



# NORTH THURSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## **Overview & Event:**

On March 21, 2023, The Board of Directors held a Community Conversation with industry experts at River Ridge High School (RRHS) to learn about the skilled trades in North Thurston Public Schools. The Board and community members visited RRHS classrooms to learn about three of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings at our schools:

- Automotive & Material Science
- Manufacturing & Robotics
- Agriculture

The group participated in table discussions on three key questions - what types of opportunities do we want for our youth as they explore careers in the trades, what concerns do we have about the current state of supporting skilled trades, and what could be done to further support skilled trades learning opportunities for our students.

This Community Conversation supports [Strategic Plan](#) Goal 3 Critical Thinkers and Solution Seekers, Outcome B: Increased percentage of students applying learning to collaboratively engage in solving relevant challenges within the classroom, school, and community.

## **Board Determination:**

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

- 1) The Board confirms that Goal 3 of the 2022-28 Strategic Plan is important for us to achieve. The Board recognizes that Outcome B can be achieved through robust Career and Technical Education programs – including the Skilled Trades.
- 2) The Board recognizes that facility and staffing levels at some schools have limited the district's ability to equitably offer Skilled Trades programs to students at each comprehensive high school. Therefore, the Board directs the superintendent to achieve equitable programs across comprehensive high schools within five years.
- 3) The Board is concerned that some families, students, and staff may not highly value the career path of the Skilled Trades as compared to careers requiring a four-year college degree. Therefore, the Board directs the superintendent to strengthen communications sharing accurate information about the Skilled Trades including the industry demand, current salaries, and meaningful work life that employment within the Skilled Trades provides.
- 4) The Board commends the superintendent and staff for continuing the work of engaging community partners in the CTE Skilled Trades programs, continuing to expand dual credit opportunities, continuing to expand internship opportunities, starting to partner with Career Connect Washington, and continuing to align the content of Skilled Trades courses with industry standards. In addition, the Board commends the superintendent and staff on the clear focus providing students with leadership opportunities through the CTE student organizations and expects this support and expansion to continue.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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