

-----Original Message-----

From: Barton, Johnnie (BEGA) <[Johnnie.Barton2@dc.gov](mailto:Johnnie.Barton2@dc.gov)>

To: [Jbiasrobinson@urban.org](mailto:Jbiasrobinson@urban.org) <[Jbiasrobinson@urban.org](mailto:Jbiasrobinson@urban.org)>

Cc: Allen, Niquelle (BEGA) <[Niquelle.Allen@dc.gov](mailto:Niquelle.Allen@dc.gov)>

Sent: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 5:03 pm

Subject: December 6, 2021, meeting

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Dear Ms. Robinson,

Thank you for discussing the upcoming December 6, 2021, meeting with me. I appreciate your time and the dialogue. During the telephone conversation, you stated the following: (1) as Executive Director of the Collaborative or Partnership, you are calling the December 6, 2021, meeting; (2) the Advisory Committee will attend and adopt its by-laws during the meeting; and (3) the Collaborative is authorized by the "District of Columbia Education Research Practice Partnership Establishment and Audit Act of 2018," D.C. Official Code § 38-785.01 *et. seq.* ("RPP"), to call a meeting or the initial meeting of the Advisory Committee.

I stated that: (1) the Advisory Committee and the Collaborative are separate entities; (2) the Advisory Committee is a public body under District law; (3) I did not find authority in the RPP for the Collaborative to call a meeting of the Advisory Committee or direct the

Advisory Committee when to meet; and (4) I did not find authority in the RPP for the Collaborative (a non-government entity), to direct the Advisory Committee regarding the content of its bylaws. You indicated that you would direct me to the Collaborative's authority, within the RPP to do the aforementioned.

The RRP and its legislative history make clear that the Advisory Committee is to be self-governed. The Council did not intend for the Collaborative to exert influence over the Advisory Board. Please see D.C. Official Code § 38-785.04(a)(5) below.

" (5) A person who works for the Partnership or is a direct employee of a non-government organization that provides funding to the Partnership shall not be eligible for membership on the Advisory Committee."

Based on the foregoing, I opine that for the Collaborative to take any of the aforementioned intended actions would be unlawful and in violation of the spirit and letter of the RPP and District law. Please provide a copy of this correspondence to the Collaborative's legal counsel.

Sincerely,

Johnnie Barton

**Johnnie I. Barton, Esquire**  
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