

Minutes of the District of Columbia Education Research Collaborative Meeting 8

April 26th, 2023

The District of Columbia Education Research Collaborative (Collaborative) held a meeting on Wednesday, April 26th, 2023, over Zoom. Collaborative Executive Director Josephine Bias Robinson, Research Director Dara Shaw, Advisory Committee Chair Jasmine Brann, Advisory Committee members Jennifer Comey, Elizabeth Torres, and Maria Tukeva, and Research Council member Chelsea Coffin presented during the meeting. Student presenter, Gustavo Rosas Cardoso also presented his work at the AERA conference in Chicago.

I. Call to Order

- Chair Jasmine Brann called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

II. Message from the Chair

- Chair Brann shared her reflections on Amanda Gorman’s poem, “Ship’s Manifest,” and encouraged the Collaborative to lean in and contribute toward the collective mission and shared goals. Although the work is challenging and time intensive, it is work worth doing.

III. Updates from the Executive Director

- Executive Director Josephine Bias Robinson announced that theme for this meeting is that “the work is slow and steady.” She shared updates on the process of designing the Collaborative website, which will be reviewed by the Equity and Access Subcommittee to ensure it is accessible to all.
- Josephine reminded the Collaborative to look out for the dates of public meetings, which will remain virtual for now.
- Josephine shared that projects will be undertaken once a project relevant to the research agenda is aligned with a funder to support the work. The Collaborative staff is working to identify funders to support the work of the researchers.
- To foster shared learning and understanding, there will be “spotlight presentations” for Research Council members to share what they have been working on and keep all members of what is happening in the education research realm and DC in particular.

IV. Subcommittee Updates

- Advisory Committee members Jennifer Comey, Elizabeth Torres, and Maria Tukeva shared an update from the Membership Subcommittee about the Non-Institutional Vacancy Process.
- Jennifer Comey shared that the subcommittee is looking to identify a diversity of participants who are committed to participating and supporting schools. Once vacancies are identified, interested individuals will be identified based on how they meet membership criteria.
- Elizabeth Torres shared the rubric that will be used to transparently assess potential new members. The rubric is based on whether volunteer meets eligibility requirements and meets the identified needs in the Request for Applicants. The rubric evaluates candidate location/residency, candidate affiliation, collaboration, and communication/responsiveness.

- Maria Tukeva shared that next steps are to look at vacancies based on who is leaving this summer and determining the relevant and needed perspectives and experiences for new members.
- Josephine encouraged further feedback and told all members that the PowerPoint will be posted on the website, as well as the minutes and a recording of the meeting.

V. Research Council Updates

- Research Director Dara Shaw recapped the new project idea generation process and the criteria that ideas must meet to become projects.
- Dara provided project updates about the Youth Teams in Education Research as part of the American Educational Research Association Conference. The youth researchers involved presented their research on food equity and interdisciplinary research, as part of a larger design thinking initiative, in Chicago. Dara invited student researcher Gustavo Rosas Cardoso, who was part of the team who attended the conference, to share his experience at the conference.
- Dara announced that, as a continuation of the Collaborative's work with the students at the Columbia Heights Educational Campus (CHEC), the Collaborative has received funding from the National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships to continue evaluating design thinking at CHEC and sharing RPP strategies with other RPPs around the country.
- Dara updated members on the DC Education Data Inventory and Supporting DC Students' Success in Algebra I projects. Members of both projects met with the Governance Subcommittee to ensure that the research is accountable to the feedback the Advisory Committee gave at the February Collaborative meeting. Once the concept paper and project plan are completed and approved by DC Public Schools partners, they will be shared with Collaborative members. Members will also receive a sheet outlining how feedback from the February meeting was addressed in the revised project description.
- Dara provided general updates about new projects, creating internal Research Council processes, and working with the Governance Subcommittee to ensure that all rules are being followed.
- For the inaugural Spotlight Presentation, Research Council member Chelsea Coffin, Director of Education Policy Initiative at the DC Policy Center presented the [DC Policy Center State of DC Schools, 2021-22 report](#). The report outlined challenges with the return back to in-person school and provided data on changes in enrollment, the student experience and outcomes, and teacher retention and hiring. The report shows that recovery is not yet complete and that there remains short- and long-term issues to study.

VI. Adjournment

- Josephine announced that future collaborative meetings will be held on June 12th, August 15th, September 28th, and November 15th. She asked members to continue letting Collaborative staff know about their interests and needs, as well as any research they are working on that is important to the DC community.

- Chair Brann thanked everyone for their engagement and adjourned the meeting at 6:51 pm.