

## **Minutes of the District of Columbia Education Research Collaborative Meeting 9**

August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The District of Columbia Education Research Collaborative (Collaborative) held a meeting on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, over Zoom. Collaborative Executive Director Josephine Bias Robinson, Research Director Dara Shaw, Research Assistant Elise Colin, Senior Director of Digital Communications at the Urban Institute David Connell, Advisory Committee Chair Jasmine Brann, and Research Council members Yesim Sayin and Josh Boots presented during the meeting.

### **I. Call to Order**

- Chair Jasmine Brann called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

### **II. Message from the Chair**

- Chair Brann led a moment of silence for those impacted by the wildfires in Hawaii.
- Chair Brann shared her reflections on what it means for the Collaborative to be an “ohana,” holding colleagues accountable and taking responsibility for our mission to positively impact learning within the DC community.

### **III. Updates from the Executive Director**

- Executive Director Josephine Bias Robinson urged members of the Collaborative to invite her and Research Director Dara Shaw to conferences, meetings, and other events that can build the visibility of the Collaborative and increase engagement. Josephine tasked each member to send her an invitation to a community event by the next Community of Practice meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Josephine and Senior Director of Digital Communications at the Urban Institute David Connell presented on the progress of the new Collaborative website, providing information on the audience, the voice and tone, the visuals, and the content for the website. They asked for feedback relating to these two questions: 1) What information would you like to see on the homepage? 2) What are the important things for visitors to see as soon as they come to the site? The website will be ready by October.

### **IV. Subcommittee Updates**

- Josephine provided a recap of the subcommittee information shared during the April Collaborative meeting. She reminded everyone about the membership term limits and that the new member appointment process for the Advisory Committee will begin soon.
- Josephine thanked Carlene Reid and Christina Setlow for their service to the Collaborative and welcomed Robert Henderson to the Advisory Committee. She also thanked Elizabeth Grant, Jing Liu, Debbie Van Camp, and Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy for their work on the Research Council and welcomed Rodney Hopson, Christine Carrino Gorowa, and Rob Olsen.
- Josephine shared the timeline for the new member process and asked Advisory Committees members to inform her of their intention to continue serving if they

have a 3-year term that extends to 2024 or if they are serving a 2-year term that is going to end this year. For any who choose to vacate, exit conversations will be conducted to improve the work the Collaborative does. The selection of new members will occur in November, new members will be introduced in December, and will start in January.

- As a next step, Josephine and the Advisory Committee Membership Subcommittee will share a request for applicant document intended to clarify vacancies and Advisory Committee membership needs and an online form for interested individuals to submit. Collaborative members should make thoughtful recommendations to people in their respective community who may be a good fit and fill the prescribed categories of need.

#### **V. Research Council Updates**

- Research Director Dara Shaw recapped the research cycle from idea generation to projects and highlighted that fundraising was added into the planning phase of the research cycle to ensure that there is a strategy to support new projects. She shared that the Advisory Committee can be engaged by suggesting new research ideas and working to make more connections between the Collaborative and the community.
- Dara informed attendees that in addition to research projects, the Collaborative is also involved in research support activities, serving practitioner- and community-led research across the DC education community. Examples include: participant-research projects, providing technical assistance for practitioners, supporting new or existing programs with data analysis and research, and showcasing research done by other people
- As an update on ongoing research activities, Collaborative Research Assistant Elise Colin and Advisory Committee member Maria Tukeva shared about the Collaborative's ongoing work with the Columbia Heights Educational Campus as they continue their student empowerment initiative through design thinking. Dara discussed the progress of the Data Access Platform and Secure Computing Environment, Supporting DC Students' Success in Algebra I, and the DC Education Data Inventory projects.
- Research Council member Yesim Sayin presented about an upcoming brief on early findings on DC's equitable access program, a program where schools expand their socioeconomic diversity by reserving spots for students who are designated "at-risk."
- Research Council member Josh Boots shared information about a new climate and wellbeing survey administered to students and educators. The Collaborative helped convene and network organizations to conduct research on how trauma and stress can affect the brain and to create the survey. Dara stated that a similar project examining the root causes of chronic absenteeism and what do about it, the DC attendance research coalition, is in the proposal stage.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

- Josephine announced that future collaborative meetings will be held September 28<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Chair Brann welcomed the new members in the Collaborative, wished everyone a great start to the school year, and adjourned the meeting at 6:52 pm.