

**FSF Working Group: Meeting #7 Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** October 13th, 2022

**Meeting Time:** 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Members Present:** Alan Ong, Chris Caruso, Dia Bryant (Co-Chair), Elizabeth Haela, Elizabeth Kennedy, Ellen McHugh, Gabrielle Cayo, Geneal Chacon, Gregory Faulkner, Jan Atwell, Jasmine Gripper (Co-Chair), Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, Lara Lai, Maria Villalobos, Marina Marcou O'Malley, Masis Sarkissian, Melessa Avery, Michael Athy, Poullette Ha-Healy, Randi Levine, Reana Akthar, Santa Soriano-Vazquez, Sheree Gibson, Tazin Azad, Ted Leather, Tom Sheppard, Yolanda Smith

**NYC Department of Education Staff Present:** Emma Vadehra, Benjamin Schanback, Erin Gehant, Rana Khan, Xavier Edwards, Amalia Orman

All presentations from the meeting are available on the NYC Department of Education website at: <https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/financial/financial-data-and-reports>

1. Welcome from Co-Chairs

Co-Chair Jasmine Gripper welcomed the working group to the meeting and reviewed the agenda for the session.

2. Community Engagement Sessions

Jasmine noted that working group members had just completed successful community engagement sessions in the two days prior to this meeting. Jasmine thanked Tom Sheppard, Sheree Gibson, Melessa Avery and Ted Leather for leading community engagement sessions. COO Emma Vadehra also expressed appreciation for those leading the sessions.

Jasmine asked the Working Group members that led the Community Engagement sessions to share their experiences from the sessions. Melessa, Tom, Sheree and Ted all shared their experiences. They also shared themes that they heard arise from the sessions, including comments about CTE programming and the academic specialized high school weight, concerns about base allocations currently provided to schools, support for poverty weights, students in temporary housing and special education breakage, and questions about the average teacher salary policy. (Videos of the sessions can be found on the NYC Public Schools website at <https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/financial/financial-data-and-reports> under the FSF Working Group Section of the page.) The group also discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the community engagement sessions, and the need for ongoing community engagement.

Jasmine then transitioned to the next part of the agenda.

3. Recommendations

Jasmine reminded participants of the ask from the last session, to complete the feedback form to share priority recommendations out of the proposals discussed by the Working Group.

Jasmine then reviewed the process by which votes were tallied to determine the ranking of top choices.

Jasmine then reviewed the distribution of votes for the ten proposals, and the group discussed the proposal that the top five recommendations (as voted upon by the group) be put forward those as the agreed upon recommendations and that anything below the top five be excluded from the report as a final recommendation. The group engaged in questions and discussion on this suggestion and agreed on this approach.

After further discussion of the specific recommendations and their impact, Jasmine asked the NYC Public Schools team to run a modeling of the top five suggestions together; previously the group had considered the modeling of the recommendations independently. Members engaged in a discussion about the parameters of the modeling, including the need to understand the impact on a range of schools across the city.

#### 4. Report Writing Process

Jasmine asked for the report writers Melessa Avery, Ted Leather, Kaliris Salas Ramirez, Liz Haela and Marina Marcou O'Malley to share out their progress to date on developing and drafting the report. Report writers shared their progress to date. Other Working Group members then expressed interest in continuing community engagement work once the final report was completed. Jasmine noted that members should consider how they are engaging their stakeholders after the Working Group process, including elected officials, and the need for ongoing advocacy.

Jasmine reminded the group of the possibility of including policy recommendations that go beyond FSF in the report, which the group had discussed before. Working Group members engaged in additional discussion around the context of the report and some additional policy considerations that should be included.

#### 5. Small Schools Data

Jasmine then noted that the NYC Public Schools team would now present questions that had surfaced from members of the working group around further examining data on small schools. Emma Vadehra and Ben Schanback presented slides on small school data, including co-location data and the increasing number of small schools in NYC.

#### 6. Closing

Jasmine closed the meeting by reminding participants of the timeline for finalizing the report. There was further conversation about the timeline for modeling from the NYC Public Schools team. Jasmine also reminded participants that the final scheduled meeting for the working group will take place in person at the Tweed Courthouse on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 6pm.