

2/25/21

Board Retreat

Advocacy Panel

Shavar Jeffries

- Don't have an option to be involved if you're on the board of a public school
- If you believe your school has an important role to play, you have to be involved in the decisions made around your schools
- Federal government sets expectations for student outcomes, identifies federal funding allotment,
- With pandemic, billions more dollars coming to states
- Do a lot of work around reimagining teacher pipeline -- Urban Teachers, etc
- Charter boards:
 - A lot of similarities
 - Founding board chair of KIPP Newark in 2001
 - Sector takes notice when you start to grow
 - Space for standardization vs unique elements
 - Believe in families, communities, local talent
 - Those charters that move faster in recognizing power in their communities can move faster, produce better results, and better community perception
 - People will be opposed no matter what -- will always have to fight, but will be better able to win the fight when in partnership with communities where we serve

Jenny Sedlis

- Funding, facilities, freedom
- Narrative in Albany that charters are not accountable and transparent
- Per pupil was around \$10k in 2006; every penny we've won has been fought for
- Cuomo has been arguably our biggest champion in the sector
 - If the gov is in trouble and has a weak hand in budget negotiations, or worse, the scene in Albany will be much different
- Democratic supermajority in both houses right now → can override governor veto
- Relationships take time and have to be authentic, have to be based on work done in the community
- Two pronged approach
 - Political power
 - Normalizing presence in communities
- Finding ways to add value to communities, add value to electeds
- Budget:
 - Proposal is as high as \$17,800 pp; not really that big of an increase because a huge chunk is federal funding that will go away
 - Concern that because state revenue has declined, there will be a decrease

- Cap lift: governor put in a zombie cap lift → 20 in nyc that could be reauthorized; 11 have already been authorized pending this passing
- Work we're doing together:
 - Trying to preserve our path to do independent expenditures in races
 - Planning a Bronx town hall with mayoral candidates
 - Q&A
 - PPN is cosponsors in putting that together
 - Who is pro charter:
 - Eric Adams
 - Andrew Yang
 - Shaun Donovan
 - Ray McGuire
 - Scott Stringer -- 'shouldn't fight him, he's not against us'
 - Maya Wiley -- some positive views
- Election cycle is Halley's Comet event:
 - Vast majority of city council is turning over
 - Mayor is turning over
 - Comptroller is turning over
 - Big opportunity to find new friends
 - The tone of policy gets set in NYC

John Petry

- Once in a generational opportunity to impact NYC political landscape for next decade and beyond
- NYC seats in council and mayor are 4 year seats, and almost always get reelected
- Folks we are putting into office will be there for at least 8 years
- At city level, we have matching contribution structure
- Our ability across our boards and funders -- there are a bunch of races that will form
- Eric Adams and Andrew Yang have been most vocally supportive of the candidates; Ray McGuire will be surrounded by people who are pro-charter; Scott Stringer isn't vocally pro-charter
- Go across charter boards → how do we bring as many people together to go and have a collective voice with them
- Try to identify people who have money and are willing to give to this race
- Only Ray is not in matching criteria; 8:1 up to \$175

Questions:

- Paul: why is it so different in the LES vs the bronx
 - Transportation
 - Not living as close to the school
- Boykin: are finance and legal generally higher because it's more straightforward? And then mission has more human variables that can allow for more opportunities for disagreement?
 - It means you THINK your legal compliance is great
 - It is very common that charter boards rate themselves higher on finance and legal

- (Mark) Why isn't advocacy as a category represented at all?
 - It's more granular, but can be more elevated