF application before the beginning of any new school year. Ms. DeVeaux added that to qualify for the AAF, the school's mission must be focused on alternative education.

C. **Vote:** Mr. Sofier moved to approve the AAF revisions, and Dr. Woodruff seconded. The Board approved the motion 6-0.

XIII. **Open for Public Comment: Amendment to Adopt the Performance Management Framework as Charter Goals and Academic Achievement Policy**

A. **PCSB Representative:** Ms. Rashida Tyler, Manager, School Quality and Accountability

B. **Discussion**

- Ms. Tyler summarized the contents of the proposed amendment to the policy, which provides language describing how PCSB will evaluate a school's early childhood and/or adult education programs during future high stakes reviews.
- Ms. Mead asked whether a school would have to reach or exceed each indicator in order to meet its goals for each year the indicators are in place. Ms. Tyler responded that the school would need to reach or exceed each indicator to meet its goals for each year the indicators are in place.

C. **Vote:** Dr. Woodruff moved to open the amendment for public comment, and Ms. Mead seconded. The Board approved the motion 6-0.

XIV. **Public Comments.** No members of the public addressed the Board.

XV. **Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 PM. Ms. Mead moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. McKoy seconded. The Board approved the motion 6-0.