

Focus Group Notes – 11/18/20 – Spanish

Transcripts and translation from notes taken during SEGC Zoom meeting on 11/18.

(Spanish Room. 68 participants)

- 1- Mishel Gutierrez: - Is this process happening for all schools, or only for the schools in SE Portland?
- 2- Constance San Juan: - It's more important to have diverse programs for students in elementary schools.
- 3- Tencent: - In Europe people speak more than one language. We should encourage more teaching Spanish in the US.
- 4- Alberto: - The district states these actions are taken to promote equity and inclusion. How has this worked in the past? How the district knows it's going to work now?
- 5- Stefania Ramirez (Lent 2nd. grade teacher): - This is a big change and it's happening too fast.
- 6- Cruz Alfonso (Atkinson parent): - Families picked this school and now is going to be too hard to change.
- 7- Maria Chavez (mother, Bridger school): - I care about the curriculum that will be offered. There are rumors about the reputation of other schools. We would like to receive information about the educational programs of those schools.
- 8- Maria (mother from Marysville): - I want a change that is good for the children. What kind of help are you planning to offer to the students having in mind their specific needs? Marysville have good programs and diversity.
- 9- Dulce Sosa: - We need more time to think about this decision. We need to have more meetings.
- 10- Ivette: - Why not to open more immersion schools? How this change occurred? What "a better use of resources" mean?
- 11- Sonya: - Why is this done so fast and during the pandemic? No enough time to debate before taking our comments to the Board. Have you asked the teacher? How are you going to do the hiring? The district should reconsider this!
- 12- Andreina Velasco (Lents Dual Immersion. Mother and teacher): - Are you planning to do these focus groups in other schools? Within the schools we also have segregation between the Dual Immersion programs and the neighborhood school.
- 13- Maria (daughter will go to Kellogg next year): - How are you going to select the students that will go to these schools?
- 14- Pedro Anglada (daughter in Bridger): - I am worry about segregation. 80% of the teacher are white.
- 15- Flora Gonzalez (Marysville. Mother of 2 students): - I like Marysville! I like their "Mindfulness program." It's good teaching for children. It teaches respect for others. They are going to miss what they have learned here. It's going to be difficult because they are used to this routine. It's a big change! How are they going to allocate the students? Are Hispanic children going to be placed in one school? What kind of programs are they going to offer?
- 16- Ricardo Varela (Creston parent): - I am opposed to this change. This is the continuation of systemic racism. PPS don't support colored students. This will take away opportunities for all. The schedule for this transition is too quick. Is there any plan to support the families during this transition?
- 17- Giacomo (Atkinson father): - The restructuring of programs will isolate a cultural group.

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- 18- Janeth Hernandez Solis (Bridger/Atkinson parent): - I am frustrated because they are doing this during COVID. I feel this segregates the Hispanic to one area. Why not to wait?
- 19- Adriana (Evelyn) (Bridger): - Now elementary school students are exposed to behaviors of older children from middle school, but I disagree with separating dual immersion students as a group. They won't be exposed to other cultures.
- 20- Josefina Bayona (Atkinson mother of 2 students): - Focus on the children. How this is going to affect the children? They will feel segregated. I am opposed!
- 21- Liz (Bridger): - I'll be a shock for students to go back to a different school after distance learning. I personally believe the decision on this issue had already been taken.