DPS Declining Enrollment Advisory Committee
Meeting 3 / Declining Enrollment Challenges, Mar. 23, 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 and we begin with a light check in sharing our good news for the week. This week there were many questions around the work, the process, and other concerns that may or may not be related to the scope of this project. We decided to skip the paired check-ins due to questions about simultaneously existing groups who may be doing similar work and other things. It was clarified by a DPS representative that those meetings were a continuation or extention of the committee meetings where other constituents were able to share feedback. There are still some questions as to how the groups convene and share information.
Success & Agreements	The success definition was updated with suggestions from committee members. We discussed/shared changing consensus to the majority around being able to live with what was written. The group agreements were not finalized due to time constraints. There were a few updates suggested that were not discussed or approved. The suggestions to the [Success Guidelines](#) will be emailed and approved for meeting four. The group is looking for more open dialogue as a part of the process.
Datawalk Debrief	Conversation and polling was facilitated around reflections from the datawalk and some of the questions that arose. Polling was done using the mentimeter platform and allowed committee members to collaborate and share reflections around the data. Some of the key highlights from the datawalk that were discussed include: ● **Total district funding has decreased due to fewer students.** There are concerns around ESSER Funding, Cares Act, and what that looks like for the future. Whether property tax increases will help. Also the opening of new charter and district run schools. ● **It is challenging for small schools to provide robust academic programming and support students.** One principal shared that they can still provide the programming but can be challenging with schools in close proximity. There were concerns about not losing TNLI for a school a mile away. There was also conversation around per pupil funding and its impact. ● **Some areas are experiencing more growth and higher enrollment than others.** Several issues in Denver are contributing to greater decline in some areas due to decreasing birth rates, increased housing costs, etc. There is curiosity around where students who are leaving DPS are going to. Losing students does not mean others are gaining. ● **Declining enrollment creates many challenges.** One member shared how an additional 42 students can fund 3 teacher salaries. Many feel that

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	fewer programs contribute to the problem. Depending on the demographic certain services will always be offered because it is required by law. If a school stops qualifying for TNLI it is because their community demographic is changing. Four charter schools have closed due to low enrollment. ● **DPS Board of Education decides on how vacant buildings are used.** There is concern about schools closing and new or charter schools coming in as a replacement. The board votes on how vacant buildings are used and are soliciting input from the community. Further conversation is needed.
Meeting Highlights/Concerns	● According to the group, there are still many things to be clarified and questions that need to be answered. ● There is a concern about using the MIRO platform and or making sure all questions, comments, etc., will be addressed. Some members are having technology issues and or difficulty with using MIRO. ● We need more time to share openly and to send relevant information prior to the meeting. There is very important dialogue that needs to happen but doesn't seem like enough time. ● The group suggested recording the meetings for playback afterwards and to potentially lengthen the meetings or add an additional meeting. ● There are concerns if the guidelines will honor previously established criteria such as the DPS Consent Decree. ● Are enrollment zones on the table? ● There is a question of equity in the space and some voices being louder than others. Also a concern for the space being safe to allow for the conversation and process to occur. ● Intentional pauses on the agenda for translation to catch up
Next Steps	● Address some of the high level concerns as a facilitation team with DPS ● Develop a FAQ document for committee members ● Plan for open sharing forum time ● Create and share homework with committee for next meeting ● DIscuss guiding principles for creating criteria