The Brent Elementary Diversity Working Group met using an internet video meeting platform on May 7, 2020. The meeting began at 8:00pm.

Meeting Participants: Leda Bloomfield, Piper Campbell, Danielle Drissel (Chair), Dayon Hairston, Lucy Hynes, Andrew Pratt, Charrise Robinson, Erin Roth, Bettina Schewe, Adi Segal. (10)

1. Welcome. The meeting began with a discussion of personal and community experiences over the past few months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. DCPS suspended in-person activities after March 13, 2020. DWG has continued emailing members but did not meet in March or April. This was DWG’s first virtual meeting. The group will conduct meetings virtually for the duration of the public health emergency.

2. Reflections on Listening Sessions. Members who participated in the February parent leadership listening session debrief shared substantively what they heard as issues raised by community members. Questions were raised about process and next steps. Members had strong interest in and thoughts on how to promote ongoing dialogue with and input from listening session participants. Danielle will reach out to Listening Session Chairs regarding process.

3. Equity and Inclusion During the Pandemic. Concerns were expressed regarding the potential for distance learning and social stresses of the pandemic to worsen the opportunity gap. We learned more about the status of the Mayor’s ReOpen DC Education and Child Care Committee and advocacy efforts to enhance the role of parents and teachers in these efforts. We discussed uncertainty regarding summer support and fall learning. Expectation is that returning to school will require significant mental health support for both students and staff. DWG will request a meeting with Brent Administration to open dialogue and offer support.

4. DWG Looking Forward. Interest was solicited for new leadership. Elections to be held prior to end of school-year. Members expressed interest in deepening DWG work on selected priorities. Options for focus were discussed. Danielle will collect suggested priorities for discussion and potential vote at next meeting.

5. Social Connection. The meeting ended with additional time for sharing personal experiences and challenges. Participants affirmed support for each other and desire to continue efforts to support and grow community engagement in the coming months.

Meeting ended at 9:40. The next meeting will be via Zoom on May 21, 2020.