



**ESSA Task Force Meeting #15  
December 11, 2018 at 6 p.m.  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Room 1117  
Washington, DC 20001**

**Minutes**

Task Force Members - Present

**Karen Williams** (President, Ward 7 Representative, and ESSA Task Force Chair, DC State Board of Education)

**Anne Herr** (Parent and Director of School Quality, FOCUS DC)

**Beverly Lucas** (Director of Continuing Education, University of the District of Columbia)

**Erin Kupferberg** (Senior Manager of School Quality and Accountability, DC PCSB)

**Faith Gibson Hubbard** (Chief Student Advocate and Interim Ombudsman, Office of the Student Advocate)

**Hannah Dunn** (Student, Woodrow Wilson High School, DCPS)

**Joe Weedon** (Ward 6 Representative, DC State Board of Education)

**Josh Boots** (Executive Director, EmpowerK12)

**Juliana Herman** (Deputy Chief of Policy, DCPS)

**Laura Fuchs** (WTU Board Member and Teacher, HD Woodson High School, DCPS)

**Maya Martin Cadogan** (Executive Director, PAVE)

**Samantha Brown** (Special Education and Reading Teacher, Calvin Coolidge High School, DCPS)

**Suzanne Wells** (Founder, Capitol Hill Public Schools Parent Organization)

**Yolanda Corbett** (Co-Chair, Parent Advocate Leaders Group)

Task Force Members - On the Phone

**Deborah Dantzer Williams** (Head of School, Inspired Teaching Demonstration School)

**Jhonna Turner** (Parent Engagement Program Coordinator, Washington Lawyers' Committee)

Task Force Members - Absent

**Alex Rose-Henig** (Director of Academic Programs, BASIS DC PCS)

**Allyson Criner Brown** (Member, Ward 7 Education Council; Associate Director, Teaching for Change)

**Daniel Rodriguez** (Student, Benjamin Banneker Academic High School, DCPS)

**Donna Johnson** (Director of Accountability, OSSE)

**Elizabeth Primas** (ESSA Program Manager, National Newspaper Publishers Association)

**Jack Jacobson** (Vice President and Ward 2 Representative, DC State Board of Education)

**Jacque Patterson** (Chief Community Engagement and Growth Officer, KIPP DC)

**Ramona Edelin** (Executive Director, DC Association of Chartered Public Schools)

**Richard Pohlman** (Executive Director, Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS)

**Shana Young** (Chief of Staff, OSSE)

**Sheila Strain-Clark** (Parent and Chief of Programs, Sasha Bruce Youthwork)

**Stacy Smith** (General Manager, Hyatt Place Washington, DC)

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

Presenters



**Chloe Woodward-Magrane** (Deputy Director of Communications, OSSE)  
**Justin Tooley** (Special Assistant for Legislation and Policy, OSSE)

SBOE Staff

**John-Paul Hayworth**, Executive Director  
**Alex Jue**, Policy Analyst  
**Paul Negron**, Public Affairs Specialist  
**Matt Repka**, Policy Analyst  
**Brian Robinson**, Policy Fellow

**Executive Summary**

At the fifteenth meeting of the ESSA Task Force, members dedicated the majority of meeting time to a discussion of the recently released school report cards. The committees discussed the school report cards' design, school and subgroup data, and the overall user experience, and came back to hear a short presentation from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) on the launch process and next steps.

**Agenda Items**

Welcome

Ms. Williams welcomed ESSA Task Force (TF) members to the fifteenth ESSA Task Force meeting. She noted that the DC school report cards had been launched the previous Friday (December 7) and that the TF would prioritize working in their committees to discuss the release of the report cards. She noted that they had started to see reactions from the community and thanked OSSE for their time and effort in developing the website and supplemental resources.

Committee Work

The **Academic Equity Committee** discussed how schools would interpret their report cards and how they would plan to make improvements accordingly. They discussed the components of the report card and how the floors and targets of specific metrics were calculated, as well as the ways users would navigate around the site. Mr. Tooley answered TF members' questions about the website, and the group discussed how the final product compared to TF members' expectations. A TF member asked about the correlation between schools receiving Title I funding and schools that were designated one star out of the possible five.

The committee resolved in the new year to focus their work on supporting schools with low STAR Framework designations, particularly the schools that scored low but were not eligible for OSSE's Comprehensive Support or Targeted Support grant funding.

The **School Resources and Funding Equity** and **Leading for Equity Committees** discussed how to use the school report card to focus on their given issue area, with a specific interest in how parents would use the tool and what information they would ideally want and need. TF members noted that there was not a lot of introductory material on the school report card site itself, and that the options to sort and filter schools were limited. They compared some of the technical features



of the website as displayed on a desktop computer compared to a mobile device and discussed some of the programming limitations of the website.

The group noted that per-pupil expenditure data will be included on the 2019 school report cards as required by ESSA. The TF members also wanted to know whether the school budgeting data would account for schools that do not solely receive their funding from the District but also through fundraising activities and through parent-teacher organizations.

#### Update from OSSE

Ms. Woodward-Magrane and Mr. Tooley presented an update on the launch of the school report cards. She thanked the ESSA TF members for their work on the school report cards over the past year and a half. OSSE representatives had recently attended the EdFEST convention at the DC Armory on December 8 to engage with families about the report card website and walk them through it. Mr. Tooley highlighted the cooperation between the State Board and OSSE, citing a recently-published op-ed co-written by State Superintendent Hanseul Kang and State Board President Karen Williams.

Ms. Woodward-Magrane shared site traffic statistics from the first days of the school report card. Between December 7 and 9, the website received visits from over 15,000 unique users, nearly three-quarters of whom were from the District. She said that the traffic overall had exceeded their expectations, and that the average user was spending roughly five minutes on the website, which was longer than they had expected. She said that OSSE had received feedback from visitors regarding typos or inaccuracies and that the agency was working to update and change the information as needed. Ms. Woodward-Magrane walked the TF members through the supplemental school report card resources found at the OSSE website, including downloadable files, a STAR Framework technical guide, and various appendices and resources for educators and families.

A TF member asked Ms. Woodward-Magrane about a frequently-repeated claim that the school report cards provide an “apples-to-apples comparison” between schools and encouraged OSSE to communicate to parents that the report cards are sources of school information that do not necessarily indicate quality. Ms. Woodward-Magrane said that OSSE was interested in engaging directly with students and families and would host community engagement events in the coming year to get feedback and answer questions about the report cards.

A TF member asked what efforts were being made to ensure families in Wards 7 and 8 were heard in the school report card development process, and Ms. Woodward-Magrane said that the agency was prioritizing families who were most in need of engagement.

Mr. Hayworth asked OSSE if they had considered partnering with the Office of the Student Advocate on training people to use the report card so they could train other people. Ms. Woodward-Magrane said that she had already reached out to community-based organizations about the school report cards. She invited task force members to suggest other organizations that might be able to help. Mr. Tooley said that part of the outreach would include educating parents on education and school options in the District more generally. A TF member suggested taking advantage of



childcare and Head Start providers to educate families; another TF member suggested looking into DC Public Library locations.

A TF member recommended setting up a central phone hotline similar to the one operated by My School DC. Ms. Woodward-Magrane said that OSSE was working closely with My School DC to make sure that their staff was fluent in discussing the features of the school report card. Another TF member suggested working with the Office of the Student Advocate and other partners and providing them with OSSE's language and communication guidelines with respect to the school report cards. Mr. Hayworth also suggested ensuring that other agencies who interact with families, such as the District's 311 phone service, have the information.

### **Next Steps and Adjourn**

Ms. Williams asked the TF members to complete an exit ticket activity about their level of understanding and satisfaction regarding the school report cards to date. She then adjourned the meeting.

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

