DENVER – A majority of the Reimagine SPF Committee convened at Hamilton Middle School for its fourth monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 6. Committee members from the school leaders, teacher, and parent cohorts were present for the discussion, as well as Denver Public Schools Superintendent Susana Cordova, School Board members Carrie Olson and Jennifer Bacon, DPS staff, and external meeting facilitators Marlon Marshall and Lynda Tran. Several parents also came to observe the meeting for varying durations.

The meeting began with a brief recap of the October meeting and articulation of the goals for the convening: to define the audiences for an SPF, to discuss the kind of information those audiences need to understand the quality of Denver schools, and to lay the groundwork for future convenings focused on how to capture, measure, and incorporate that information into an SPF.

The Committee also discussed the need to establish consensus to make decisions about the final recommendations it presents in 2020. Some members of the Committee recommended that there be a mechanism to capture the level of consensus around the group’s decisions and to indicate where there was dissent.

The bulk of the meeting was comprised of three small group breakout discussions punctuated by full Committee report-outs following each breakout. Some areas of consensus coming out of the debriefs included:

1. **Priority audiences for the SPF:**
   - Parents, caregivers, families [students]
   - School administration, principals, teachers
   - Community
   - School District
   - CO Department of Education

2. **Major categories of information the SPF should capture:**
   - Academic
   - Equity
   - Whole Child
   - Other

3. **The desire for there to be a single SPF that serves all the priority audiences — with the understanding that there will be some tensions across audiences**

There was some small-group and Committee-wide discussion around whether students should be a separate audience, with ultimate consensus around students providing critical input and feedback but for the most part fitting into the “Family” audience.

There was also continued discussion of the purpose of the SPF — whether it is primarily intended to provide information or to ensure accountability. Related, the Committee discussed several members’
perspective the current SPF is designed to hold schools accountable to the District where there is a desire for a reimagined SPF to hold the District accountable to supporting struggling schools.

The theme of “whole child” was raised repeatedly across both small group discussions and in the full Committee debrief conversations — including social, emotional, and (physical and emotional) safety. The Committee discussed the need to consider the language used to describe the SPF with an equity lens (i.e. saying “opportunity gap” rather than “achievement gap” or “students of color” rather than “subgroups”) and how to differentiate between students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

One member posited — and a majority of other Committee members agreed — that a successful SPF should focus on understanding “how a school is doing, what it needs, and what it offers.” This framing followed discussion of potential ways to simplify the SPF by mandating 3-5 indicators for all schools and optional additional indicators to be chosen by the schools; self-rating by the schools and other stakeholders with experience of the school being rated; and the importance of both understanding and conveying non-academic offerings from arts to athletics, from afterschool programs and extracurricular activities to student centered services such as take home food and laundry.

The Committee members agreed to share their “dream SPF” ideas, convene as smaller groups ahead of the December meeting to dig more deeply into the audiences, information, and purpose of SPF, and to prepare for the future convenings to focus on detailed discussion of how to measure the consensus information categories: academic, whole child, and equity.

Superintendent Cordova closed out the convening by thanking the Committee members for their time and efforts.