



SYMPOSIUM BREAKOUT SESSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022 | 12:00-1:00 PM ET

Empowering and Elevating Student Voice in Policy Development and Discussions in a Post-COVID-19 System

PRESENTERS:

- Liv Birnstad, D.C. State Board of Education (SBOE)
- China Jones-Burgess, D.C. State Board of Education (SBOE)





**Empowering and Elevating Student Voice in
Policy Development and Discussions in a
Post-Covid System**

Monday, October 24th 2022



Liv Birnstad, Class of 2023

China Jones-Burgess, Class of 2024



Student Representatives in D.C.

- **Four total student members.**
 - At least one student member must go to school or live in Ward 7 or 8 to ensure more accurate representations of students in the district.
- **Student representatives vote on resolutions. These votes are recorded but not counted.**
 - Students can sit (and have a full vote) in other committees.
- **Co-chairs of the Student Advisory Committee**

Student Advisory Committee

The Student Advisory Committee (SAC) serves to advise the work of the board and must be consulted and give statement on resolutions before they are passed.

The SAC also works on projects that can be divorced from resolutions of the SBOE.

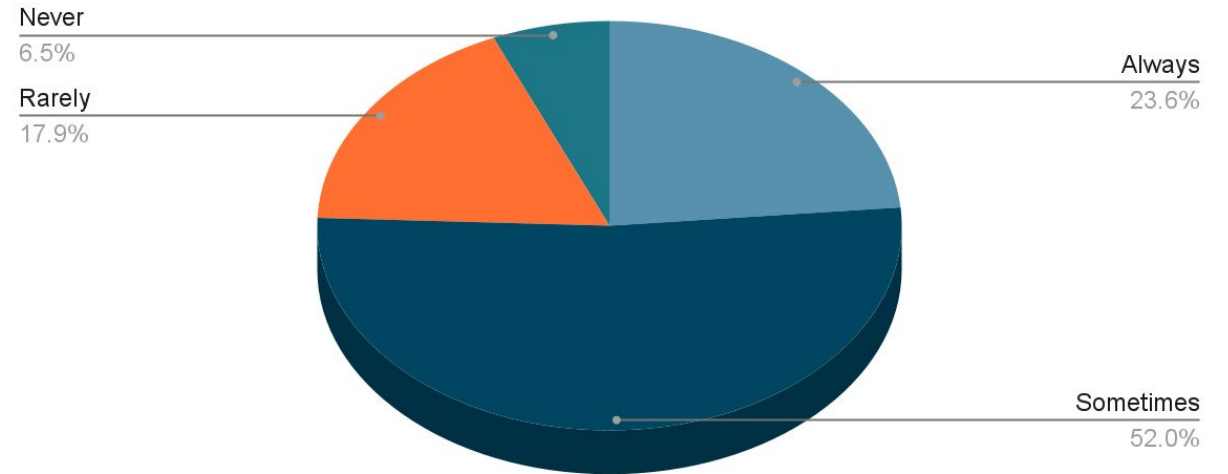
SAC 2021-22

- City-wide survey
- Annual report + Recommendations

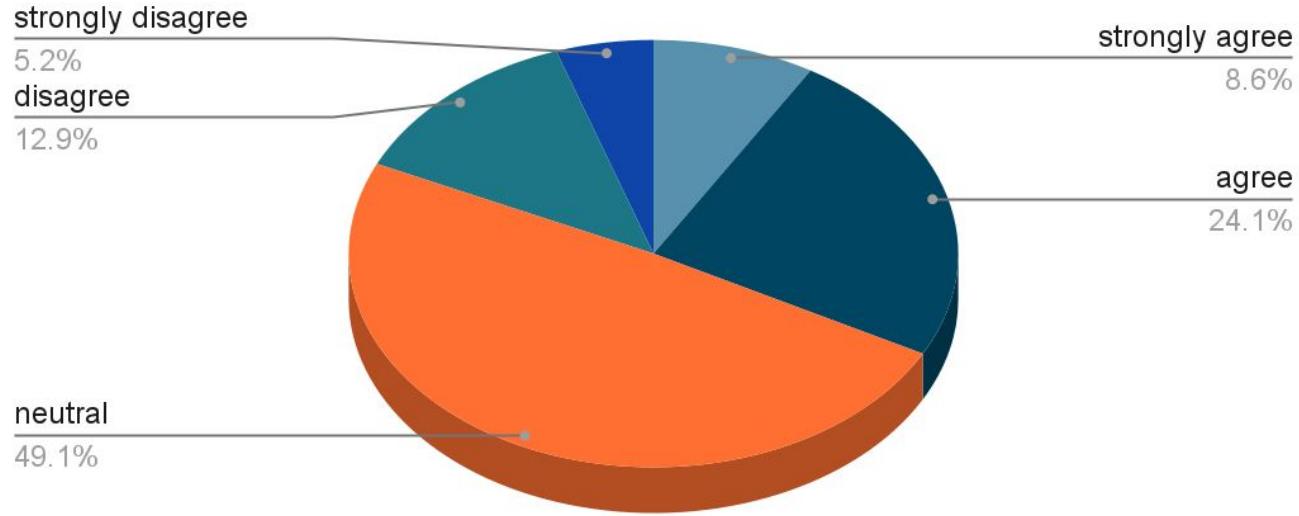
City-wide survey

- 20% of the respondents shared that they would like to have a trusted adult at their schools.
 - Some shared that they don't share about their mental health, or that they share but are not being helped.
- Students shared that an overload of assignments, class exams, lack of organization, classes being too hard and COVID procedures all contributed as school based stressors this past year.

Question 5: When you go to an adult for help and need to talk about your mental stability, how often do you feel like you are being listened

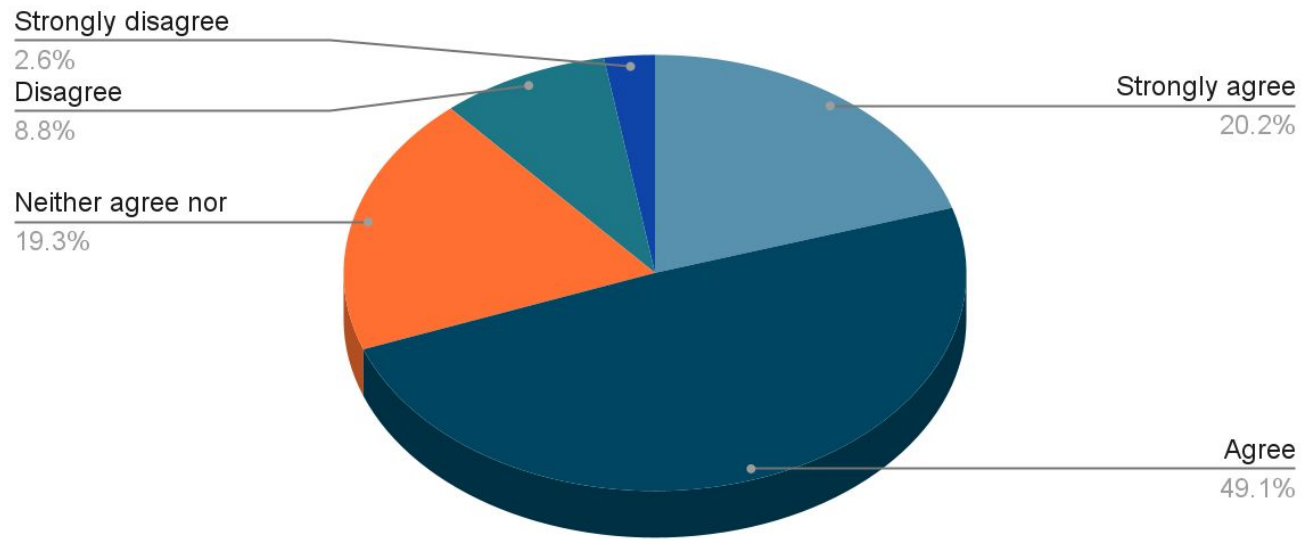


Question 13: I feel safe around public means of transportation.



- **More crossing guards around**
- **More school buses**
- **More chaperones/groups around public transportation**
- **Increase in after school programs**
- **Time-specific hotlines for safe passage**
- **Audio signals need to be implemented on difficult intersections for visually impaired**

Question 21: "I trust my school to be transparent about the transmission of Covid-19 in the school building."



Students expressed concerns in the City Wide Survey such as the following:

- Students not wearing mask
- Make the data about COVID in schools public and available
- Not testing frequently/transparently

Key *Qualitative* Reflections on Engagement

Annual Report and SAC Recommendations

Student Engagement Checklist

- Regard students as experts in education
- Have *at least* one student consistently working on projects
- Require, that students engage and review projects *before* they are completed
- Take a holistic approach to choosing which students to engage

❑ Regard Students as Education Experts

- ❑ Have *at LEAST* one student consistently working on projects

- ❑ Require that students engage with projects before they are completed

- ❑ Use a holistic method of review when considering student candidates



**Scan for
Student
Engagement
Checklist!!**

Group Discussion

“How do you (or your agency) engage students?”

“What methods have been successful/unsuccessful?”

“What barriers prevent students from either joining your agency or engaging them in decision-making on your agency? What actions are needed to lower these barriers?”



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OCTOBER 24 – 26, 2022 | VIRTUAL

Thank you for joining us!

Share Your Thoughts

Participate in our one-minute poll (link in chat box)

