

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
GOALS AND GUARDRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 8TH, 2024
MINUTES

A public meeting of the Goals and Guardrails Committee was held in hybrid format on February 8, 2024 at 4:00pm. Some Board Members, select staff, and some registered speakers participated in-person, while others participated remotely. Members of the general public who did not attend in-person participated via Zoom meeting platform.

Vice President Fix-Lopez called the roll and made announcements concerning recording, copyright, participation in, and viewing of the meeting.

Roll Call

Members present: Ms. Danzy, Ms. Egea-Hinton, Ms. Lam, Vice President Fix-Lopez, Ms. Salley (*remotely*), President Streater, Ms. Thompson (*remotely*), Ms. Wilkerson – 8.

Members Absent: Ms. Andrews - 1

Attending: Tony B. Watlington, Ed.D, Superintendent

District Liaisons: Dr. Tonya Wolford, Chief, Research, Evaluation, and Accountability, Dr. Jermaine Dawson, Deputy Superintendent for Academic Services

Announcements and Opening Remarks

Vice President Fix-Lopez congratulated Dr. Watlington and his team on findings from the recent report released by Harvard University and Stanford University which noted that the School District of Philadelphia is outpacing other large urban districts, nationwide, and similar-sized districts in Pennsylvania, in recovering from the pandemic. Vice-President Fix-Lopez noted that this is an amazing accomplishment for the District and thanked Dr. Watlington and his team as well as school leaders, teachers and school based staff for their hard work put into achieving this accomplishment.

Vice-President Fix-Lopez also announced that the previously scheduled January 11, 2024 Goals and Guardrails meeting has been rescheduled for April 4, 2024 @ 4:00pm and will take place in the auditorium at 440 N. Broad Street.

Vice President Fix-Lopez noted that there will be no action taken during today's meeting; this meeting is designed to allow time for Dr. Watlington and his team to provide the Board with updates and strategies on progress made toward achieving the Goals and Guardrails.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes from the November 9, 2023 Goals and Guardrails Committee meeting of the Board of Education were presented for approval:

Yes: Ms. Danzy, Ms. Egea-Hinton, Ms. Lam, Vice President Fix-Lopez, Ms. Salley, President Streater, Ms. Wilkerson – 7

No: Ms. Thompson – 1

Progress Monitoring

Board Member Danzy introduced and facilitated the Board's Goals and Guardrails monitoring session to provide an update on 2023-24 school year data related to Goal 3, math performance, grades 3-8. Board Member Danzy noted that the Board expects the District to tell a story with the data, presenting a clear picture of (1) where we were (2) where we are now (3) and where we're going.

Board Member Danzy invited Dr. Watlington and his team to provide a presentation on Goal 3, Indicator 3.1, the percentage of students in grades 3-8 who are At Target on the District's within-year math assessment, Indicator 3.2, the percentage of students in grades 3-8 with high growth on the District's within-year math assessment, and Indicator 3.3 the percentage of students in grades K-2 who are At Target on the District's required math Curriculum-Based Measures. Dr. Watlington invited the Chief of Research, Evaluation and Accountability, Dr. Tonya Wolford, and the Deputy Superintendent for Academic Services, Dr. Jermaine Dawson to provide a presentation on Goal 3 Leading Indicators.

Dr. Wolford highlighted findings from The 2024 Education Recovery Scorecard published by Harvard and Stanford Universities. Dr. Wolford highlighted that the report provided specific insight to the District's current math performance, noting that Philadelphia students recovered nearly half a grade level of learning during the 2022-2023 school year, outpacing other large urban districts nationwide, and similar districts in Pennsylvania, in recovering from the pandemic.

Following this update, Dr. Wolford shared data related to Goal 3 Leading Indicators noting that the percentage of students in grades 3-8 who scored At/Above Benchmark on Star Math increased from 17.4% in Winter 2022-23 to 19.3% in Winter 2023-24 (+1.9 percentage points). Dr. Dawson and Dr. Wolford noted that all students despite race / ethnicity groups, English learners and students with IEPs saw increases in the percentage of students scoring at/above benchmark on Star Math from fall to winter 2023-24. Dr. Wolford shared that the percentage of students in grades 3-8 who demonstrated high growth on Star Math from fall to winter decreased from 36.7% in 2022-23 to 36.1% in 2023-24 (-0.6 percentage points). Dr. Wolford shared that the percentage of students in grades K-2 who scored at/above benchmark on required curriculum based measures increased from fall to winter 2023-24 (between +11.1 and 32.4 percentage points). All grades saw increases in performance on each required curriculum based measure (CBM) from fall 2023 to winter 2023. This increase is consistent with changes from fall to winter in 2021-22 and from fall to winter in 2022-23. Dr. Dawson explained that this data is promising because these conceptual skills serve as the foundation for students' math skills in later grades. Dr. Dawson shared some strategies the District is implementing to increase math learning for students. These strategies include monthly family sessions and training for school-based staff to support math family initiatives at the school level and targeted professional learning and coaching to provide continuous implementation support at the school level.

Following Dr. Dawson and Dr. Wolford's presentation, Board members asked clarifying questions to better understand which patterns are causing increases in learning and what strategies are in place to continue to increase achievement for Black and Latino students and English Language Learners. Additionally, Board Members shared where they were struggling to understand and/or follow the data that was

presented, as well as commending the District for trending in a positive direction. Finally, Board Members asked staff to provide key updates and changes at the next monitoring session; these updates included more information about curriculum training sessions for family and community members including attendance rates, strategies for improvement and language access, how the math curriculum training is being tailored for teachers of specialized populations in the District (SpEd, ELL) and information about math curriculum training for long term substitutes in the District.

Public Participation

Vice President Fix-Lopez acknowledged the receipt of and summarized written testimony submitted to the Board from:

- Quibila Divine, PCAC

Complete copies of the written testimony are included within the meeting agenda.

The meeting was opened to the public for presentation of statements by registered students, elected, and general speakers. Vice President Fix-Lopez provided the applicable provisions of the speakers' policy for the meeting. Vice President Fix-Lopez called general speakers:

Horace Clouden, PCAC, spoke about the importance of the SPREE report in informing the community about what is happening in individual schools across the District. Mr. Clouden also inquired about whether the "On Watch" category correlates to a passing grade in the classroom.

"Mama" Gail Clouden, community member, spoke about the importance of making all schools across the School District of Philadelphia equitable. Mrs. Clouden also spoke about the importance of having a diverse teacher and leader workforce across the District.

Leah Clouden, community member, shared her own testimony about learning math in The School District of Philadelphia. Ms. Clouden emphasized the importance of District and school leadership having awareness of what happens within classrooms. Ms. Clouden also spoke to the importance of having highly qualified teachers in the District.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Vice President Fix-Lopez announced that the Board will hold its next Goals and Guardrails Committee Meeting on March 7, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., via hybrid format.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.