FOLLOW UP MEMO

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

FROM: Monik Martinez
Patrick Bannon

DATE: November 21, 2023

RE: SCAC Meeting 11/15/2023

cc: Kelly Aramaki, John Harrison, Jason Golec, Shomari Jones, Heather Sanchez

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WELCOME AND REFLECTION:

We welcomed a good-sized group to our meeting on the 15th, thank you to those who participated! We met at a crossroads in the district's community engagement – we've heard and learned a lot from the community forums and survey, and we still need to learn from the most marginalized parents, students and communities. We were reminded by John how valuable our input was to the execution of the live and online forums. And asked for reflections on how the engagement went and how it could be better in the future. You all obliged!

WHAT WE LEARNED:

The live and online community forums were attended by several hundred people. While their feedback was varied, they shared many common themes:

- Community and community-based schools are highly valued.
- The quality of the middle school experience is important and should be maintained.
- What other options exist beyond consolidating schools?
- Don't close my school.
- Why are choice schools off the table?
- The advanced learning program had a lot of attention but from different perspectives.

The live forums provided childcare and language options, suggestions from the SCAC at our kickoff meeting in October. While the forum participation was good, we know that not everyone has been heard. Additional – deeper – engagement is being planned to hear from our most marginalized communities and under-represented voices. Shomari and Melanie shared their plans for this work and asked for feedback on how to improve them. And for our help in reaching out to the communities we serve. Their PowerPoint presentation is attached.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENTS:

In small groups, we reflected on the initial engagement, the live and online forums. And we discussed the plan for deepened engagement to offer suggestions for improvement. Through both discussions we were specifically asked to look for the following:

- Evidence of equity-driven decision-making.

- Gaps in outreach that can be improved upon.
- Improvements to the questions/prompts used in discussion.

Our groups responded with thoughtful feedback and actionable suggestions. The raw notes are attached, themes included:

- Providing more information and options for people to consider. If all options are on the table, name them and be clear that a decision has yet to be made.
- Slow down the process. The three weeks on the timeline for deepened engagement are not realistic and don't allow our partners to fully participate let alone the communities we are trying to reach.
- Try new and creative means of outreach and education, don't stick to the traditional methods.
- Make the case and clarify the problem we are trying to solve.
- Be inclusive and intentional in our outreach. E.g., Refugees, immigrants, LGBTQ+, ethnic and cultural groups.

WHAT'S NEXT:

Our next meeting is December 13th. We will discuss the planning for outreach and engagement after the new year, the timeline and update what we've learned so far through the process.

Thanks again for your commitment and participation. We are honored to have served with you.

Take good care!

Monik and Patrick