

Monitoring Response Document

Policy Monitored: Ends 1, 2, 3 (combined)

Date Report Submitted: 5/16/2024

Date of Board's Monitoring Response: 6/18/2024

The Board has received and reviewed the Superintendent's Monitoring Report referenced above. Following the Board's review and discussions with the Superintendent and his representatives, the Board makes the following conclusions:

<u>Ends Reports:</u>	<u>Executive Limitations Reports</u>
- The Board finds that the Superintendent: has achieved the goals established in the policy or is making reasonable progress towards achieving the goals. - is making reasonable progress towards achieving the goals, but a greater degree of progress is expected for policy items noted.* - is not making reasonable progress in achieving the goals established. * - cannot be determined*	- The Board finds that the Superintendent: - is in compliance, with the acknowledgement that there is always more work to be done. - is making reasonable progress towards compliance, except for item(s) noted.* - is not making reasonable progress toward compliance.* - cannot be determined*
<i>*see comments below (No. 3)</i>	

- Please note commendable progress over the last year.

From a broad perspective, it is impressive to see how The Bellingham Promise continues to be instilled and integrated into the fabric and culture of every school, with daily reference by staff and students, from curricula to leadership. The board is impressed with the higher percentage of students meeting standards on the Smarter Balanced Assessment. We are also pleased with the support many students and families have been given, all over the district.

The following are examples of notable accomplishments this past year:

- Inclusion work at Columbia, including all students learning to use a Core Board at Columbia.
- Prioritizing inclusionary work across the district, even through budgetary challenges.
- Graduation rates post-COVID look promising. The long-term improvements continue to be impressive.
- Minor (but important!) improvement in math scores.
- Work to improve learning around outdoor education and sustainability.
- Significant, continued work around meaningfully implementing the Since Time Immemorial curriculum and Treaty Day learnings.
- So many arts offerings and highlights, including the "relaxed performance," which helps create access for audiences with sensory or other needs.
- Impressive work around multilingual learners across multiple schools.
- Great to see Latinos in Action leading assemblies at all high schools and how that class is so successful in its work.
- Heartwarming stories of being principled at Northern Heights (and across the district).

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- The explicit teaching of pro-social thought and self-regulation is a commendable example of the tactical efforts required to advance the broader goals of the Promise.
- District growth in reading, based on the i-Ready report shows commendable growth and achievement broadly.
- The option for middle school compacted math is a good example of providing additional challenge to students interested and motivated to do so. The use of online tools is a commendable creative complement to in-class instruction within the budget constraints of the system.
- The district commitment to helping students engage through inquiry complex topics with multiple developing skills is outstanding, and the work on identity, compassion and historical understanding of tribal sovereignty is commendable.
- The 5th grade strings program is an example of Bellingham leadership in music education and a commendable commitment of the district and community to outstanding depth in this effort.
- Strength of seven-year graduation rate.

3. Please note areas for additional improvement.

There is evidence that the district is back on track increasing progress in many areas following the impact of the pandemic. We look forward to this continuing. While an issue across the state as a result of COVID, we will be interested to see how attendance rates can be improved over the coming years. While real challenges exist and efforts have been made to facilitate continuity in music education through middle school, the district has the opportunity to continue consideration of creative approaches that support students with simultaneous interests in topics currently covered by electives. While there are obvious broader issues at play, the board would like to see attendance rates reflect at least the state average. Would love to see the music and arts bottleneck that happens in middle school shift. While there are known challenges in making this happen, the current structure disincentivizes participation in the arts at that level – a time that's so crucial for developing a lifelong appreciation for the experience of creativity.

4. Comments on the report itself.

Appreciate focusing on a single school (Columbia) as an example, as well as a plethora of other specific examples, particularly regarding knowledge and character outcomes. This helps get a sense of the broad scope of the work. The combination of qualitative and quantitative information in the report is helpful and well prepared, and it enables a more effective board review.

5. Possible changes to the policy.

None identified.