

# DPS Declining Enrollment Advisory Committee

## Meeting 7 / Declining Enrollment Challenges, May 18th, 2022

Topic Areas	Notes & Links
<b>Welcome &amp; Check-in</b>	<p>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 the survey results and reviewed the updated version of the criteria drafted by the volunteers. During meeting 7, the committee presented the recommended criteria to be presented to the superintendent. The group was presented with feedback from a survey given to the community around draft criteria. After hearing feedback, making some refinements, and adding some contingencies, the group then voted on their agreement of the criteria. Next steps are to continue the refinement of criteria 3 in particular to ensure charter and district run schools are in alignment and the process is equitable across schools.</p>
<b>Survey Results</b>	<p>A survey was sent out to the community and there were 165 respondents. The results of the survey produced some common themes which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Support for consolidations/groupings - It makes sense to focus on consolidating and including communities.</li><li>● Financial solvency seems duplicative - Is the financial solvency part needed, wouldn't schools that have declined or are really small already have issues with financial stability?</li><li>● Community engagement - Community engagement will be important for any consolidation processes</li></ul> <p>The committee was amenable to the survey results with little feedback or concerns.</p>

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<p><b>The Criteria</b></p>	<p>The final version of the criteria was presented and voted on by the committee to be presented to the board and superintendent. This criteria includes guiding principles and equity guardrails as part of the process for school closure/consolidation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="586 365 1477 405"> <p>• <b>Criteria 1 - District-run Schools with Low Enrollment</b></p> <p><b>What</b> - Criteria 1 identifies District schools with critically low enrollment that are unable to provide quality programming without budget assistance or external sources of funding.</p> </li> <li data-bbox="586 663 1511 747"> <p>• <b>Criteria 2 - Proactively Identifying District-run Schools with Declining Enrollment</b></p> <p><b>What</b> - Criteria 2 proactively identifies District schools that are declining in enrollment <b>before</b> they enter a state of critically low enrollment.</p> </li> <li data-bbox="586 999 1468 1121"> <p>• <b>Criteria 3 - Financially Insolvent Charter Schools</b></p> <p><b>What</b> - Criteria 3 identifies Charter schools that are failing to remain financially solvent.</p> </li> </ul> <p>The committee presented the criteria and then split into their affinity groups for any additional thoughts and refinements. While there were some remaining concerns, the group was able to move forward with finalizing the criteria for recommendation.</p>

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<b>Highlights &amp; Concerns</b>	<p>Members of the committee identified some additional concerns as it relates to the criteria and want to be sure they are addressed and noted. They are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The focus should be more on school consolidation as opposed to school closure. There is more commentary around each criteria that should be considered, including the guiding principles and equity guardrails.</li> <li>● The group also identified potential concerns with the timeline and process. They want to consider changes in the trajectory of projections impacting decisions around identifying schools. They also want to clarify with the superintendent when the timeline starts?</li> <li>● There is more clarity needed around the details of charter school criteria and making sure the process is equitable with district run schools. The district leader agreed to do some follow up with the groups to make sure the criteria applied to charter schools is equitable with the criteria for district runs schools.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● DPS to follow up on clarifying criteria and equity between charters/district schools</li> <li>● Identify presenters for the superintendent presentation</li> <li>● Present to the superintendent</li> </ul>