

## Equity Alliance for Achievement (EAACH)

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### EAACH GENERAL MEETING MINUTES Equity Alliance for Achievement – October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Maria García, Latino Outreach Specialist from Diversity, Equity and Outreach Department (DEO) facilitated the meeting and welcomed attendees. She asked them to sign-in and serve some food offered by the Edmonds School District (ESC).

Members from the EAACH Leadership Team (LT) were asked to introduce themselves and share the reasons they continue to remain active in EAACH. Introductions are listed in the order of participation:

- María García shared that she used to meet with parents before the EAACH Committee was created and her position emerged as a result of parents' advocacy efforts. With the support of the District, the EAACH Committee was created as a space to bring the community together and build partnerships and so far EAACH has done a great job of including the community.
- Bill Henning said that he has been involved with the EAACH for six years. He is grateful to be given a chance to be a "white ally" to use his privilege and with the collective experience of families and students in the district, there have been changes.
- Marisa Cortés shared that she has been in EAACH for 6-7 years and was involved even before it was created. EAACH is great group for new parents to work on goals to improve the District. For example, five years ago, the District calendar was only in English and with the support from EAACH, the District agreed to translate the calendar and include holidays from other cultures. Another example was the creation of the language line for Spanish speakers, with the goal of having language line services in other languages. Marissa concluded saying that there is a long list of successes through the efforts of EAACH.
- Jessica Cabrera said that she also has been involved with EAACH since the beginning. There are many achievements from EAACH, for example family events in schools in which families gathered and received information about college. Also, some parents attending these events created subcommittees to work with other parents in the community; as a result, they could bring their voices to the District.
- Jessica Marín shared that she has been involved with EAACH since the beginning too. There have been many achievements for students and parents, for example the listening kits that District and schools can use at different events. They can be used in 5 languages at the same time.
- Brenda Bequette said that she has been with EAACH for five years and represents Indigenous people. She mentioned that from the work of EAACH emerged the Summer Math Program and many other ideas that help support students.
- Juan Marín introduced himself as Jessica Marín's husband and shared that they have been involved together in EAACH. He mentioned that the position of the Family and Community Engagement Specialist was a result of EAACH work.
- Karena Hooks introduced herself as the Diversity, Equity and Outreach Manager. She welcomed the new members and returning members and encouraged people to continue coming to the meetings.
- Justin Irish explained that as a white male with a position in the District he had learn about the community and perceived EAACH as a partnership between the District and the community, an equitable opportunity to have the community at the table, create trust and partner with the District and impact the access of high quality education to all students.

- María shared that there are a couple more members who couldn't attend this meeting today, Zed Aschenaki and Joanna Ollivierre. Additionally, Maria shared that there are two MSW UW Social Work Interns also on the EAACH Leadership Team this year, Catalina Angel (introduced herself) and Christina Barzare (absent).

María said that there have been some changes in the District and that the goal is to collaboratively partner to ensure we have the community at the table. She also shared that soon we are going to have a product that reflects the outcomes of EAACH's work. Maria mentioned that lately there have been some challenges within EAACH group dynamics as a result of institutional changes with the goal of healing together as we have difficult conversations to build community. As liaison María is here to strengthen the connection between the District and community through this challenging process.

### **Break into Quadrants**

The attendees divided into their quadrants and were given Group Guiding Questions to work on collectively and then were going to be given the opportunity to report out to the larger group.

Due to time limitations, small groups didn't report out to the larger group. The quadrant's information will be available in the minutes and we would continue to work on building relationships and our communities.

### **Announcements**

- District Communication and Technology Departments invited all to a feedback session on Friday, October 28 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the District office Room 107.
- Superintendent visits with parents and communities during October and November, please see flyer for locations and schedule.
- Natural Leaders at schools, please see in the fliers for schools and their contacts.
- Cocoon House invites you to a two day "WayOUT" Seminar 2016-17, please see flyer for locations and schedule.
- Special Education PTSA meeting Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. PAVE and The Arc of Snohomish.
- Comcast Flyer, reduced internet fee and low price computers (please see flyer for locations and schedule).
- LHS Rummage Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, bring items October 31<sup>st</sup> to the music department
- District late start task force Oct 27, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, Nov 14<sup>th</sup> and Dec 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Housing Forum: Hacia una Vivienda Digna y Saludable, October 29th, 10:00a.m. -12:00p.m.
- Rotary Community Homework Center offers tutoring, access to internet and help with homework. The program is also looking for volunteers. See flyer for detailed information.

**Closing** at 8:05 p.m.

<b>EAACH - QUADRANTS GROUP WORK</b>			
Quadrants	<b>Building Community:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is your ethnic background?</li> <li>• What Languages do you speak?</li> <li>• What are some of the family values?</li> </ul>	<b>EACH Outreach:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How did you hear about EAACH?</li> <li>• How should the work of EAACH be shared &amp; by whom?</li> <li>• What is the best way to reach you and your community?</li> </ul>	<b>Our Schools &amp; Our Communities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is working at your school/community?</li> <li>• What could be improved?</li> </ul>
Northwest	<b>Languages:</b> Spanish, English, Korean and Yiddish <b>Values:</b> to be true to your heart, kind, respect, understanding, honesty, education, pay it forward	Work of EAACH should be shared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Word of mouth</li> <li>• E-mail,</li> <li>• Phone calls</li> <li>• Paper handouts</li> </ul>	<b>Working:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Helping students feel included</li> </ul> Improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information that needs to get home</li> </ul>
Northeast	<b>Origin:</b> Korea, USA, N. Dakota, Native American, Hispanic <b>Languages:</b> ASL, English, Korean, Shoshone, N. Paiute <b>Values:</b> <b>Korean</b> -Children are taught to be respectful to elders; keeping traditions; <b>Hispanic</b> -family is important, learning is more important than grades, equity opportunity for everyone, languages; <b>Native American</b> - respect for our environment, re learning our languages	Hear about <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MLT library</li> <li>• English class</li> <li>• Sno-isle library, H.S. Civic class</li> </ul> <b>Best way</b> School curriculum night; Bi-lingual newsletter, district webpage (easy access), mailings, paper to read in own languages, Sno-Isle, Library and school classrooms, U.S. History	<b>Working:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for Student leadership: BSU, Colores Unidos, Native. American Club, Interact, Equity Team, Undoing Institutional Racism Training</li> <li>• Good communication by teacher</li> <li>• Interpreters</li> <li>• Recess time to socialize</li> </ul> <b>Improvement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School is for extroverts, introverts need help</li> <li>• Need incentives</li> <li>• Bullying due to how one looks</li> <li>• Social Studies Teachers need to take Undoing Institutional Racism Training</li> </ul>
Southeast	<b>Origin – language - Values:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> generation South African, English 1 <sup>st</sup> language also Sanskrit – Family and education; Mexico but lived in U.S, fluent in English, family 1 <sup>st</sup> generation – education; Born in U.S. grandparents from Germany; Native American, 4 <sup>th</sup> gen. Japanese, born in	<b>Hear about:</b> Hired to support work of DEO, Becca and Truancy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic direction Group</li> <li>• From principal, district communication</li> <li>• Indian Education</li> </ul>	<b>Working</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to language line</li> <li>• Support available to families</li> </ul> <b>Improvement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written documents, websites and emails.</li> </ul>

	<p>Washington, speak English, a bit of Japanese and Colville – Family and community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through work in a role as principal. Share work</li> </ul> <p><b>Best way</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media, local news and websites</li> <li>• School social workers, school staff, parent leaders</li> </ul>	
Southwest	<p><b>Origin:</b> Latino, Native America, Norwegian-French, African American, Scottish-Irish-Italian, Eastern Europe  <b>Languages</b> Native, English, Spanish  <b>Values:</b> Respect, love, integrity, family order-discipline, culture, helping others, honesty, education, accountability, respect elders/adults</p>	<p><b>Hear about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email from the district ( principal)</li> <li>• Friends and other parents</li> <li>• By the District</li> <li>• Powwow</li> <li>• Family liaison</li> <li>• EAACH outreach</li> </ul> <p><b>Best way</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly news from schools</li> <li>• Facebook page, reminder app</li> <li>• EAACH open house</li> <li>• Flyers, emails, robo call (updating telephone contacts)</li> <li>• Other district meetings</li> </ul>	<p><b>Working</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community parents</li> <li>• Social emotional</li> <li>• Inclusion of children with disabilities</li> </ul> <p><b>Improvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reach out family – Leadership</li> <li>• English class</li> <li>• Student involvement</li> </ul>