

Meeting Notes
Equity and Access Committee - Zoom
December 3, 2020
4:00 p.m.

- **Welcome / Introductions:** Cesar Hernandez, Sandy Garcia, Mark Higgins, Wade Smith, Stacy Estes, Kellie Humbert, Yardena Meyerhoff, Ron Higgins, Katharine Curles, Angie Gardea, Catherine Veninga, Grace Ogoshi, Erin Dorso, Regina Estrada, Alexia Lavariaga, Evelyn Mendez, Justin Vernon, Kathy Mulkerin, Jaden Bergevin, Bill Erickson, Perla Olmos, Terri Trick, Mindy Meyer, Margarita Banderas, Ruth Ladderud, Julie Perrón, Marilyn Melgoza, Yolanda Herrera, Casey Monahan, Jazmin Lopez, Sergio Hernandez, Virginia Romfh, Sergio Razo, Jerry Cummins, Kathy Mulkerin, Jaden Bergevin, Bill Erickson, Jacky Alonso, Perla Olmos- Alfaro, C.T. Montgomery- Hurst

- **Diversify Our Narrative (DON)** - Casey Monahan, the district's curriculum coordinator, shared the work of the DON committee. Their goal is to create a reading list of books that reflect diversity in every English Literature and Comprehensive class grades 6-12. For more information, please use the link below to access Casey's presentation.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/19cFhnmkDDSL_afm3nfJ-35aK-WWgpMOE4D0-I1i70LE/edit#slide=id.ga791da0ffb_2_75

- **Family Engagements Efforts** - Cesar Hernandez / Yolanda Herrera / Stacy Estes shared district efforts to engage with students and families during the pandemic. Some of the highlights of their presentation includes:
 1. Conducting home visits with positive connections to students and families.
 2. Setting up zoom meetings to maintain a positive and strong connection with various groups of students that is inspiring and productive.
 3. Sending postcards and incentives to gain and maintain that positive relationship.
 4. Intervention Specialist and learning specialist are currently creating a Christmas list to connect and reach out to families in need.
 5. Creating videos and sending them out to families in school messenger, via phone, text, and email. Teachers are also sending the links to these videos to students before they leave on a break.
 6. Self-Contained Rise and Life Skill students are also in our distance learning. Staff is delivering materials home to these students. For Spanish speaking families, Cesar is in close contact with them, translating documents and making home visits and phone calls in conjunction with teachers.

- **Equity and Dual Programs Department Update: - Julie Perrón**
 - **Food Distribution Effort** – Julie and Wade shared that in order to assist families during the pandemic, Nutrition Services will be providing a breakfast and lunch to families that request the service by Dec 11, 2020. To date, over 1300 meals have been order. Wade also reported that over 1/2 million meals have been served to our families since schools closed last spring.
 - **Bilingual United** – Yardena Meyerhoff, is facilitating the Bilingual United student group at Whitman this year. She recently organized a panel discussion regarding bilingualism efforts at both Whitman and WWPS. If you would like to hear a recording of the discussion, please use the following link.
[Bilingualism and Identity: Exploring the power of language](#)
 - **12 Days - Challenge on Race** – Dr. Smith shared information regarding the 12 Day challenge he made to the staff. The following link allows anyone interested to take part in the Challenge on Race.
<https://projects.seattletimes.com/2016/under-our-skin/#>

- **Reports / Updates:**
 - **LEAP / Latino Club / YEOC** – Perla is this year’s YEOA representative, a program sponsored by UW. She attends monthly meetings, discussing various topics on business and marketing. Perla is also the LEAP Ambassador this year but due to COVID their face-to-face meetings have been cancelled. LEAP representatives are currently working on an on-line meeting with legislators. Perla also shared that Latino Club activities have moved on-line. The club tries to communicate with members on a weekly basis.
 - **Wa-Hi ASB** – Jaden / Marilyn shared some of the activities the ASB is doing to keep students involved. Some of the activities they are sponsoring include a Winter Wish Week, scavenger hunt, shoe box float and decorating, podcasts of K-12 students, Kahoot games, teacher recognition events, virtual assembly and a meeting with club leaders.

- **Other Items:**
 1. Dr. Smith shared that WaHi graduation rates for Latino students are up 18% since 2016 to 92%. He also shared that Gesa has a branded credit card partnership with United Way. Every time you swipe it a percentage of the sale goes to fund that helps meet low income student needs.

- **2020-21 Meeting Dates:**
 - **Thursday, Feb 18, 2021**

□ **Thursday, April 29, 2021**