

# SUPERINTENDENT'S LISTENING AND LEARNING TOUR

**LGBTQ+ Student Group | Thursday September 23, 2021, 10:30 to 11:30 AM**

Participants: Approximately 70 (34 logins to Zoom meeting, with multiple students attending per login)

Language: English

*Below is a summary of the feedback from this listening session.<sup>1</sup> It may not reflect the views of all participants and stakeholders district-wide.*

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## What is going well?

- Many teachers are **accepting, supportive, sensitive, respectful, and can be trusted with private information**
- Much of the school community is generally kind and supportive, especially in terms of supporting mental health
- Many community members are asking about and using individuals' self-identified pronouns, genders, and sexualities, even when these are fluid.
- Many schools have supportive Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) groups
- Students are often given a voice (as in this event)
- Gender neutral restrooms in many schools
- **Quality curriculum and instruction**
- Names can be changed in Infinite Campus
- COVID procedures are keeping the school community safe

## What needs improvement?

- Not all teachers are supportive (incl. not using self-identified pronouns or names)
- Some students are disrespectful (not respecting self-identified pronouns or names, indulging in stereotypes, using slurs, exhibiting transphobic and homophobic attitudes, incl. sometimes in class)
- There are often no specific rules or consequences when students are disrespectful or bullying LGBTQ+ students (actual or perceived)
- Many students and teachers do not have enough education about LGBTQ+ issues (incl. asking inappropriate questions)
- There is not enough LGBTQ+ representation in schools, including in the curriculum
- **Gender-neutral bathroom issues (e.g., not labeled, too few, lack of trash cans)**
- **Limited sports options for transgender/non-cisgender students**
- Not all schools have GSAs; and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) representation is often lacking in these groups
- Other issues mentioned: Some students outed without their consent; substitute teacher training;

## Advice for Dr. Marrero

- Be a role model by being respectful and adopting best practices (esp. providing, asking for, and using appropriate pronouns)
- Be open-minded
- Celebrate Pride Month
- Work to expand and improve gender-neutral bathrooms
- Work to integrate respect for LGBTQ+ history and representation into district curricula
- Believe and listen to students; continue outreach
- This is not political - know that LGBTQ+ students need these kinds of resources to stay safe and healthy
- **Continue outreach and listening to students**
- Ensure that middle schools get resources for LGBTQ+, not just high schools
- Be very careful about outing students

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

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