

RESPECTING AND NURTURING EVERY STUDENT: IMPLEMENTING THE NEW EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY POLICY IN LONG BEACH

TUESDAY, MARCH 29 AND WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BROWNING HIGH SCHOOL

2180 OBISPO AVENUE

LONG BEACH, CA

MEETING AGENDA

DAY I: TUESDAY, MARCH 29

- 8:30 am **Breakfast.** Light breakfast will be available outside the multipurpose room.
- 9:00 am **Convene Meeting.** Joel Knudson will convene the meeting with opening remarks, introductions, and an overview of the agenda. Superintendent Jill Baker will welcome the group to Long Beach Unified School District. Following two long years without in-person interactions, participants will have an opportunity to reconnect with one another.

SESSION I

Exploring the Long Beach Equity Journey

The process of embedding equity into the work of Long Beach educators and in the experiences of students has been a journey of many years. Most recently, the district's process of reflection and planning, undertaken with community partners, led to the adoption of the Excellence and Equity Board Policy in December 2021. Critical to understanding this policy are not only the language of the document and the components of the initiative, but the broader context into which the policy fits and the process through which it was developed and adopted.

Session Purposes: Learn about the genesis, context, and components of LBUSD's new excellence and equity policy as background to exploring key implementation considerations throughout the meeting.

- 10:00 am **Orientation to the Excellence and Equity Board Policy.** LBUSD leaders will begin by providing an overview of the district's equity journey, the parameters of the board policy, and the process through which it was created.
- 11:00 am **Break.**

11:15 am **Small Group Exploration of Key Implementation Issues.** Having examined the details of the LBUSD policy related to equity, participants will break into small groups to identify priorities and challenges that might shape the prospects for successful implementation.

12:00 pm **Lunch.**

SESSION II

Building a School and District Culture that is Student- and Equity-Centered

LBUSD's Excellence and Equity Board Policy commits to a school environment in which students are nurtured and treated with respect. To that end, youth voice is critical for elevating concerns and priorities about students' lived experiences in schools, and in crafting solutions that address these needs. Meanwhile, principals play an essential role in fostering cultures of respect for young people, shifting the hearts and minds of educators and community members, and creating an environment that promotes excellent instruction.

Session Purposes: Explore the shifts and supports needed to work with students and principals to foster equity-centered school environments.

12:45 pm **Dialogue with School-Based Student Teams.** In small groups, participants will meet with teams of students and administrators from three LBUSD high schools to learn about student priorities for their schools, ways in which students have had the opportunity to voice those priorities and influence what happens in their schools, and challenges that they continue to navigate. Full group discussion will follow.

2:00 pm **Break.**

2:15 pm **Dispositions of an Equity Leader.** The district has embraced six dispositions of an equity leader that articulate the role it expects administrators to play. These are embedded into their performance expectations, but district leaders are still working to create an environment where all principals are actualizing these dispositions. District leaders will begin with an overview of how these dispositions have grown and how they fit into today's equity work.

2:45 pm **Fishbowl Conversation Among Principals.** A selection of LBUSD principals will share their experiences and insights from their peers about how they are responding to the district's evolving vision for site leaders, including areas of excitement and growth as well as areas of resistance and challenge. After a short break, participants will break into small groups to share their reactions to the insights from principals and their ideas about how districts can best support the work of school administrators.

4:45 pm **Summary and Reflection on the Day's Discussion.**

5:00 pm **Adjourn for the Day.**

6:15 pm **Reception Followed by Dinner** at Gladstone's.

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

- 8:30 am **Breakfast.** Light breakfast will be available outside the multipurpose room.
- 8:45 am **Processing and Reflection.** We will begin the day by breaking into pairs or triads to give people an opportunity to identify some of their key takeaways from Day 1, as well as the lingering questions that they hope to explore on Day 2.

SESSION III

Pursuing Equity Through Instructional Content

One of the primary ways in which members of the LBUSD community will experience the equity policy is through classroom instruction. The district seeks to support more culturally responsive practices in part through a recently initiated equity audit. An exploration of this process will provide the foundation for discussions about how districts can best use instructional materials and professional development to support culturally responsive learning environments.

Session Purposes: Examine opportunities and challenges associated with promoting equity-centered instructional content. Identify important questions and potential strategies that emerge in pursuing equity-focused practices in other district contexts.

- 9:00 am **The LBUSD Curriculum Audit.** One pathway through which LBUSD has sought to embrace culturally responsive curriculum and pedagogy is through an equity audit of the district's instructional materials. District leaders will share background about this process, the evidence that motivated it, and the lessons that are emerging.
- 9:30 am **Exploration of the LBUSD Curriculum Review Process.** One aspect of the equity audit is a process for assessing the degree to which instructional materials achieve five pursuits of culturally and historically responsive curriculum. Participants will have an opportunity to review an artifact from the LBUSD instructional environment, followed by a discussion of opportunities and challenges associated with shifting mindsets and classroom practices.
- 10:45 am **Consultancies from a Variety of District Contexts.** We will end the morning session with several consultancies in which leaders from LBUSD and two other districts will seek feedback from the broad group of participants about pressing problems of practice related to equity.
- 12:00 pm **Lunch.**

SESSION IV

Reflecting on the Strengths and Future Directions of the Collaborative

- 12:45 pm **Consultancy.** This meeting represents the first in-person gathering of Collaborative members in more than two years. In that time, the group has welcomed multiple new members and the circumstances in which educators work have shifted dramatically in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While this convening represents a return to normalcy

in some respects, it also offers an opportunity for reflection. We will close the meeting by turning to members for their input about how the Collaborative is best positioned to contribute to system improvement in California.

Session Purpose: Draw on member insights to inform a process of strategic reflection and planning for the path ahead.

1:45 pm **Summary and Reflection on the Day's Discussion.**

2:00 pm **Adjourn Meeting.**