

Community Conversation

Continuous Growth – All Students, All Subjects
Increased Student Achievement for our Latinx Community

Overview. Aligned with Goal 4: Continuous Growth – All Students, All Subjects of the Strategic Plan, the North Thurston Public Schools Board of Directors hosted a Community Conversation focused on outcome c. “Increased growth rate of underperforming groups eliminating achievement and opportunity gaps.” The purpose of the Community Conversation is to provide the Board the opportunity to engage with stakeholders to develop a deeper understanding of the topic of study. Based upon the event and study of other resources the Board establishes a visionary statement to the school community which is then interpreted by the Superintendent and Cabinet for determining the key actions to achieve the vision.

Event. The Board engaged in a Community Conversation with our Latinx community to gain a deeper understanding of how to better support our Latinx students. Following the conversation, the Board listened to a presentation of the themes that were identified by the facilitator and recommendations for next steps. The Board was impressed with the deep level of engagement from the participants and values the powerful partnership with our community partners, Cielo and the Hispanic Roundtable. Further, the Board commends district staff who currently serve our ELL families and recognizes that new programs such as the Language Line and distribution of resources through the Family and Youth Resource Center provide valuable support to our Latinx families.

Board Determination.

The Board’s determination as a result of the Community Conversation is as follows:

1. Our Strategic Plan Goal: Continuous Growth – All Students, All Subjects every student will demonstrate continuous growth towards meeting/exceeding rigorous learning standards. The Board confirms that this is an important goal for us to achieve.

Our stakeholders confirmed that Outcome C: increased growth rate of underperforming groups eliminating opportunity gaps is essential for our Latinx students to reach their full potential and achieve career and college readiness.

The Board affirms that the work done by District staff to support students with academic, social emotional, language assistance, and other family resources is appropriate and should continue. In particular, establishing the Spanish call center and utilizing services such as the language line, ensuring that Spanish speaking staff are available at the Family and Youth Resource Center on distribution days, and partnering with Cielo to provide after school and summer school support for students and families are valued by our Latinx community.

In addition, Cielo staff have comprehensive knowledge of supporting new immigrants and refugees in our community.

In the area of communication, outreach, and support the Board recognizes that some of our Latinx families would benefit from additional school-based services and support to include access to Spanish speaking staff who are also culturally responsive. The Board directs the Superintendent to expand outreach and support to our Latinx families in partnership with families and community, aligned to our mission.

2. Our [Equity Resolution](#) has established the goal of hiring and retaining a workforce that reflects the diversity of our student body. The need to achieve this goal was affirmed by this community conversation. The Board further affirms that the direction given to the Superintendent in this area is already a work in progress and looks forward to the next update from the Superintendent on the progress made this school year. The Board values the commitment the District has made to 'grow your own' programs and appreciates the grants and partnerships that have been pursued to achieve this goal. Further, the Equity Resolution addresses other key actions in the area of Data Analysis, Professional Development, Social & Emotional Support, and Community Messaging. The Board affirms that the direction given to the Superintendent in these areas were also affirmed by the feedback from the Latinx community during the Community Conversation. The Board looks forward to receiving an update on the annual progress in these areas specific to the Latinx community.
3. The Board recognizes that partnerships are key to creating a stronger sense of belonging in our school community for our Latinx students. The Board values the strong partnerships with Cielo and the Hispanic Roundtable and believes that partnerships with other nonprofit, faith based, and agencies who provide direct services and support to our Latinx community could be strengthened. Therefore, the Board directs the Superintendent to continue the community café model as well as other models for engaging regularly with the Latinx community in order to strengthen support to Latinx students and their families.