

Meeting Notes
Equity and Access Committee
November 29, 2018
3:45 p.m.

1. Welcome / Introductions: Attending....Bill Erickson, Amy Reed, Victor Vergara, Julie Perron, David Hampson, Maggie Banderas, Andrew Rodriguez, Sandy Garcia, Brendon Koch, Ruben Hernandez, Jose Beleche, Erin Dorso, Virginia Romfh, Ruthell Martinez, Marilyn Melgoza, Pam Clayton, Terri Trick, Sergio Hernandez

2. E & A Committee: Ideas for moving forward

Sergio and committee – The committee spent time, individually and in groups, discussing “why” we participate in E & A meetings and “why” there is need for such a committee.

A summary of the “why” statements include:

- To make a difference in our community, especially with underrepresented students and their families.
- To observe how the district is working to build inclusivity and support for families and students,
- To make a difference in my community, especially with young Latino students.
- To be a mentor to WWPS students.
- To be an instrument for social justice.
- To learn what needs / challenges our Latino students face and then work on finding solutions.
- To learn of ways I can support equity and access initiatives.
- To continue the good work the E & A Committee does in our community.
- To help all students thrive for a better tomorrow.
- To learn of ways we can engage students and keep them coming to school.
- To hold us accountable on changes we need to make within our system.
- To be a voice for all children to have equal access to school resources, support systems and opportunities.

The Committee then discussed “**what**” possible topics, initiatives, study topics, system changes we should consider working on as a committee.

A summary of the “What” ideas include:

- What are challenges affecting LGBTQ students?
- What job opportunities exist for Latino students?
- What survey could we administer to students that would help us understand their needs?
- What needs to be done to build capacity, so that underrepresented students and families feel like they have a voice?
- What can we do to build a culture of intolerance of failure?
- What type of mentorship program could we develop?
- What do undocumented students need so they feel safe at school?
- What would it take to create our own “La Chispa” workshop for middle school students?
- What ideas can we generate to better engage our underrepresented students?
- What does the district’s discipline and attendance statistics look like? Are students of color overrepresented?
- What would it take to have a youth center in WW?
- What could a mentorship program look like K-12?
- What survey could we administer to determine the cultural competency of our schools and what they might need?
- What do our hiring practices look like and does our staff represent our students?

The committee was then asked to reflect on what we need in order to start working on the “**how**”. Some of the items mentioned include:

- It would be helpful to see what other districts have done to increase equity and access for all students.
- Request Victor to share ideas and concepts to better engage secondary students, from his chapter in the new book by Thomas and Collier.
- To look at data...if available on our LGBTQ students.
- To review the district’s discipline and attendance data.
- Share information regarding the Southern Poverty Law Center and their Teaching Tolerance curriculum.

3. Reports / Updates:

- Professional Development Opportunity – Erin**
- Latino Outreach - Marilyn** – shared that 80 students from Pioneer and Garrison participated in the La Chispa leadership conference held in Pasco, November 27, 2018. She also mentioned that both schools felt we should consider hosting our own WWPS leadership conference next year.

- Latino Club - Students** – no report given – students were working on their float for the Christmas Parade.
- Parenting Classes - Pam** – shared that several parenting classes have been held and additional ones schedule after the break. She also mentioned that she walked neighborhoods with folks from C2C.
- Scholarships - Victor** – shared that a bilingual teacher education grant he submitted to OSPI was funded. As a result the district is able to offer several scholarships to graduating seniors and current para educators / classified staff wishing to become bilingual teachers.

4. Other Items:

- Andrew shared the following link regarding a school that intentionally decided to transform itself and reduce their failure rates.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/01/opinion/sunday/who-needs-charters-when-you-have-public-schools-like-these.html>
- Another link that talks about schools that focus on equity and access for all students was shared by Erin. Please go to:
<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/education/sd-mechula-vista-elementary-20181121-story.html?fbclid=IwAR1Jew5qsGrmkJ5TikYade1eFdluYZ0AHV99FqGMatTU-NKQ2psWAG-wAs8>

5. 2018-19 Meeting Dates:

- Thursday, Jan 24, 2019**
- Thursday, April 25, 2019**