



EMHS Community Cabinet Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Deanwood Recreation Center
6:30pm-8:30pm

Meeting Objectives

Meeting participants will:

- Receive an introduction and overview of the roles of the Community Cabinet.
- Receive introductory information about the Empowering Males High School.
- Understand sub-committee structure of Community Cabinet and their respective roles.

Meeting Attendees:

- *EMHS Community Cabinet Members:* Erwin Kwawu, Donny Gonzalez , Julian Wright, Dr. Monica Roaché, Dr. Lois Berlin, Kathy Silva, Keith White, Dion Davis, Dr. Jessica Scheer, Michael Taylor, Larry Womack, Chantal Fuller, Mark Samburg, Hah-na’h Wright, Bridgette Hudson, Sirraya Gant, Eric Vinson, David Smith, Robert Pierre, Dr. Brandon Daniels, Maurice Kie, Antawan Holmes, Eboni-Rose Thompson
- *Empowering Males High School:* Ben Williams
- *Office of Family and Public Engagement:* Josephine Bias Robinson, Shanita Burney, Sarah Parker, Billy Kearney, Sharona Robinson
- *Office of the Chief Operating Officer:* Teresa Biagioni, Patrick Davis, Toussaint Webster
- *Office of the General Counsel:* Steven Rubenstein, Scott Barash

Notes:

| Topic | Comments |
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| Welcome, Overview, Norm Setting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After being introduced to the DCPS staff, the Community Cabinet participated in an icebreaker where they were able to get to know each other and understand each other’s motivations for getting involved with the Cabinet. • The Cabinet established/agreed upon group norms which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Generosity of spirit/respectful tone ○ Be mindful of your airtime ○ Commit to the decisions made by the group ○ Begin and end meetings on time ○ Stay engaged ○ Be bold-think big, be transformative, bring your perspective to the table |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trust but verify – our process must have Integrity ○ Understand roles and responsibilities – know your role and have clarity around it ○ Meet Deadlines ○ Keep the Main Thing- The Main Thing ○ Communicate Clearly, Frequently ○ Solutions Oriented – Be Positive <p>Cabinet members can expect the following from the EMHS-DCPS Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting Minutes will be taken, sent out, and shared publicly ● Agenda will be created and sent out in advance ● Tight facilitation since will only have 2 hours each month to meet ● Will share notes and communicate updates with key DCPS leadership, including the Chancellor ● Transparency and Open Communication |
| <p>Facilities Introduction</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The EMHS Community Cabinet will be unique in that it will receive Facilities Updates at each meeting. Due to the overlap of construction timing, principal hiring, and launch of the Community Cabinet, a formal School Improvement Team (SIT) is not in place. Instead, the Community Cabinet will weigh in as appropriate and when necessary. ● DCPS SIT Coordinator, Toussaint Webster, will serve as the lead POC for EMHS and will provide updates at each meeting. ● Introductions were made to the architect and the construction / builder for the new school - Perkins-Eastman Firm and Gilbane respectively . ● There will be a meeting on March 2 where we will cover the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meet all facilities team members (i.e. DGS reps, builder, architect) ○ Go in-depth into the facility specs ○ Review of the concept level for the design of EMHS |
| <p>School Updates</p> | <p>Principal Williams provided the following EMHS updates:</p> <p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A school overview was distributed to the Cabinet and can be accessed HERE. ● EMHS will implement a 9th grade academy model in its 1st year. ● All students will participate in Pre-AP and AP classes. ● College Prep and Dual Enrollment College Partnerships. ● School Culture Focus – rituals, community meetings every morning with themes, single-gender focus school, strong |

encouragement in activities and athletics, promotional incentives after each grade level is accomplished.

Enrollment - - Goal – max 150 boys, current applicants to-date, recruitment and enrollment strategies. April 1 – more targeted outreach with enrolled students. Questions asked included:

- What’s the school’s hook for getting boys interested in enrolling?
- What happens to the kids that will be on a waiting list?
- How are you making sure that Ward 7/Deanwood students are targeted given it is a citywide school?

Academics

- The school is open to all levels of achieving students.
- The EMHS staff will not be all-male staff. There will be a diverse group of strong staff that will include men, women and a diversity of races and backgrounds.
- Spanish was chosen as the foreign language since the majority of anticipated students will have received Spanish at their middle schools and we can build on that language for graduation credit purposes. Latin will be offered in grades 10, 11, and 12 because Latin supports the expansion of English vocabulary, facilitates the understanding of English grammatical structures, and it provides the root words for all modern sciences.
- An instructional coach will provide academic supports and allow for targeted reading interventions to be designed all of our boys.

Parent Engagement

- Parents and students will be a key part of informing how the school develops. By hiring two counselors, they will work with parents and students and advise me, in part, on how to make sure their voice is heard throughout the school's development.
- Involve parents and students in academics, extra-curricular activities- separate them into groups/cohorts or "houses" to compete among one another.
- Teachers will work with parents regularly and conduct home visits.

Budget:

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See HERE for the school’s budget allocation for fiscal year 2017 <p>What will make EMHS different from other high schools in DCPS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summer Bridge/School Cultural Programming for Incoming 9th Graders that takes place off-site ▪ 1:75 Counselor to Student Ratio in Year 1 ▪ College Visits beginning Sophomore Year ▪ Private Funds raise funds for overnight leadership and college prep camps ▪ Study Abroad programs beginning in after Sophomore and Junior Years ▪ Uniform – Blazers, Shirt with Tie, and Khaki pants/slacks ▪ Community Service Project each year ▪ One-for-one laptop and Kindles (e-readers) ▪ Young male focus |
| <p>Closing & Next Steps</p> | <p>Brief Meeting Location Discussion (Upcoming Meetings) Meetings will be held the Third Monday of Every Month (Monthly Meetings)</p> <p>Q: Can we meet in other areas since it is a citywide group? Discussion included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro accessibility is important • We lose the cultural benefits of Deanwood if we rotate to other locations and this is the community our boys will be in everyday • We should prioritize Wards 5,6,7, and 8 given the majority of the boys attending the school will live in these communities <p>Sub-committee work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review proposed sub-committees (we have assigned them, but we can discuss this) • Sub-committee lead(s) will follow-up before the next meeting • Please Submit Bios and Take Pictures for our public announcement of this committee • Collect Postcards (grab on the way out); E-versions of the postcards will be sent to committee members as well. <p>Upcoming Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The next meeting is focused on facilities on March 2, 2016 ▪ The next Community Cabinet Meeting is March 21, 2016 |