**Mayor’s Education Summit Advisory Group**

**Advisory Group Meeting**

**April 12, 2016 4:00 pm- 6:00 pm**

**Seattle City Hall, Bertha Knight Landes Room, 1st Floor**

*Advisory group members present:* Co-Chair Ron Sims, Shuanta Hyde (on behalf of *Co-Chair Brad Tilden*), Co-Chair Sheila Edwards Lange, Co-Chair Kristin Bailey-Fogarty, Janis Avery, Pamela L. Banks, David Beard, Phyllis Campano, Dwane Chappelle, Howard Frumkin, Saadia Hamid, Cassandra Johnston, Erin Kahn, Kent Koth, Sara Morris, Roxana Nourozi, Dr. Larry Nyland, Erin Okuno, Estela Ortega, Betty Patu, Fern Renville, Dr. James Smith, Jennifer Schindler Kelly (on behalf of *Dr. Yolanda Watson Spiva*), Jenee Myers Twitchell (on behalf of *Ed Taylor*), Omar Vasquez. *Facilitator:* John Howell

*Not Present:* Kaaren Andrews, Maud Daudon, Council President Bruce Harrell, Theodore Howard, Jennifer Mims, Blair Taylor, and Cynthia Tee

*Ed Summit/City staff present:* Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim, Ryan Biava, Regina Jones, Long Phan, Gracie Geremia, Carol Wallace, Isabel Munoz-Colon, Robert Feldstein, Sara Rigel, Stacey Jehlik, Karinda Horns, Jennifer Samuels, Tamar Zere, Patricia Lally, Elliott Bronstein

**Action Items**

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| TASK | RESPONSIBILITY | DATE |
| 1. Present information about city investments supporting education at a May meeting
 | Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) | May Advisory Group Meeting |
| 1. Advisory Group members attend the Summit on April 30
 | Advisory Group Members | April 30 |
| 1. Report back to AG members on questions for SPS
 | DEEL and SPS | May 11 meeting |

**WELCOME**

Co-Chair Sheila Edwards-Lange welcomed the group and reminded them that the objective is to make recommendations on what the city can do to close the opportunity gap. She also spoke about the importance of learning from the Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) and introduced Mayor Murray.

**CONVERSATION WITH THE MAYOR**

Mayor Murray spoke about his longstanding interest in education stemming from his experience as a student in Seattle Public Schools. He described conversations he had with citizens of Seattle and how there is a deep concern for our public school system and the unequal results for children of color. The cornerstone of the issue for him is equity. He spoke about the disproportionality of students of color living in poverty and not have college or job opportunities. He told the group that we want to come up with a new model to close the opportunity gap, and identify what actions the city can take to make a meaningful difference. He questioned why Seattle is a city full of jobs, but a lot of our students are not able to get jobs in the city. Mayor Murray stated that he wants to listen to community members and stakeholders’ ideas.

The Advisory Group and Mayor Murray spoke about the following issues:

* **City Investments**- We need to identify which levy programs are working and expand on them, as well as, look how we can best use our city investments. The group showed an interest in learning more about the city investments.
* **Grants and Priority Schools-** A few group members expressed a desire to understand which schools have been successful with grant money and how those schools look when there is no longer funding.
* **Systems outside of the School District**- Group members stressed the importance of understanding how other factors, such as family life and personal health affect student outcomes. The Mayor said he has been working to address equity issues through several other initiatives, including focusing efforts on homeless children, affordable housing, minimum wage, and other city issues.
* **Making tools for funding accessible**- A group member stressed the importance of making funding application and assessment tools understandable in order to make the process more equitable for local organizations. It can be a challenge for some organizations to receive funding through the city’s complex processes.

The Advisory Group provided the Mayor with feedback and themes discussed at recent Community Conversations:

* **Early learning**- Pre-K was introduced as a critical city investment. People spoke about the importance of pre-k for students of color, pre-k locations, and its ability to free up money, so that parents can use it for other essential costs like rent.
* **Holistic feedback**- Several Community Conversations stressed the importance of recognizing the child as a whole being. There were concerns expressed about implicit bias. Despite challenges, families are optimistic, but discouraged that they’re still talking about the same issues.
* **Young males of color-** One conversations was led by young males of color. Discussion arose about a white female teaching force and how many black students are getting placed into special education.
* **Connections between students and teachers-** There is often a lack of connection between students and teachers. Low expectations are sometimes placed on African American students. Racial bias was discussed. There are often language barriers, inconsistency with suspensions, kids being treated differently, and a lack of career navigation paths for students. However, we cannot place sole blame on teachers. Some of the issues are systemic.
* **Family Involvement**- Families want to be involved and part of the plan, but they need help navigating the system and understanding the programs that are placed in their neighborhoods.
* **Racial Equity-** Communities spoke about the fact that the teachers do not reflect the student body and that more programs should be run by community based organizations.

**UPDATES**

**Community Conversations**

Community Conversations have been successful, thus far. There have been 13 conversations with more than 800 participants. Advisory Group members were encouraged to attend the remaining meetings.

**Education Summit Agenda**

The new Summit agenda includes Q & A time after each presenter or panel, and increased time for table discussions at the end of the Summit. There will also be feedback tools if people are unable to stay for the entire Summit.

**Questions posed in March SPS**

SPS staff and DEEL are working to answer the questions the group posed to SPS during the March meeting. Responses will be provided at a May meeting.

**PRESENTATION AND TRAINING ON THE CITY’S RACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIAVE (RSJI)**

Patricia Lally, Director of the Office for Civil Rights, and Elliot Bronstein provided a short training on RSJI to Advisory Group members. The presentation is also posted on the Mayor’s Education Summit website.

**NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURN**

Dwane Chappelle closed with an exercise that expressed the short amount of time (from age 5-18) that schools have to change the lives of students.

**Next Steps**

The additional May meeting is scheduled for May 11. There are several possible topics for that meeting: 1) discussion of what the group heard at the Summit; 2) discussion of ideas that have emerged from the community conversations; 3) Report back on the group’s questions for SPS; 4) presentation on current city investments to support education and youth; and 5) provide additional knowledge on brain science and its implications for future recommendations (note: there will be a presentation on this topic at the Summit).