1. Comprehensive School Plan update (7:30-7:50)
   1. Searl: Federal requirement for school improvement, for all Title I schools. In DCPS *all* schools do the plan.
   2. Searl: The Chancellor and Chief of Schools set priority goals.
      1. Early literacy: 94% of K-2 students met or exceeded those standards last year. 77% of students exceeded those standards. We use DIBELS as a screener. This year, we added a new component called Rapid Automatic Naming, where students must rapidly call number names on a page. We’re looking at DIBELS and their RAN, and if they score low on both of those assessments together, those children are flagged as students who might possibly be flagged for dyslexia. One student in kindergarten and three students in First Grade were flagged. Of those four, there is only one student who is not already receiving special education services or EL support.
      2. Reduce the percentage of students scoring at the lowest levels on PAARC in math. Historically, we haven’t had a racial disparity at Ross, but the last couple years we’ve seen that disparity play out. We made incredible gains last year. We can invite our ELA and Math coaches at another meeting to dig into the data. Last year, our students of color and our white students performed at the same level. Our students of color started further behind but grew at a faster rate than white students. We analyzed all our PAARC data in sub-groups. Students of color performed similarly to white students in all those areas. There are only 7 students in all of the 4th and 5th grades who did not pass PAARC.
      3. Required attendance goal. There is an incredible truancy problem in this city, especially in our middle and high schools. Our chronic absentee rate has increased over the past few years. Children are considered chronically absent if they have missed 10% of the school year. It doesn’t matter if they’re excused or unexcused absences. Principal Searl, Ms. Sharkey, and Ms. Elmore look at this data regularly. Principal Searl provides contexts for all absences, but this is the nature of the public system.
         1. David Alpert: What do we do about the families we are concerned about?
         2. Holly Searl: We discuss strategies for how to get students to school on time. Sometimes there are issues with transportation, sometimes the adults are not as committed to getting them to school on time. At the end of the day, we can only control what we have to control.
         3. David Alpert: My understanding is that there is supposed to be some sort of meeting and then a referral to CFSA. More of the time, there is an obstacle for that family to get to school, and removal is not required.
         4. Holly Searl: We are required to send letters home, outreach w/ mental health team occurs, and after 7 days of unexcused absences, the system automatically kicks in an MPD letter, and at 10 days of unexcused absences, we are required to make a CFSA report. Does CFSA have the capacity to follow through? No.
         5. David Alpert: It doesn’t seem like this system is optimally suited to identify the families for whom this is a problem and for whom this is not. I am curious if there are any approaches that are effective.
         6. Holly Searl: It is sad. There are some families who need the level of the MPD letter, and for others, there needs to be a conversation regarding logistics and relationship-building.
         7. Liz Lowry: We have that line item for community support. Most of that money goes towards Ross families in need, via Safeway gift cards around the holidays. That is one option. Can the PTA help people with gas gift cards and metro cards?
         8. Holly Searl: Thank you. We will let you know.
      4. Shared Leadership for Staff: This year is our second year in which Brian and Kelly are receiving Relay training in weekly data meetings. Having teachers supported to go to conferences funded by the PTA. There are teacher-led committees such as the Social Committee, the Becoming committee, etc.
      5. We also became a Becoming School Pilot this year. We adopted the Peace of Mind curriculum this year. We have monthly professional development with the Peace of Mind group. It’s a curriculum written by DCPS teachers. That teacher was a fulltime Peace Teacher at Lafeyette Elementary for many years. There is a mindfulness component, conflict resolution, and a social justice component.
         1. Ashley Singtalay and Natalie Nagorski shared experience with the curriculum in their classrooms.
         2. Lisa Juriga shared how helpful it has been for specialists as well.
      6. Holly Searl: We’ll do a middle of the year data check-in, that will inform how we approach the remainder of the year. 3rd through 5th year took the ANET test last week. Our preliminary data looks really good for reading in those grades. We’ll look at math when it is released later.
2. Other updates:
   1. Francis-Stevens engagement (7:50-8:00)
      1. David Alpert: We did a lot last year to try to help the families of older kids who are starting to think about middle school, to get to know Francis Stevens, which is their boundary school, in order to help them make an informed choice. Last year, we had an event with Ross Alum parents who are at Francis Stevens. A bunch of people went to the Open House at the same time. We also had Principal Young and her team come for a discussion.
      2. Holly Searl: People in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade should have received a flyer from Francis Stevens. The parents here can handle setting up the event with Francis Stevens. That can be something that we can set up without Francis’ staff. Last year we sent two kids. There were only 13 students in 5th grade last year, and a lot were in boundary for Deal. 4 or 5 went to Deal. One or two moved away.
      3. David Alpert: They are in the temporary building. All schools with temporary buildings have enrollment drops. They’re getting a new building in the fall.
      4. Liz Lowry: We’ll have our holiday festival December 2nd.
      5. Holly Searl: That’s not going to work. DC changed the Ed Fest from December 9th to December 2nd. I’ll be racing over here. I think the Francis Stevens team prefers to come later, when people are closer to making their decision.
      6. Liz Lowry: We could even do something online.
      7. David Alpert: We should probably figure out a date when we want to coordinate everyone to go to the open house. One is this week, one is December 12th, but I’m wondering if we should try to have the parent thing before that, or it could be after. 5th grade parents will schedule those things.
3. Pedestrian safety / 17th&R incident / ways to improve safety (8:00-8:25)
   1. Meg, Chair of Dupont ANC: October 30th meeting with DDOT on Safe Routes.
   2. Alpert: The seat on ANC between Church St. and Stead Park has a vacancy. The person who was commissioner left. It would be really great if a Ross parent could take it on! No one on the ANC is at Ross. Meg is a great connector with it. All the way up to Corcoran between 17th and 18th. Includes both sides of Q St.
   3. Lowry: Let’s put the ANC opening in the PTA listserv. David will send something for the newsletter.
   4. Lebowitz: Everyone knows that a student was injured on 17th and R. We want all our kids to be safer there. A lot of parents are looking at that with fresher eyes. We don’t consistently have a crossing guard there, and at other times they’re not engaged.
   5. Searl: None of it is in the control of DCPS. It is all DDOT. We can all be very loud about it with a clear message for help. We don’t have the proper signage. It’s too far beyond where we should be slowing down. The flashing yellow School Zone sign should be further down on R Street. There are also basic parent safety issues. Students should get out on the sidewalk side. The crossing guard subs are often not engaged.
   6. Lebowitz: Do we write into DDOT?
   7. David Alpert: 311. Report every time you see it.
   8. Rodiger: Do we have an official school drop-off zone?
   9. Searl: We never have. We would not be able to have people back up, because it would clog up R Street. If we had a raised crosswalk, they could make a zone.
   10. Rodiger: Why isn’t there a camera? People go through that red light all the time.
   11. Searl: We should have those big yellow signs with the lights. We don’t have what many other schools have for school zone signage. There should be a camera.
   12. Rodiger: Some of the businesses around here. I wonder, how is this allowed in a School Zone?
   13. Lowry: Across from Marie Reed, that’s all there is.
   14. Celine: The response is they’re not allowed to be there, but they’re not licensed, so DC can’t shut them down.
   15. Alpert: What happened, is they passed the law to try to legalize this stuff with restrictions (ie. Not in school zones), but Congress vetoed it. But then lots of unlicensed stores popped up. Because they weren’t allowed to regulate it, they couldn’t spend any money on fixing the regulatory scheme. Now they’re requiring everyone to get permits.
   16. Lowry: Wouldn’t we have the opportunity to write letters?
   17. Alpert: Especially if we have someone on the ANC.
   18. Brian: The school was very supportive. The most important thing is that she’s okay. Left turn lane. You’d have to remove parking. Turning from R left onto 17th might help. A left turn light with a signal might help. There is one from 15th onto R. Do we need the loading zone on 17th street?
   19. Rodiger: No left turns?
   20. Alpert: When you turn from S to 17th you have to practically stop because of all of the posts. If we put a lot of posts in there, you really have to slow down a lot.
   21. Searl: If it’s 15 miles per hour as a school zone, it would make it safer as well.
   22. Brian: There are often no crossing guards at 3:15. They are present at 4:00pm. They are coming late. Having crossing guards who are engaged and come on time would help.
   23. Alpert: What are the crossing guard hours?
   24. Rodiger: Could we move Mr. Tom to the other side?
   25. Alpert: It seems less dangerous on New Hampshire than 17th.
   26. Lowry: It would be awesome to recruit a retired person from the neighborhood to be a crossing guard. It’s what, an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon?
   27. Alpert: On Monday October 30th at 7:00, there’s a virtual meeting of the Mobility Committee. That’s people who are responsible for school safety. Raised crosswalks and speed bumps.

Boundary study (8:25-8:30)

Alpert: They don’t need to change Ross’ boundary, because our challenge is the K to 1st grade shift. We end up with big classes, and small classes. Absent a clear idea with how to fix that, like adding on 5 classrooms, we’ll have to keep trying to manage our enrollment best we can. Changing the boundaries, and moving some classes to Stevens, it seems like that is not something we want to do. We don’t think that shrinking our boundaries will do anything. Francis Stevens will likely remain as the feeder. The Euclid building is far from us as compared to other schools. We’re looking at Marie Reed and Tubman being the feeders into that school because that’s where it is. If they had build a school on 11th and Rhode Island, it would have made sense, but since that is no longer the plan, it doesn’t make as much sense.