DPS Declining Enrollment Advisory Committee
Meeting 6 / Declining Enrollment Challenges, May 4th, 2022

Topic Areas	Notes & Links
Welcome & Check-in	Meetings start at 4:00pm with a general welcome and check in. Language justice orientation is done. After some general reminders of group agreements and review of the agenda, the group went directly into reviewing the criteria drafted by the volunteers. The committee was able to hear from DPS liaisons about the overall process and was reminded that this criteria is about identifying and selecting schools for consolidation or closure. Some of the comments and or concerns have pertained to implementation which is something to be determined at a later date. The volunteer drafters from each affinity group which included charters, parents & community, principals & school leaders, and teachers, then shared the criteria they created. The group came up with three primary criteria considerations along with, sub-criteria, non-negotiables, and definitions for commonly used acronyms. The criteria was presented to the group and committee members were then able to make comments and suggestions for edits to the working document. Next steps include continued refinement of the draft and collecting feedback from the community at large. ***THE COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED TO CONTINUING EDITING THE DRAFT BEFORE POSTING PUBLICLY, but asked to post specific questions about the criteria for public feedback**
Community Input	Now that the group has a draft of criteria the goal is to get community input. This includes charters, families, the community at large, etc. The goal is to ensure that the process is equitable and can be applied universally across schools regardless of their status. Also, to make sure that any decisions are communicated appropriately to those who may be affected.

Topic Areas	Notes & Links
Draft Principles and Criteria	Volunteer drafters from the affinity groups met prior to meeting 6 and came up with a draft of three criteria to be used for school closure or consolidation. The criteria is still in draft mode but focused on three main areas: ● Identifying schools with low enrollment particularly as it relates to student count and budget. ● Identifying multiple schools with low enrollment in the same region/ neighborhood. Do projections show continual enrollment decline? ● Identifying schools based on financial stability. Are schools able to be financially solvent? The group shared some of their concerns regarding the criteria and worked in breakout groups to refine and offer suggestions to the criteria. Committee members were then allowed to provide feedback as the whole group and hear concerns from the rest of the committee.. The goal is to draft a final product that can be shared publicly for the community to provide feedback on. This initial draft is not the final product and will go through additional iterations, with contributions from the committee, before being presented to the superintendent and board.
Highlights & Concerns	The committee highlighted several concerns with the criteria created by the volunteers. Some of the members noted that there may be additional criteria in the sub-criteria. Also that some of the ideas may not have been fully represented in the slide show. Other concerns about the draft criteria include but were not limited to: ● Will the criteria limit school autonomy? ● Can we change the language around fundraising and how schools can collaborate as opposed to competing for grants? ● Can we add criteria for a non-zero student count where the superintendent then gets to step in and decide what happens?. ● Are we accounting for ECE classrooms when schools consolidate? ● What if families value smaller schools as opposed to larger schools? ● What does it mean for schools to work together? ● Will DPS always follow the board transportation policy
Next Steps	● Continue refinement of the draft criteria ● Solicit feedback from community at large through survey ● Address any concerns from community or group