

Meeting Notes
Equity and Access Committee
October 3, 2019
3:45 p.m.

1. **Welcome / Introductions:** David Hampson, Catherine Veninga, Mindy Meyer, Marilyn Melgoza, Pam Clayton, Virginia Romfh, Amy Reed, Ursula Volwiler, Juan Sanchez, Erin Dorso, Sandy García, Brenden Koch, Perla Olmos-Alfaro, Jimena España, Delia Gutierrez, Melito Ramirez, Julie Perrón, Sergio Hernandez

2. **Equity & Dual Language Programs Department Update and Discussion - Julie:**
 - Equity and Access Training** – Julie shared parts of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion presentation she has been facilitating around the district.
 - Gender Inclusive Language** – Julie mentioned that one of the department’s goals this year is to make sure the district is using Gender Inclusive Language in all types of communication.
 - Equitable Strategies for Promise Standards** – Julie is meeting with certified staff to discuss the district’s Promise Standards and the usage of equitable strategies to ensure student engagement.
 - Unity in Diversity Celebrations** – Marilyn shared that the department is working with district staff from each building to connect and discuss ways we can celebrate diversity in all our schools. The meeting will be October 15 from 3:45 – 4:30 in the District Office.
 - Equity and Dual Language Department Newsletter** – Marilyn mentioned that the EDL quarterly newsletter was sent this week. The goal is to highlight the work on the department and building staff.
 - Equity Policy** – David asked how about the process for writing an Equity Policy. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the Equity and DLP office would research what other districts are doing, since WSSDA does not have a model policy.

3. **Reports and Updates:**
 - Latino Outreach** - Marilyn shared about the Bilingual United – Whitman and WWPS Partnership: The Equity and DL department is continuing its partnership with Whitman’s Bilingual United program. Eight Whitman students will be mentoring our WWPS students twice a week for an hour.

- Walla Walla's Día de los Muertos Celebration will be held October 19 and 20. The department will have a table with kid-friendly activities. Join us downtown on October 20 from 11:00-4:00pm.
- **LEAP Update** - Paula shared a few highlights from her experiences as a LEAP Ambassador. She goes to either Seattle or Olympia once a month to participate in leadership activities, in preparation for their legislative trip to Olympia to talk to legislators about laws that support Latinos.
- **Latino Club** - Jimena shared several highlights from the projects the Latino Club has been working on this year. Upcoming events include participating in Homecoming activities, Trunk or Treat and the Parade of Lights.
- **The American Dream Academy** - Pam shared information regarding WWCC's efforts to reach Latino parents through the American Dream Academy.

4. Other Items:

- As part of a discussion on the role of the committee, Catherine asked if the committee should look at equity in the area of technology. She asked what happens if a student is given an assignment that requires the use of technology, such as Internet or a computer with a camera. How does the district handle such situations? Suggestion was made to invite Forest Baker to our next meeting so we could discuss this concern.
- Mindy shared that the Danielson teacher evaluation framework has an Equity component. It was suggested she present at an upcoming meeting to see how we can promote this aspect with principals as they evaluate teachers.
- Sandy shared that Northwest Justice Project has an office in Walla Walla and is willing to help low-income families with legal matters.
- Juan talked about his new position as the Census 2020 coordinator through BMAC. He shared how important it will be to have an accurate census in Walla Walla.

5. 2018-19 Meeting Dates:

- Thursday, December 5, 2019
- Thursday, February 20, 2020
- Thursday, April 23, 2020