



**ESSA Task Force Meeting #17  
February 12, 2019 at 6 p.m.  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Room 1117  
Washington, DC 20001**

**Minutes**

Task Force Members - Present

**Karen Williams** (Ward 7 Representative and ESSA Task Force Chair, DC State Board of Education)  
**Alex Rose-Henig** (Director of Academic Programs, BASIS DC PCS)  
**Daniel Rodriguez** (Student, Benjamin Banneker Academic High School, DCPS)  
**Donna Johnson** (Director of Accountability, OSSE)  
**Jack Jacobson** (Ward 2 Representative, DC State Board of Education)  
**Jhonna Turner** (Parent Engagement Program Coordinator, Washington Lawyers' Committee)  
**Juliana Herman** (Deputy Chief of Policy, DCPS)  
**Laura Fuchs** (WTU Board Member and Teacher, HD Woodson High School, DCPS)

Task Force Members - On the Phone

**Sheila Strain Clark** (Parent and Chief of Programs, Sasha Bruce Youthwork)  
**Yolanda Corbett** (Co-Chair, Parent Advocate Leaders Group)

Task Force Members - Absent

**Allyson Criner Brown** (Member, Ward 7 Education Council; Associate Director, Teaching for Change)  
**Anne Herr** (Parent and Director of School Quality, FOCUS DC)  
**Beverly Lucas** (Director of Continuing Education, University of the District of Columbia)  
**Deborah Dantzer Williams** (Head of School, Inspired Teaching Demonstration School)  
**Elizabeth Primas** (ESSA Program Manager, National Newspaper Publishers Association)  
**Erin Kupferberg** (Senior Manager of School Quality and Accountability, DC PCSB)  
**Faith Gibson Hubbard** (Chief Student Advocate, Office of the Student Advocate)  
**Hannah Dunn** (Student, Woodrow Wilson High School, DCPS)  
**Jacque Patterson** (Chief Community Engagement and Growth Officer, KIPP DC)  
**Zachary Parker** (Ward 5 Representative, DC State Board of Education)  
**Joe Weedon** (DCPS Parent)  
**Josh Boots** (Executive Director, EmpowerK12)  
**Maya Martin Cadogan**, Executive Director, PAVE  
**Ramona Edelin** (Executive Director, DC Association of Chartered Public Schools)  
**Richard Pohlman** (Executive Director, Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS)  
**Samantha Brown** (Special Education and Reading Teacher, Calvin Coolidge High School, DCPS)  
**Shana Young** (Chief of Staff, OSSE)  
**Stacy Smith** (General Manager, Hyatt Place Washington, DC)  
**Suzanne Wells** (Founder, Capitol Hill Public Schools Parent Organization)



**Tumeka Coleman** (Teacher, Walker-Jones Education Campus, DCPS)

SBOE Staff

**John-Paul Hayworth**, Executive Director

**Rhoma Battle**, Budget & Operations Specialist

**Alex Jue**, Policy Analyst

**Lanita Logan**, Staff Assistant

**Paul Negron**, Public Affairs Specialist

**Matt Repka**, Policy Analyst

**Executive Summary**

At the seventeenth meeting of the ESSA Task Force, members split into three committees to discuss their proposed recommendations from the Task Force to the DC State Board of Education (SBOE). Because of diminished attendance due to inclement weather, the three committees briefly discussed their ideas for recommendations and next steps before adjourning the meeting.

**Agenda Items**

Welcome

Ms. Williams welcomed ESSA Task Force (TF) members to the seventeenth meeting of the group. She noted that the recently elected SBOE leadership team—President and Ward 3 Representative Ruth Wattenberg and Vice President and Ward 8 Representative Markus Batchelor—had initially planned to meet with the group at the meeting but were unable to do so. In their place, Ms. Williams asked Ms. Johnson, from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), to briefly present on her agency’s progress with the state accountability system.

Ms. Johnson said that OSSE had transitioned into the second year of the school report card development process following its December public launch. The agency is conducting public engagement initiatives to capture feedback from parents and community leaders. TF members asked about the groups that OSSE was reaching out to in order to conduct this outreach; Ms. Johnson said the agency was working directly with schools, local education agencies (LEAs), education councils, and community organizations.

Ms. Williams said that because there were four meetings of the task force remaining after that evening, the group’s focus would now turn full-time to drafting a set of final recommendations. The report will be submitted to the State Board for a vote after the conclusion of the TF’s work.

Committee Work

The **Academic Equity Committee** discussed two potential recommendations for inclusion in the ESSA TF final report. The first potential recommendation would call for more research into the resources and programs that are the most effective in combating the impacts of poverty; highlighting programs and resources that could be implemented. The second recommendation would call for OSSE to provide the appropriate equity supports to CS1 schools as they navigate



the grant application process, as well as identify strategies for implementing and spending grant money on programs/resources.

The **School Resources and Funding Equity Committee** discussed challenges facing school administrators and educators in the context of the imminent release of DCPS' 2019–20 school budgets. The group developed a list of questions to ask of other jurisdictions for SBOE staff to carry out before the March meeting of the task force. The committee is interested in further researching a standardized staff classification system that would help the public better understand how budget funds are spent on school personnel across schools and LEAs. The committee plans to begin writing its recommendations in March.

**Leading for Equity Committee** members had a conversation about the Comprehensive Support and Targeted Support school improvement designations under ESSA and added to a proposed list of recommendations. The committee is interested in exploring staff retention, financial management, compliance, and teacher training as potential areas for recommendations, as well as how to best highlight exemplary partnerships with external partners that support the work of effective leaders.

### **Next Steps and Adjourn**

The TF will next meet on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 from 6 to 8 p.m. at 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW in Room 1114.

