

FAMILIES, EDUCATION, PRESCHOOL, AND PROMISE LEVY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

WebEx Meeting

April 19, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Dwane Chappelle called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

II. Attendees

Members Present: Imani Carey (on behalf of Council Member Tammy Morales), Dr. Donald Felder, Marques Gittens, Susan Lee, Jennifer Matter, Erin Okuno, Shouan Pan, Manuela Slye, Vivian Song Maritz

Others Present: Chris Alejano (DEEL), James Bush (SPS), Dwane Chappelle (DEEL), Brian Goodnight (CoS), Kamaria Hightower (DEEL), Kateri Joe (Guest), Monica Liang-Aguirre (DEEL), Dena Morris (Seattle Public Schools), Isis Randolph-McCree (DEEL), Sara Rigel (Public Health Seattle and King County), Marissa Rousselle (DEEL), Alexandra Rouse (City Budget Office), Amanda Stoddard (DEEL), Mei-Li Thomas (DEEL)

III. Agenda

DEEL - SPS Partnership Conversation

Dr. Dwane Chappelle, DEEL Director
Dr. Stephanie Gardner, LOC Member/Moderator
Dr. Brent Jones, SPS Superintendent

DEEL Director Dr. Dwane Chappelle and SPS Superintendent Dr. Brent Jones participated in a discussion moderated by LOC Member Dr. Stephanie Gardner highlighting FEPP investments and community partnerships that advance racial equity for Seattle's BIPOC students pre-K to post-secondary. Speakers offered their individual perspectives on how these systems jointly strive for internal and external accountability and how community can support their joint efforts to ensure that all students are "Seattle Ready" and thriving.

Context Setting and Presentations

Dr. Jones gave an overview of Seattle Public School district's intent to center students of color furthest from education justice as a catalyst to DEEL and SPS partnering to create the strategic plan for SPS Seattle Black Male initiative centering black boys and black teens. Introduced SPS [policy 0030](#) on Education and Racial Justice, highlighted Mayor Harrell's "[One Seattle](#)" Initiative, and shared the Goals and Guardrails for Seattle Public Schools Student Outcomes Governance.

Dr. Chappelle introduced and gave a high-level overview of the Families, Education, Preschool and Promise (FEPP) Goals and DEEL 2022 priorities. Additionally, Director Chappelle highlighted the innovation of the partnership between Seattle Public Schools and DEEL as a national model to advance education justice and racial equity in education.

Discussion Topic 1

Moderator (Dr. Stephanie Gardner): “You mentioned partnership, synergy, intentionality, leadership, boldness. Building on work and looking toward vision and goal setting. We have a new Mayor and New Superintendent, what does that new partnership bring to your own vision and how do you see this synergy manifesting for the students in our area over the next few years?”

Dr. Jones highlighted the SPS strategic plan and the Mayor’s One Seattle vision plus work done by the African American Male Advisory committee, the SPS race and equity advisory committee, and the Seattle Council PTSA as examples of strong partnerships between SPS and community to support student achievement.

Dr. Chappelle highlighted that Seattle Mayor and Superintendent Jones are both native to Seattle and expressed excitement for the partnership between the City of Seattle and Seattle Public Schools. He said, “this brings value and creates synergy in the city to allow for innovation and creativity to support families. Especially now that COVID has deepened inequity across education... Seattle voters called for systemic change through strategic investments with the passing of the FEPP Levy in 2018... with the leadership of Mayor Harrell and Dr. Jones there is new vitality where we can expect innovative responses to long term challenges... ensuring students are ready for postsecondary options of their choice.”

Discussion Topic 2

Moderator (Dr. Stephanie Gardner): “How are we... holding ourselves accountable, our community accountable, and our partners accountable to advance racial equity in our policies, practices, and procedures? More specifically, expanding on accountability.”

Dr. Chappelle said, “at DEEL, racial equity is at the root of everything we do, from access to high-quality early learning with SPS being the largest DEEL SPP provider; to health care access, to support for on-time graduation, and creating an equitable path to post-secondary education.”

Dr. Chappelle highlighted the following as examples of DEEL advancing racial equity:

- Expanded Learning Opportunities and Out of School Time
- Mentoring and Kingmakers of Seattle in 6 schools serving 700 + students
- FEPP investments in other culturally specific programming across the city
- Collecting and sharing data with SPS on FEPP investments to inform continuous quality improvements

Dr. Jones cited the SPS and DEEL partnership as an example of how the systems remain accountable to community through the Levy Oversight Committee and noted that leading

with targeted universalism is part of our system improvement plan that was driven by community input. He highlighted specific outcomes from SPS's strategic plan:

- Increase Diversity in Teacher workforce (Academy of Rising Educators)
- Creating Safe Environments for Students Identity
- Racial Equity Goals & Guardrails in SPS Governance
- Superintendents' Evaluation is Racial Equity Based

Discussion Topic 3

Moderator (Dr. Stephanie Gardner): "Do you see challenges or opportunities in this work and do you have "A Call to Action" for the LOC and community to help advance the great work that DEEL + SPS is doing?"

Dr. Jones said, "We want to do teaching and learning really well, but we are being asked to be all things to all people. High quality instruction in the classroom is an important driver. How can we make sure we are keeping [that] the main thing in the middle of a COVID crisis. What are the specific steps we need to remain committed to and disciplined about? the top three priorities of literacy, math, and college and career readiness. As DEEL and SPS each create their strategic plans how can we combine forces? We have the time, energy, and the talent but can we stay focused on the limited number of priorities?"

Discussion Topic 4

Moderator (Dr. Stephanie Gardner): "Both of you lead large systems that are averse to change and focusing on race. While we can say the words [race and equity] within calls like this, how is the system shifting, what actions can we see that are targeted within the larger systems?"

Dr. Chappelle: "How do we leverage expertise and opportunities and still do continuous quality improvement? We identify the gaps and opportunities being consistent and maintaining the resources to help [CBO's] access the funds. Also Important, is to make sure that each student is connected to opportunities that will prepare them for life after graduation. Bureaucracy needs to be pushed by community to collaborate on what our priorities are. 1) Sharing power in a way that people have a sense of belonging, 2) Leverage wisdom and knowledge of SPS partners and 3) Going back to basics using research-based practices that are community informed."

Discussion Topic 5

Moderator (Dr. Stephanie Gardner): "Beyond equity, you both spoke to academic achievement and building educational pathways, access to career opportunities, and targeted support for Black boys and teens. I'm curious about your perspectives on how your goals and tactics, priorities align and where that synergy is most needed. Additionally, how that aligns with a post pandemic world and take the partnership with Seattle Colleges to the next level so that students are thriving."

Dr. Jones said, "From pre-k to post-secondary the ultimate end game is not satisfied with our students barely making it but thriving beyond graduation. Focus needs to be on

postsecondary and career opportunities not just getting to High School graduation. To compete for high wage jobs in Seattle takes more than a High School diploma, it takes specialized skills and [post-secondary] education to be Seattle ready which aligns with DEELS goals. Being Seattle ready is being college and career ready.”

Dr. Chappelle said, “Advanced Learning is the equity driver and highlights the partnership to increase the diverse educator field and that with research on students’ pursuit of post-secondary education...the Academy for Rising Educators had 66 BIPOC participants that graduated 28 diverse teachers in the spring and My Brothers Teacher partnership with UW with 19 fellows who will participate in 2 cohorts to become educators.”

LOC Member Questions & Answers

Dr. Gardner: “Regarding the governance overview given by Dr. Jones, what supports are in place to ensure that students with reading disabilities specifically dyslexia can attain the first SPS goal of Literacy, Math, and College and Career ready?”

Dr. Jones: “SPS is focused on inclusion and working on designing programs that center students with special needs and disabilities. SPS Dr. Constance is putting together a broad effort across the district that will lead these students on a pathway to success in Reading and Math to be college and career ready.”

Dr. Gardner: “What are your greatest concerns for black students and how can the community support you with those efforts?”

Dr. Jones: EL services and having a trusted adult in the building and feeling valued and affirmed in the classroom. DEEL and SPS have an open and flexible partnership with DEEL Director Chappelle’s tenure and the LOC being a driver for equity.”

Dr. Chappelle: “Collectively supporting and doing what is best for the children and families... There is no partnership in Seattle that is more important than the City and the School District”

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

V. DEEL Follow-up to LOC Member Questions

No questions identified for follow-up.