



SUPERINTENDENT'S LISTENING AND LEARNING TOUR

Denver Scholarship Foundation | Wednesday July 14, 2021, 6:00 to 7:30 PM

Hosted by Nathan Cadena, Denver Scholarship Foundation

Participants: Approximately 35 (in person)

Language: 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.

What is going well?

- Allowing for innovation and decision-making autonomy
- Committed and motivated leadership
- Diversity of schools with school choice options
- DPS Academic Division, led by Tamara Acevedo
- Effective teachers
- Increasing stability at schools
- Partnerships with external organizations
- Positive community connection and events (e.g., this event)
- The presence and influence of Ednium

What needs improvement?

- Addressing truancy and absenteeism through counseling
- Barriers between school board and the community
- Being open to outside ideas; learning from other districts
- Better communication about Choice options
- Communication (incl. news and events) with all community members
- Historical neglect of SW region
- Improving accelerated learning (incl. credit recovery and other options)
- Inclusion of non-English speaking stakeholders
- Lack of authentic engagement, listening to, and following through with parents and community
- Leveraging and valuing diversity (incl. language diversity)
- Leveraging student interests
- More cooperation and collaboration between schools

Advice for Dr. Marrero

- Address falling enrollment and school budgets in SW Denver
- Be seen and present
- Bridge board and grass-roots views
- Don't compromise views and beliefs in the face of "loudest" voices (incl. from board members)
- Empower stakeholders to effectively contribute their voices and perspectives
- Find the good
- Leverage community supports to expand opportunities for students
- Meet and get to know students
- Observe and listen
- Support intensive accelerated learning (incl. credit recovery) in schools
- Visit schools (esp. Johnson Elementary)
- Work towards improved board dynamics