NEWS RELEASE
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SPS Newsroom

***NOTE BELOW: CORRECTED TIMES FOR 10/26/20 AND 10/27/20 SESSIONS***

Public Input Sought for Development of New Anti-Racism Policy
Six Scheduled Meetings Available

SEATTLE – The public is invited to attend several upcoming meetings dedicated to gaining community feedback for the purpose of developing a new anti-racism policy for Seattle Public Schools.

The policy under development, Policy No. 0040 – Anti-Racism, was first considered by the Seattle School Board of Directors in November 2019 at a Board Curriculum and Instruction Committee meeting.

After moving through Executive Committee consideration, the policy has been placed on the Board’s Nov. 18, 2020 regular meeting agenda, where it will be introduced. Prior to that introduction, SPS Board President Zachary DeWolf, along with other stakeholders, is seeking input from the public.

“The development of this policy, and its ultimate adoption by the Board, is crucial to the work of transforming Seattle Public Schools into an anti-racist institution,” said President DeWolf. “We are grateful for the work and support of the Seattle Council PTSA in the development of this policy over the past few years.”

“The work behind us has been monumental and paved with the hundreds of stories we have collected from communities of color across the district,” shared Manuela Slye, President of Seattle Council PTSA, “This policy was born in community and it has been given back to community to discuss, amend, review, and make certain it reflects the true sentiment of hundreds of students and families that have shared painful stories of racism and discrimination.”
For more information about the community meetings that the public is invited to attend, please see the Seattle Council PTSA website.

All meetings held remotely over Zoom. Please email President@SCPTSA.org to obtain Zoom link for event.

Upcoming meetings regarding Policy No. 0040 (Oct./Nov. 2020)

***NOTE: CORRECTED TIMES FOR 10/26/20 AND 10/27/20 SESSIONS***

***Oct. 26, 5:30-7 p.m. – BIPOC and Anti-Racist Youth town hall: Anti-Racism work and Policy No. 0040 (previously listed at incorrect time of 6:30-8 p.m.; correct time is 5:30-7 p.m.)***

Seattle Council PTSA is committed to creating a safe space for Seattle Public School students to share their lived experiences with racism in our school system, from access to academic opportunities to micro aggressions to racist incidents in school buildings and the virtual classroom. Students will have the opportunity to discuss their ideas for change. Hosted by the NAACP Youth Coalition.

***Oct. 27, 6:30-8 p.m. – Latinx Community Conversation: Anti-Racism work and Policy No. 0040 (previously listed at incorrect time of 5-6:30 p.m.; correct time is 6:30-8 p.m.)***

A conversation with the Latinx community, with an intentional focus on providing a safe space for the immigrant community to share their perspective on what measurable actions SPS must take to ensure students are safe in buildings and virtual classrooms. Session will be led by Juan Pablo Recinos, Seattle Council PTSA Secretary.

Oct. 28, 6:30-8 p.m. – The Intersectionality of Race and Disability: A Conversation with Families of Color Receiving Special Education Services

SCPTSA officers and parents of students receiving special education. Hodan Mohammed and Manuela Slye will co-host this session. The conversation will focus on the ways this group of students are impacted by racism in our school system, and feedback for solutions. Interpretation will be provided for non-English speaking families.

Oct. 29, 6:30-8 p.m. – Asian/Pacific Islander Community Conversation: Anti-Racism Work and Policy No. 0040

Ed Lin, Seattle Council PTSA Legislative Chair, will be leading the conversation with the Asian community to discuss the work SCPTSA has done on behalf of communities of color, and gather feedback from Asian communities.

Oct. 30, 4-5 p.m. -- Convening of Community-Based Organizations Serving Communities of Color
SCPTSA officers will get a chance to touch base with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to discuss anti-racism work and how communities they serve can be empowered to participate and provide their feedback to strengthen Policy No. 0040.

**Nov. 2, 6:30-8 p.m. – Educators of Color Town Hall: Anti-Racism Work and Policy No. 0040**

Seattle Council PTSA is committed to creating a safe space for educators of color in the district to come together and share their personal and work experiences with racism in the school system, as well as ensuring teachers can support and advance anti-racist practices in SPS. Event cohosted by SCPTSA board member and SPS educator Edna Iglesias and SEA Center for Racial Equity Director Marquita Prinzing.

**Nov. 7, 9-11 a.m. – PTA Leadership Coalition Reconvening**

Leaders from more than 80 local units will reconvene and discuss the outreach and feedback received from their school communities, with an emphasis on reporting back input on anti-racism work from families of color. Event lead by Molly Mitchell and Romanita Hairston, SCPTSA Vice Presidents.

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