



SUPERINTENDENT'S LISTENING AND LEARNING TOUR

Northwest Denver Innovation Zone (NDIZ) Far Northeast Families | Tuesday, August 31, 2021, 5:00 to 6:00 PM

Hosted by Vernon Jones

Participants: 20 approximately (via Zoom)

Language: English, Spanish, and Amharic

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?

- Innovation zones are giving principals the support they need.
- Amazing teachers
- All schools can be independent
- We saw a lot of creative solutions during the pandemic; schools can learn from each other
- Leadership development has improved
- The teacher leadership process.
- The collaborative approach to support our teachers and community
- The ability to bring partnerships into the schools (e.g., mentors for students)

What needs improvement?

- Transportation (District and RTD)
- Overall communications do not consider the different schedules of the various schools/school types (e.g., some schools started a week before the official DPS date)
- Communication with students, a lot of messages only go to parents, and students often don't receive the information
- Improve partnerships (District and Zone)
- DPS is top-heavy; there are too many administrators
- Better allocation of resources
- The portfolio approach needs a learning agenda
- Articulate a more thoughtful set of high school options that meet student needs
- We used to be leaders; now we are followers

Advice for Dr. Marrero

- Heal DPS: Denver is a community that needs a lot of healing. We need you to be the chief healer
- Transparency is critical
- Address transportation issues, so it is accessible to all students
- Take your time with this listening tour
- Meet people 1:1 to learn more
- There has been too much turmoil; buckle up and stay the course
- Think about what's best for our students, do not listen to just politics
- Sliceworks is the closest you will find to NY Pizza
- Must try Curtis Park Creamery