



NORTH THURSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Community Conversation Overview:

On March 18, 2025, the Board of Directors of North Thurston Public Schools (NTPS) hosted a Community Conversation titled “Local to Global: The Power of World Languages.” The primary focus of the event was to understand options for NTPS students to grow their skills and competence in more than one language aligning with Strategic Plan Goal 5: Preparedness for Post-Secondary Success, Outcome F: Increased percentage of students who earn a Washington State Seal of Biliteracy.

The evening began with a welcome from Board Director Esperanza Badillo-Diiorio, who set the stage for a productive and engaging conversation. Following this, Antonio Sandifer, the Director of Equity and Languages, provided an overview to understand the multiple programs, including dual language, English learner support, and world language programming available in NTPS. These programs are designed to offer multiple pathways for students to earn a Seal of Biliteracy beginning as early as kindergarten in a dual language program.

After the presentation, Board Director Michelle Gipson led a group discussion featuring the dual language program in NTPS. Participants included teachers, principals, parents and students that represented the dual language programs at Lydia Hawk, Pleasant Glade and Mt. View Elementary schools. Parents shared the positive changes they have seen in their children as a result of being enrolled in a dual language program. Students shared how they believe the program is helping them in school and will be a benefit after they graduate. Teachers and principals shared how the program was structured at their schools and how the program was implemented daily. Many discussed the unanticipated benefits of being in the program, like the increased sense of belonging and community between classmates and families that have been established.

The evening continued with a small group discussion at table groups where all attendees reflected on the following prompts:

“What did you hear that you find encouraging?”

“What do you wonder about?”

“What feedback or input do you have?”

Table groups included School Board members and notetaking facilitators.

At the conclusion of the table discussions, Board Director Tiffany Sevruck closed the event, summarizing the key takeaways and thanking the participants for their valuable contributions. Highlighting how the event was an important step in understanding how NTPS can continue to support Strategic Plan Goal 5: Preparedness for Post-Secondary Success, Outcome F: Increased percentage of students who earn a Washington State Seal of Biliteracy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GRETCHEN MALISKA • TIFFANY SEVRUK • SARAH TRACY • ESPERANZA BADILLO-DIIORIO • MICHELLE GIPSON
EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES - EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Determination:

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

- The Board commends the district for its progress in expanding language programs in NTPS including dual language, English learner support, and world languages which all support attainment of the Washington State Seal of Biliteracy.
- The Board directs the Superintendent to enhance communication strategies to better inform parents, students, and community regarding the scope and benefits of dual language programs, support for students in English learner programs and world language course offerings. Communications must include how to learn more about these programs and how to access each of these programs.
- The Board directs the Superintendent to develop the next steps to build out the current dual language program in elementary school for students as they enter middle school and high school so they can continue to grow their skills and knowledge as they transition to the next grade band.