



Roosevelt Community Cabinet Meeting Notes

May 5th, 2016

6:30 – 8:30PM

Roosevelt High School

Presenter: Aqueelha James

Support: Teresa Biagioni, Andrew Katz-Moses

Notes:

Agenda

Time	Agenda item	Key questions
6:30 – 6:40pm	Welcome/ Review of agenda	
6:40 – 6:45pm	Celebrations	
6:45 – 6:55pm	Updates	
6:55 – 7:05	Community Cabinet next steps	
7:05 – 7:30pm	Small group discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can Cabinet members continue their work on Roosevelt in their own communities? How does each member engage his/her own networks? • What steps do you want to see Roosevelt take in engaging parents and the community moving forward into the next school year? • How can Cabinet members support parent engagement at Roosevelt?
7:30 – 7:35pm	Break	
7:35 – 8:00pm	Whole group discussion, big takeaways and next steps	
8:00 – 8:15pm	Q&A with Principal James	

PARTICIPANT QUESTION/COMMENT	DCPS RESPONSE
Maybe you can add something about global studies to the website, a bar or text to highlight that	
	Question #1: How can Cabinet members continue their work on Roosevelt in their own communities? How does each member engage his/her own networks?
I want to see my neighborhood high school as a viable option. My interest has always been how do we connect this opportunity to the ward 4 families who are in these schools? My hope is there is a puzzle piece there that we can guarantee spots for students from Creative Minds. The more I know the more I have opportunities to share with them. Many parents are worried about the performance. The test scores scare people away. Creative Minds is incredibly diverse. Very focused on inclusion.	I agree with you. What attracted the parents to your school?

<p>Families there would really engage with MacFarland and Roosevelt. These families are very active. That kind of vigor would be a huge plus to this school.</p> <p>Any opportunities to connect Ward 4 families to the school, meeting students and faculty, seeing the classes. Charter school students are really lacking in the facility department. It would blow their mind just to walk through here.</p>	
<p>Parents were attracted to the international focus, arts based curriculum. Focus on the whole child, social emotional emphasis, coding classes and common core. People want a lab and we don't have those things, sports programs, theater programs, music. It's all small.</p>	<p>In time, folks will see everything you've mentioned is what we're planning to do or already doing. On a personal note, it's just best for you to see it. Talking only does so much. I want you to see it, then I'm going to push you a little bit harder and ask you to take a risk.</p>
<p>That's why I think we can get 105 or 200 out of these ward 4 schools.</p>	<p>What is the right grade to start engaging people about middle school?</p>
<p>We do 3rd or 4th grade.</p>	
<p>I worked at Capital City PCS and I found that a lot of the parents I came across cared about the academic program and reputation but a lot of them cared more about...was the school physically and emotionally safe for their student? After that we can talk about academics.</p> <p>I feel like that needs to be the foundation.</p>	<p>Well that is the elephant in the room. Something that DCPS comprehensive high schools deal with. Walking around the building, there's nothing scary about these kids. Part of it is the media doing a really good job of what they do. Being the AP at Anacostia, that school ran better than some schools people pay for.</p> <p>One of the things you mentioned is giving people tours. I'm open to that, we did that at Burroughs. Some of our middle grade students would walk with another faculty member and escort families around the building. That's going to happen here at Roosevelt and MacFarland, the environment is going to be safe. The actions to be afraid of, they're not happening in schools.</p> <p>As community members, how do we clear that up?</p>
<p>Maybe we put that on the school website, address the elephant in the room. How do we keep a welcoming, safe, warm environment? Here's what lunch is like, here's what security is like, expertise, etc.</p> <p>Here are the steps we've taken as a school community...</p>	
<p>In general I think we need some good old fashioned marketing for Roosevelt. We should be in the Washington Post, Architectural Digest. Famous alumni. Recent seniors and where they've gone on to. When we're ready.</p>	

Is there a Theodore Roosevelt foundation?	
<p>Continuing to relay information back. People are waiting to hear what our opinions are. Opportunities to visit and volunteer at the school. Did that at West. Do volunteer requirements on site.</p> <p>Consistent communication on neighborhood listservs.</p> <p>Quarterly snail mail to let people know what's going on.</p>	
Does Roosevelt have a college and information center?	Yes.
	<p>Something I think what happens naturally is whenever there's a big push for establishing something new we want instant results. We all have to say it's going to take some time. We will see Roosevelt return back to its luster. We will. It will take some time. I have about a 5 year plan.</p>
Starting fresh, that's another elephant in the room that I think we might address right out of the gate.	
	<p>Want to see if we're open to what you just suggested. Perhaps we should invite the PTA or PTO, and the Roosevelt Community. Beginning to establish the parent and community organization.</p>
nodding in agreement	
<p>One idea I had was to get more people to come to sporting events. Roosevelt's teams should be Petworth teams. Maybe get businesses to put up that Roosevelt logo, maybe on game days.</p> <p>Reaching out to people with global experience in the neighborhood.</p> <p>My high school charter students didn't feel like their school was a real high school. No field, no real homecoming. No alumni. No school history. We need to push those things hard. 1932! Lots of alumni, homecoming dances, sports, those things.</p> <p>Farmers market, getting a table there. Celebrate Petworth on June 4th. Student, teacher with Roosevelt gear on with information. Reaching out to local bloggers like Drew Schneider.</p> <p>Sendhub where you can send text messages to people.</p>	

ANC meetings, they meet in the Petworth Library.	
Roosevelt baby gear.	
	Do plan to advertise in a way that our students are doing the work, and our happy parents are doing the work, and community members who come in and receive a free haircut and a meal prepared by Roosevelt students.
	Closing