

Subject: Great discussions and input at Teacher Voice/Staff Town Hall

## **TEACHER VOICE**

This month's Teacher Voice meeting also served as our annual Staff Town Hall which saw teachers and classified staff as well as trustees take part in discussions surrounding the District's community engagement initiative via Thoughtexchange.

During our Thoughtexchange process, which took place online late last year, we saw 1,471 people participate including parents/guardians, staff, school admins, students, community representatives and City Wide School Council members. These participants contributed 2,602 thoughts and 57,043 stars were assigned to these thoughts, which ranked them into priorities.

Since the New Year, the District has held meetings with various stakeholders to drill down on the ideas given through the Thoughtexchange process. Our goal through this process is to develop character attributes and values, which we will strive to instill in all of our students.

At the Staff Town Hall, in table groups, participants were given some of the character attributes gathered at previous meetings and were asked to group them into themes. Some themes that arose included wellness, personal strength, resilience, optimism, growth mindset and humanism, among others.

Another exercise included looking at some of the thoughts, which were starred and made into priorities during the Thoughtexchange process. Some of these thoughts included financial literacy, mental health and wellness, career preparation, critical thinking/problem solving, resilience/perseverance/growth and life skills, among others. Participants were asked to give suggestions on how these thoughts could be implemented our schools.

In addition, attendees were asked if they thought the District's priorities (Literacy & Numeracy, Equity and Student Success & Completion) were still relevant. Feedback included Equity be taken out as a priority but kept as a foundation for all staff in the District. It was suggested wellness, including mental health be added as a priority.

## **WHAT NEXT?**

The information gathered at this town hall, as well as the others that have been held so far, will be discussed at the Board of Trustees retreat in March. The Board is hoping to generate a list of District values and strategies out of this advice.