
From: Weber, Peter (DCPS) [peter.weber@dc.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2012 12:44 PM
To: Kara Honeycutt
Subject: FW: Donor Briefing Agenda



From: Weber, Peter (DCPS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:46 PM
To: 'Catherine Townsend'
Subject: RE: Donor Briefing Agenda

I did a speedy run down of talkers before I knew we were shortening the meeting. Those talkers are below. Happy to talk about ways to shorten. This is probably 10-15 minutes worth of talking.

**Talking Points for Donor Briefing
October 10, 2012**

- ? Several really exciting things have happened since the last time we met.
 - o We opened school very successfully
 - o We got our DC-CAS scores back for 2012
 - o We launched our improved IMPACT evaluation system
- ? I want to spend a little time talking about each of these issues and talk to you about how we are going to address the challenges and opportunities raised by each.

School Opening

- ? High quality school openings have become a hallmark of DCPS over the past five years.
- ? Each year we open with fewer vacancies, better facilities, and more well prepared schools
- ? As I toured schools during the first week, I was very pleased to see real learning taking place  not just the process of getting school started, but students learning challenging content.
- ? However, as we look at our schools, it is very clear that our buildings are under-enrolled forcing us to use resources inefficiently.
- ? We are looking at two big changes in the coming months.
 - o First, it is very clear that we need to close school buildings.
 - ~~✍~~ Our average school size is less than 350 students
 - ~~✍~~ We have proportionately more schools than any other district in the region
 - ~~✍~~ We have schools where half of the staff is non-instructional personnel necessary for keeping a building running.
 - o We will begin the process of announcing proposed school closings and engaging the district beginning this month
 - o Second, it is clear that we must look hard at our resource usage.
 - ~~✍~~ We had ERS do an analysis for resource usage in our schools. The found:
 - ? That we have made significant investments in areas key to our strategy  teacher salaries, data, evaluation
 - ? But that we are still not using resources strategically in our schools
 - ~~✍~~ This year we are working to align budgeting, scheduling and staffing in our schools to make big improvements in how our schools use their money.

DC-CAS Results

- ? In July we got our 2012 DC-CAS results back. We are continuing to show incremental improvement at the elementary level in reading and math, but we saw losses in secondary reading (secondary math was flat).
- ? I am glad that we are holding onto the gains we have made overall, but I am convinced that we must do something differently if we are going to reach our goals.
- ? As a result, we are moving forward with a deep focus on literacy instruction particularly focused on the elementary and middle school grades.
- ? We will apply this focus district-wide beginning with the 2013-2014 school year
- ? We are also tailoring our District Race to the Top application to focus on reading skills in our lowest performing elementary and middle schools.
- ? I believe that with a deep focus on literacy and by availing ourselves of all possible resources including hybrid learning, that we can make a real change in student outcomes and in the literacy culture in our schools.

WTU Contract

- ? As you all know, DCPS has reached the end of the latest WTU contract. While we are engaging in negotiations with WTU, the contract will remain in place.
- ? Over the life of the contract, we learned a great deal and made significant improvements.
- ? For example:
 - o We made significant modifications to IMPACT prior to the start of school this year. These improvements respond to teacher concerns without reducing the quality of IMPACT as an evaluation tool.
 - o We have made investments in the career ladder for teachers first with LIFT and more recently through a Teacher Incentive Fund grant.
 - o We have absorbed the cost of the WTU contract into our local budget. Closing schools and improving our strategic use of resources as mentioned previously will help us continue to fund these investments.

From: Catherine Townsend [mailto:CTownsend@dceducationfund.org]

Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 10:34 AM

To: Weber, Peter (DCPS)

Subject: FW: Donor Briefing Agenda

Importance: High

Pete I know we're asking a lot of you/the Chancellor this month! Can we talk today pre Chiefs? I'm available btw 3 -4pm.

1. Board meeting prez tomorrow at 1pm
2. Oct 30th WTU prez slides being prepared Kevin is lead on coordinating I shared the Show-Flow email with you
3. Donor Briefing Nov. 13th. Agenda attached. We like to approve in advance and communicate

#1 and #3 are important to discuss today so I know the key messages she's saying at the Board meeting, so when I follow her, I can complement. Thanks!

C

Catherine Townsend

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From: Henderson, Kaya (DCPS) [mailto:Kaya.Henderson@dc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 10:00 AM
To: Catherine Townsend
Cc: Williams-Skelton, Angela (DCPS)
Subject: Re: Donor Briefing Agenda

Pete and Jason can put together the topics for discussion and my talking points. We will likely need to spend some time discussing closures.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 9, 2012, at 8:45 AM, "Catherine Townsend" <CTownsend@dceducationfund.org> wrote:

Did you get a chance to review and comment? It's set for Nov. 13th. Thanks!

Catherine Townsend

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