



## Board of Directors Retreat Meeting Minutes

*The Board Retreat will not be recorded.*

### OBJECTIVES

#### WE WILL ESTABLISH:

- A team connection for our shared work;
- Clarity around our purpose;
- Focus on Board Goal: Student & Family Engagement

Thursday, December 15, 2022 05:30 PM

#### 1. AGENDA REVIEW

The Board of Directors of Tacoma School District No. 10 met in a Board/Superintendent Retreat on Thursday, December 15, 2022, at the 9th & Broadway building at 302 South 9th Street Tacoma, WA 98402. Directors Bonbright, Keating, Leon, McElroy and Strozier, as well as Superintendent Garcia, Deputy Superintendent Nolan, and General Counsel Gbenro were present.

President Bonbright reviewed the agenda.

#### 2. WELCOME & TOUR OF TOL/SOTA

Superintendent Garcia gave a tour of the 9th & Broadway building site and its history with Tacoma Public Schools.

#### 3. TEAM BUILDING

Deputy Superintendent Nolan led the group through the December Monthly Equity Question Series. The December question focused on Integrity.

#### 4. STRETCH BREAK

#### 5. FAMILY & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT LISTENING SESSIONS

The Board of Directors plans to hold Board-Family Engagement Listening Sessions to connect with families and help further the adopted annual goals. Ideas were discussed regarding best ways to proceed.

##### Family Engagement Listening Sessions:

- Discussions were had about possibly partnering with TPS Partners such as the Black Parent Alliance (Tacoma Urban League), Mi Centro, APCC, etcetera, to help facilitate these events, with a stipend given to each for doing so, which will help pay for facilitation and light refreshments for all attendees. It was suggested that the host agency could give a presentation about how their agency helps families. Each listening session will have two TPS board directors in attendance, and no more than 20 community members.
- Board directors will review with attendees the annual goals that were adopted for this school year and share what they hope to accomplish from these listening sessions.
- The respective partner agencies will facilitate the listening session so that the attending directors can focus on listening to the input being shared. The same questions will be asked at each listening sessions. Possible focus topics/questions include:
  - What is important to families in order to support your students' social emotional wellbeing and mental health?
  - What ways do you engage with your child's school?
  - What opportunities would you recommend we explore to be able to engage more families?
- Superintendent Garcia will reach out to potential host partners, and work to identify 2-3 dates.

**Student Listening Sessions:**

- o The Board would like to host Student Listening Sessions, which has not been done since before the pandemic hit. Ideally, the Board would like to hold these at each Middle School and High School. Superintendent Garcia feels like completing a sub-set of schools is more doable, and suggests a mix of 10 middle and high schools. We could then do listening sessions with the other schools in the following year. This should tie into other Board goals, especially social-emotional well-being and mental health, student engagement, and environmental equity. It should also have a focus on grading, which ties into mental health.
- o Staff feels it will be important that kids know what they are walking into, and that these are done during the student's time, during a working lunch or a class period (45-60 minutes), with 10-15 students participating at each school. Each listening session will follow the same format and ask the same questions so that the data can be compared and contrasted. We also need to fine-tune the questions so that we can get the information needed to inform possible policy changes.
- o It's important to have a trusted adult from each school in the room to be able to provide after-care if there are any emotions that students may have after the session. Relatedly, it will be important to figure out who are the "right" adults to have in the room so that the students will feel comfortable talking about these issues.
- o Directors agreed that these topics are charged and complex. It will be important to remember that these are supported to help inform directors' role of providing governance and policy. We need to know what is our role? Why are we doing this? and How will these sessions inform our role in policy and governance?
- o The Superintendent's team will work to bring the Board recommended topics/questions and gather feedback before moving forward. We can weave more information about these sessions into upcoming Study Sessions.

**6. CLOSING COMMENTS**

Superintendent Garcia will take what has been discussed and will help fine-tune a plan for the Board's review before moving to the action step.

He also reminded the Board that one of the goals the Board adopted for 2022-23 school year is a focus on Environmental Equity. To help move this forward, the Superintendent's Office and the Board's General Counsel will start reviewing policies that may have an environmental sustainability and stewardship component and bring ideas forward to the Board for those policies they may want to focus on.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:27PM.