



## Council of the District of Columbia

John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Brianne K. Nadeau  
Councilmember, Ward 1

**Chairperson**  
Human Services Committee

**Committee Member**  
Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization  
Government Operations  
Health

September 26, 2018

Our Schools Leadership Committee  
Executive Office of the Mayor  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Members of the Our Schools Leadership Committee,

On September 17, I hosted a Town Hall meeting focused on the search for the District of Columbia Public Schools Chancellor and the Deputy Mayor for Education. This event was an opportunity for residents of Ward 1 to share their thoughts on this search. Attendees split into three groups where they worked on and answered three questions. Two of these questions related to the search of a new DCPS Chancellor. The questions asked: *(1) What experiences and qualities would you like to see the new DCPS Chancellor possess? (2) What should be the focus of the new DCPS Chancellor in his or her first year as Chancellor?* Responses to these questions were as follows:

### Group 1

Question 1:

1. Knowledge of DCPS
2. Strong communication, willing to have tough conversations
3. Compassion

Question 2:

1. Regaining trust through transparency
2. Positive school culture
3. Desegregation of schools

### Group 2

Question 1:

1. Record of transparency, admit mistakes, follow through on commitments
2. Strong vision
3. Experience with community collaboration

Question 2:

1. Focus on lack of equity (funding, attendance, expanding curriculum)
2. Revisit school choice and its consequences, focus on robust DCPS feeder patterns
3. Stronger school communities, before and aftercare, teacher turnover, include parents

Group 3

Question 1:

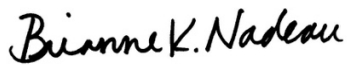
1. Experience in education and leadership, management experience
2. Demonstration of ability to listen and take action, listen to variety of stakeholders
3. Honest approach to work, report bad news to public

Question 2:

1. Hard look at achievement and equity gaps, with a consideration for root causes
2. Commitment to socio-emotional learning, “how do we relate to each other?”, need-responsive curriculum
3. Budget reviewing in timely and transparent manner

I urge you to consider these questions and answers as you move forward in your recommendation process. As the Councilmember from Ward 1, I will rely on these issues in my oversight of DCPS in the upcoming year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my office.

Sincerely,



Brianne K. Nadeau  
Councilmember, Ward 1

Cc:

David Grosso, Chairperson, Committee on Education

Laura Wilson Phelan, Member for Ward 1, District of Columbia State Board of Education

Steve Walker, Director, Mayor’s Office of Talent and Appointments