

Analysis_BOE Engagement with Students

Date: January 31, 2023

Topic: Ends Statements and predetermined questions

Source of information: Board initiated dialogue with students

1. Details of source

- Focus group with students from 8 of 17 schools representing high school students
- About 35 students attended the focus group with all Board members and the Superintendent participating

2. How representative of our student population is this group?

- The students shared that they did not believe they were truly representative of the DCSD student population
- Board acknowledged that as we continue to refine our process we will work toward ensuring participants are more representative of the entire DCSD student population

3. What insights have we gained from this information?

- **MISSION AND VISION**
 - i. Statements are appropriate and aspirational
 - ii. Appreciate the individual potential aspect of the statements
 - iii. Many are unaware of the DCSD mission statement
 - iv. Mission statement could be improved by using more inclusive language
 - v. Need to focus on how to ensure everyone can be seen
- **HOPES**
 - i. Students are not aware of all the options and opportunities available
 - ii. Not weighting honors classes prevents access to opportunities for some students
 - iii. Should strive for more community opportunities with local businesses, more personalized path, and providing opportunities for real life skills to be embedded in schools
- **ENDS STATEMENTS**
 - i. Student concerns were raised around GPA calculations, access to financial literacy, knowledge on voting, and inclusionary practices
 - ii. Staff turnover has negatively impacted students
 - iii. Culture and community and extracurricular activities were also highlighted as areas of concern
 - iv. Lack of awareness on opportunities available to students —
Communication of CTE opportunities and not having stigma related to alternative options
 - v. Concerns also raised on whether resources are allocated equitably
- **MOST SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES**

- i. Common challenges raised among all four focus groups revolved around the need for better awareness of opportunities, as well as earlier awareness
- ii. Student mental health, students and teachers feeling like there is a loss of community and engagement, and behavioral challenges are top concerns
- iii. Peer Counseling was raised as a potential way to address some of the concerns raised by students
- iv. Ensuring authentic inclusivity and the need for teacher professional development on how to address microaggressions are current challenges and will only grow over the coming years
- v. Changing technology and dated curriculum (both from a content and delivery format perspective) need to be addressed in order to keep public schools relevant and a choice in the future

4. Are there any cautions about how we should generalize this information?

- We should also take into account the [SAG feedback provided to the Board liaisons on December 5, 2022](#).

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5. Does this information suggest the need for any new Ends (student outcomes / community's vision for WHY the organization exists)?

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6. What further questions does it raise for future exploration?

- Nothing further now.

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7. What next steps do we commit to for further study of these issues?

- We need to schedule more debrief time for the Board following each engagement opportunity.

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8. Does this information suggest the need to consider amending any Executive Limitations (community's values)?

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