FOLLOW UP MEMO

TO: Members of the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council (S-CAC)

FROM: Debbie Lacy
Patrick Bannon

DATE: October 18, 2022

RE: Follow up to our October 12 committee meeting

cc: Arthur Jarvis, John Harrison, Melissa deVita, Eva Collins

---

OFF TO A GREAT START

What a pleasure to meet everyone at our meeting – it is wonderful to put faces to the names on the roster and for you all to get the chance to meet one another. We will work hard to catch up anyone who missed this meeting, to introduce you to your colleagues and get grounded in the work. We are so excited to be in this work with you!

BUILDING A SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In our introductions, we asked everyone to share their own definition of community engagement as part of getting to understand who you are and what you're bringing to the space. It was such an education – and inspiration! So many of you shared themes present in john a. powell's "Bridging" document that was part of our pre-read. As Council members spoke of the importance of belonging, they also reflected on how critical it is to notice who is not in the room – and to build bridges, connections to others who may not be represented or included.

Bridging and inclusion came up again during our exercise focused on the communities that raised us. Members shared stories of their communities that were built on shared identity, place and homogeneity, whether intentional or not. You spoke of the ways you felt included – for many it was your intentionality that led to the inclusion, not necessarily the openness of the community. Belonging was a common theme throughout the evening – we noticed!

DIGGING INTO THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL FORM OUR WORK

Members spent some time thinking deeply about five questions that were placed on poster board:

- What does community engagement mean to you?
  - Themes that emerged: inclusion, listening, building trust, belonging
- What are your expectations of the district?
  - Themes that emerged: lead with a vision, act through an equity lens, communicate clearly and accessibly
- What are your expectations of community partners?
  - Themes that emerged: thought partnership, knowledge of student needs, open doors to community
- What are some limitations and constraints that district might face?

    - Themes that emerged: resources and capacity, makeup of leadership team, history with some groups
- What does success for this year's SCAC look like to you?
  Themes that emerged: "dialogue, collaboration, understanding, strategies, solutions!"

NEXT UP

We meet again November 9th (location yet to be determined). At this meeting we will begin exploring two important pathways that emerged from our conversation at the October meeting; Viewing community engagement through the technical lens of MOU's, partnerships and policies etc. and viewing community engagement as a way of being for the district – and all of us.

MANY THANKS!

Debbie and Patrick