

# SUPERINTENDENT'S LISTENING AND LEARNING TOUR

North High School | Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 5:00 to 6:00 PM

Participants: 14 total (including 2 students)

Languages: English

*Below is a summary of the feedback from this listening session. It may not reflect the views of all participants and stakeholders district-wide.*

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## What is going well?

- **Dedicated and caring teachers, staff, and school leaders who manage the return to in-person with flexibility and student support**
- **Communication, especially for special education students**
- **Schools' relationships and outreach with local community and organizations (e.g., vaccination clinics, connections with City of Denver)**
- **COVID precautions, including returning to in-person learning and school events (e.g., athletics, pep rallies, fall festivals)**
- **Social emotional and mental health supports (including grief counseling)**
- **Career and college supports (including career advisors and Denver Scholarship Foundation)**
- **Technology provided to students, especially during the pandemic**
- **Focus on recruiting and retaining teachers of color**
- **Fairness in school budgeting through fall adjustment**

## What needs improvement?

- **Families aren't always clear where and how to get extra support for students; DPS structures are difficult to navigate**
- **Disparities between families and schools, depending on the resources available**
- **DPS has difficulties reimbursing employees and paying outside vendors**
- **The District and City of Denver should collaborate more closely on development, planning, and finance**
- **Schools need more resources and more equitable distribution of resources; reliance on DonorsChoose exacerbates inequalities**
- **Lack of innovative, long-lasting programs to support students more holistically, including cultural responsiveness, life skills, and a focus on the whole child**
- **All City Stadium is disintegrating and an embarrassment compared to facilities in other school districts**
- **Transportation policy lacks transparency**
- **DPS is top heavy**
- **Opportunities for pathway schools to collaborate with each other**
- **We need to improve our reputation and strive for greatness**
- **We need a Latino Excellence Plan**

## Advice for Dr. Marrero

- **Do what is right for students considering the long-term impact, not short-term politics**
- **Continue creative community outreach with educators and grassroots organizations (like Cafecito)**
- **Be transparent in your policies and communications, including around top-heavy central office staffing**
- **Try to create a collaborative board environment**
- **Balance work and family life**
- **Surround yourself with people you trust who will ask you hard questions but also support your vision**
- **Connect with local artists to promote internal and external murals**
- **Check out: Elk Club and its golf simulator, Dew Drop Inn restaurant (esp. fried green tomatoes), Santa Fe Art Nights, local tamales, Southwest Denver leadership trainings, and El Corrido del Barrio at Su Teatro)**

Notes: The comments with the most mentions or agreement during the meeting are listed in bold at the top of each column.