

Opportunity for D97 Board to receive free research and analysis support for board-related work

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Objective of Presentation

- * The objective of this presentation is to explain the possibility of our board receiving assistance from a Policy Advisor Fellow from Leadership for Educational Equity and determine if the board would like to pursue this opportunity.

Background

- * Background: As a Teach For America (TFA) alumni, I am eligible to receive the support from a Policy Advisor Fellow (PAF). PAF is a part-time, 6-month program that seeks to increase the staff capacity of senior Teach For America alumni in senior public leadership roles or governing bodies that they serve on by matching them with a more junior TFA corps member or alumni who is interested in pursuing a policy career. Senior leaders or the governing boards they are a member of select a fellow that can provide 10 hours a week of policy support to advance the board's policy goals and/or the senior leaders' policy goals. Fellows' projects differ based on the need of the senior leader or board but may include research, analysis, and drafting communications.

Cost and Restrictions

- * Cost:

- * There is no cost to the district.
- * The fellow will be paid of stipend of between \$800-\$1000 each month of the 6-month fellowship by Leadership for Educational Equity (LEE). LEE is a social welfare organization that supports the public leadership of TFA corps member and alumni.

- * Restrictions:

- * LEE funds PAF through 501(c)(3) funds and, therefore, prohibits fellows from engaging in any lobbying or electoral activity during the fellowship.
- * Neither LEE nor the Fellow will be allowed to seek paid work from D97 in the future.

Examples of previous Policy Advisor Fellow projects

- * **Cincinnati, OH:** The fellow here worked for entire Cincinnati School Board and its members to increase the number of quality seats available to the children in Cincinnati. He performed extensive and comprehensive research on whether schools within the district were under-enrolled or over-enrolled and why. As a part of this work, the fellow was tasked with increasing the awareness of parents of certain schools about increasing the number of quality seats offered and the process of leveling out enrollment. On a monthly basis, the fellow would present the findings of his research to the Board and present recommendations about next steps in the work. Eventually, the fellow was hired by a community based organization that works closely with the district to continue the work.
- * **Nashville, TN:** A school board member in Nashville, TN hosted a fellow that she tasked with working on improving the communications strategy for the district to increase constituent awareness around the many issues that were circulating the Board at the time. The fellow worked directly for a member, and was responsible for creating systems to ensure that community members were aware of education issues and how they were impacted by the work of the board, specifically school effectiveness.

Timeline

- * **Mid-September:** Notification will go out to applicants who have been selected as finalists.
- * **Friday, September 18:** LEE will send a list of finalists. We ask that you contact the fellows within 48 hours and complete all interviews within a week.
- * **Tuesday, September 29:** Host will complete interviews and provide LEE with the name(s) of the selected fellow(s).
- * **Monday, October 12:** Fellowship begins.

Discussion