



NORTH THURSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Overview & Event:

On October 17, 2023, The Board of Directors held a Community Conversation called “Growing Strong Readers” to learn about the ways North Thurston Public Schools and our partners are ensuring students have strong literacy skills. The Board and community members heard presentations and a panel discussion focusing on our post pandemic outcomes, a federally funded study of foundational reading skills, work with our community partners including the South Sound Reading Foundation and the Timberland Library, and perspectives by a principal and district director about strengthening elementary students’ literacy skills, to include our newly-launched K-5 English Language Arts adoption process.

Participants had an opportunity to reflect on the presentations and share ideas including what they found encouraging, what they wonder about, their feedback, and their questions. Table facilitators took notes which were summarized into themes that were shared with the Board in a debrief on October 19, 2023.

This Community Conversation supports Strategic Plan Goal 4, Continuous Growth – All Students, All Subjects. Every student will demonstrate continuous growth toward meeting/exceeding rigorous learning standards. Outcome B: Increased growth rate at a minimum of one year for students at or above grade level and 1.5 years for students below grade level in Math and English Language Arts.

Board Determination:

As a result of the Community Conversation, The Board’s Determination is as follows:

- The Board recognizes the success of the MTSS-R research study and notes that the study, along with previous work on foundational literacy has established a strong base upon which to build the English Language Arts adoption. The Board directs the Superintendent to continue deep implementation of MTSS through the ongoing examination of the effectiveness of interventions, ensuring sustainability of effective interventions, and providing support to teachers.
- The Board also recognizes the positive impact family involvement and collaboration has on student outcomes and directs the Superintendent to continue engaging families in school and district-wide community events.
- The Board directs the Superintendent to ensure that the K-5 English Language Arts curriculum that is adopted provides instructional materials and support for all students, including students who need Tier 2, Special Education, and English Learners to the maximum extent possible. The materials selected must be aligned with the science of reading.
- The Board appreciates the community partnerships and directs the Superintendent to sustain these partnerships, including work with the Timberland Library, the South Sound Reading Foundation, and other literacy partners.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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