

2020-21 Virtual Town Hall Series

Evaluation Summary

February 2021

This presentation reviews the goals of the virtual town hall event series and progress toward meeting those goals. Evidence of goal attainment was collected from dialogue during the town halls and from participant feedback in a post-event survey. This information is used for planning for next steps and informs the program evaluation of the student voice initiative within the WCSD. For questions about this presentation, please contact Jennifer Harris, program evaluator at jharris@washoeschools.net.



Student Voice Goals & Strategies

Goal 1. Develop educator capacity to promote & utilize student voice within school improvement efforts.

Goal 2. Increase educator capacity to incorporate student voice strategies into instruction.

Goal 3. Foster student SEL competencies, which will lead students to be more engaged in school, attend school more consistently, & be better prepared to partner with adults to improve their schools.

2020-21 Strategies

1. Provide professional learning to educators on student voice foundations & student-adult partnerships for school improvement.
2. Convene 3 district-level **student-led town hall events** to elicit student viewpoints on pressing issues & to model student voice practice.



Student Voice 2020-21 Virtual Town Hall Objectives

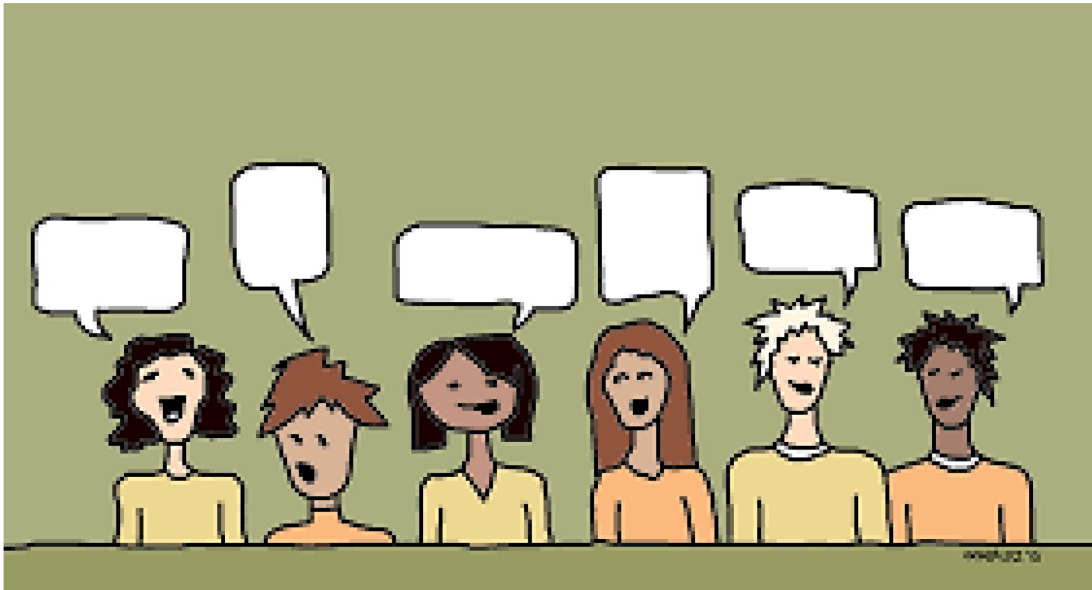
1. Provide forum for students to share insights & expand perspectives
2. Elicit student interests, concerns, & solutions to challenges
3. Cultivate critical thinking to engage in problem-solving
4. Prompt ongoing improvement efforts to address challenges
5. Raise awareness about & appreciation for student voice
 - Demonstrate value to adults
 - Generate student & adult interest
6. Create step-by-step toolkit for planning & implementing student-led discussion forums (*artifact*)



Objective 1. Forum for students to share ideas & be heard

Finding 1: Students benefit from listening to other students

- Connection to & solidarity with others: “I am not alone”
- Exposure to different viewpoints



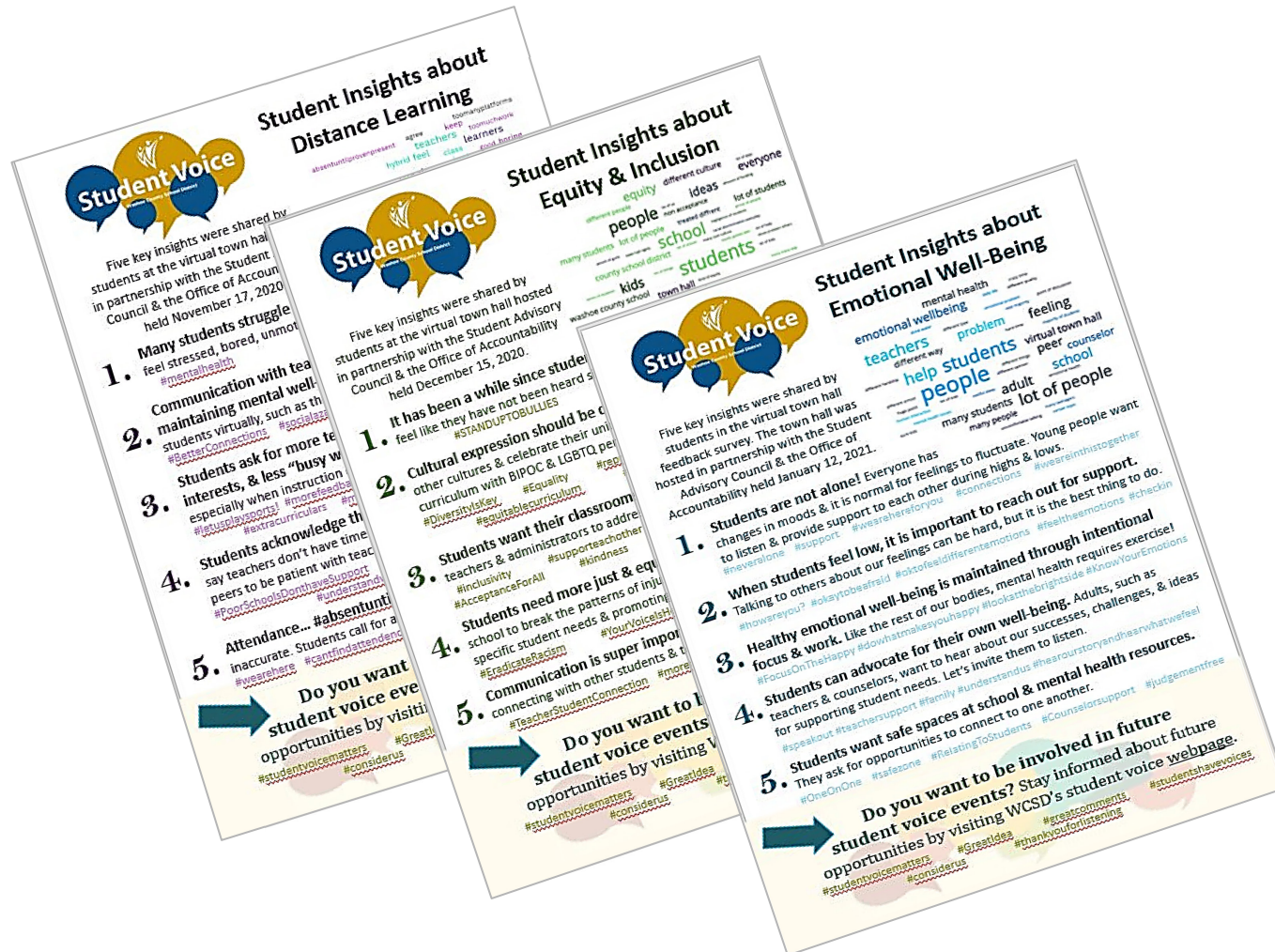
Students want:

- ✓ More opportunities to connect with each other
- ✓ Include more diverse perspectives
- ✓ Ensure all can contribute to discussions
- ✓ Higher student to adult ratio

Objective 2. Elicit student interests, concerns, & solutions

Finding 2: Students have many ideas & they appreciate the opportunity to share their insights

- ✓ Ideas collected via chat box, video recording, & survey
- ✓ 3 summary briefs posted online
- ✓ 2 letters to the Superintendent
- ✓ Presentations to various district groups



Objective 3. Cultivate student ability to develop solutions

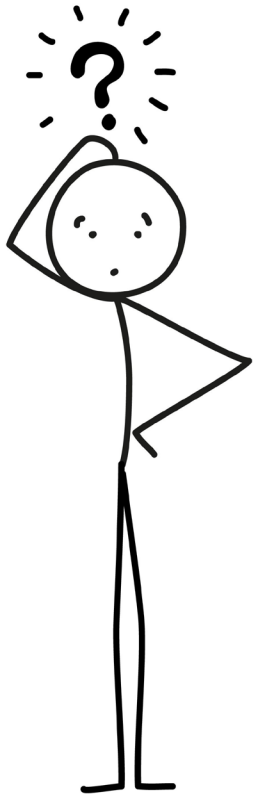
Finding 3. Discussions increased awareness & understanding of the topics, but minimally addressed solutions



- ✓ Town Hall was 1st step toward solutions
- ✓ Develop action plans to meet identified challenges
- ✓ Partnership between SAC, Blended & Distance Learning, Equity & Diversity, Counseling, & SEL Departments



Objective 4. Prompt ongoing improvement efforts



“It is good to acknowledge what was discussed, but what is the District going to do about it?”

Student participant, VTH Equity

- ✓ Multiple outlets for what was learned
- ✓ Post end of year summary on student voice webpage of what was learned, who it was shared with, & what was accomplished



Objective 5. Raise awareness of & interest in student voice



“Our WCSD students possess intelligent & insightful voices. Their diverse experiences must be explored, heard, & acted upon”

Adult participant, VTH Distance Learning

93% of students say they are “likely” or “very likely” to attend future town hall events

Strong interest in joining or learning more about the Student Advisory Committee (n = 68)



Objective 6. Create a toolkit for student-led town halls

Not Yet Created

Modifiable, step-by-step toolkit to support replication of student-led discussion forums

- Virtual, in-person, or hybrid formats
- scale-up, scale-to-school, & on-the-spot tools



- ☐ In development by Student Voice Coordinator
- ☐ Stand-alone document
- ☐ Similar format as [Student Voice Toolkit](#)
- ☐ Pilot school(s) for initial use



Recommendations for student voice forums



- 1. Revise outreach strategy** to increase participation & representation across gender, racial, ethnic, economic, interest, & academic characteristics
- 2. Modify discussion format** to ensure:
 - All students have opportunities to share their ideas
 - Specific, actionable suggestions are identified
 - Number of students exceeds the number of adults
- 3. Create a written, visible action plan** to enact changes
 - Include monitoring strategy to confirm progress

