

Community Conversation

Critical Thinkers and Solution Seekers

Participation in Positive School or Community Based Activities

The Board is grateful to the panelists (City of Lacey, YMCA, Together!, Thurston County 4-H, Boys and Girls Clubs, NTPS) for the information presented at the Community Conversation about how their respective organization supports student participation in positive school or community based activities. The Board established a Goal in the area of Critical Thinkers and Solution Seekers which has a measurable outcome of increasing the percentage of students participating in at least one positive school or community-based activity. Centered upon what the Board learned from the panelists, heard from community members, and discussed at their Board work session the Board has reached a conclusion.

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

1. Our Strategic Plan Goal: Critical Thinkers and Solution Seekers – Every student will demonstrate skills in creative and evaluative reasoning, communication, and collaboration to address challenges in a socially just and democratic society. The Board confirms that this is an important goal for us to achieve.

Our stakeholders confirmed that Outcome A: increased percentage of students participating in at least one positive school or community-based activities – is essential for students to reach their full potential and to become Empowered and Future Ready!

The Board affirms that the work completed by District staff to expand student access to clubs and activities is essential and expects it to continue. In particular, the Board is pleased that a wide range of clubs and activities have been added to achieve the target of all students feeling connected to school through a pro-social club or activity or participation in athletics.

2. The Board also affirms that our partnerships with community based programs are strong and must continue to evolve. In recent years, District staff have taken a leadership role convening community partners who provide before and after school programming to students as well as summer programming for students.
 - a. The Board expects this collaborative approach to continue and directs the superintendent to designate appropriate staff to convene community partners for continued work which may include but is not limited to: streamlining access to school facilities, reviewing facility use rates, developing inter-local agreements, pursuing grant funding for expansion and sustainability of programming, and support the communication of program opportunities to families. The Board understands that it takes District staff time to nurture these relationships and to collaborate on grants; however, the Board expects this effort to be a priority for staff.
3. The Board recognizes that barriers to student participation in after school athletics and activities exist today and that changes need to be made to remove these barriers.
 - a. The Board directs the superintendent to work with appropriate staff to review the transportation barriers that impact middle and high school student participation in after school activities and athletics.
 - b. The Board directs the superintendent to work with appropriate staff to review the fees assessed for participation that may be a barrier for some students. Further, the Board expects the superintendent to establish efficient practices that streamline access to resources for students to participate in activities and athletics and to develop a communication strategy designed to minimize the stigma associated with needing financial assistance to participate in activities or athletics.