



PO Box 1840 • 725 Highland Road

La Center, WA 98629

Tel 360.263.2131 • Fax 360.263.1140

April 20, 2023

Subject: Letter From LaCenter Leadership in Support to Families, Staff, and Community

Dear Parents/Families, Community, and Staff,

It is our district's philosophy that providing an excellent education to our young people while simultaneously establishing a strong partnership with families is paramount to the success of our school district and our greater community. With an abundance of technology, and competing ideas and interests at our fingertips, it is an increasingly complex and challenging time to raise a child/children. La Center School District (LCSD) is committed to working hand-in-hand with families to provide collaborative support to both students and parents/guardians as they bring up their young people in an evolving world.

While it is not typically our practice to provide follow-up communications related to media coverage, ensuring that our families and our students have factual information about what *is* and *is not* happening at LCSD is an important priority requiring additional information.

Unfortunately, it appears that some individuals and recent media coverage have falsely aligned LCSD with a larger, national, political narrative associated with being unsupportive of students. This is plainly and simply not accurate. Supporting all students, in partnership with their families, is at the heart of everything we do each and every day. Engagement with families at parent-teacher conferences (with the addition of the high school this year), parent/guardian Skyward access for academic information, PTO-sponsored activities for families and students, specialized partnerships with families and students experiencing homelessness or in foster care, as well as free and reduced meal options for families in need are a few of the many ways we work collaboratively with families to meet their varying needs and support all students.

Several other inaccuracies have been shared, such as an alleged "de-merit" of staff. This type of practice is not utilized in our district. The investigation by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the allegations associated with it are nothing new. OSPI is conducting a standard review of a Civil Rights Complaint filed in November of 2022, which was previously reviewed and dismissed by our board of directors in January of 2023. Following the board's dismissal, the complaint was re-submitted at the state level and it is currently working its way through the complaint reporting and investigation process.

Please take a moment to read through the newly adopted LCSD policies that aim to collaborate with families on matters pertaining to their children so that *together* we can navigate new landscapes.

- [Policy 3211](#)
- [Procedure 3211P](#)

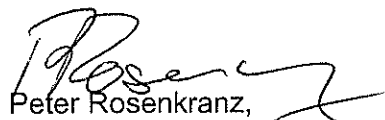
**LCSD students are not prohibited from changing and using pronouns. The procedure simply states that LCSD will not proactively canvas or ask students what pronouns they utilize.** There has been some confusion and concern expressed by families regarding whether or not students were *required* to provide pronouns and at what age it is appropriate to ask. LCSD opted for the middle of the road related to this issue and proactively asks students to provide their names. If they want a different name or pronoun, they can provide that and we will use it in accordance with the law.

The state law which requires the above [Procedure 3211P](#) is [RCW 28A.642.080](#). It states in the first line that, "...each school district must adopt or **amend** if necessary policies and procedures that, at a minimum, incorporate all the elements of the model transgender student policy and procedure described in subsection (3) of this section." The district has maintained the model elements of the policy, as required, and amended it to incorporate families into the conversation.

Concerns have also been raised about student safety issues related to policy amendments that incorporate families in conversations about pronouns/names, citing fears about potential parent reactions to students' name/pronoun preferences. We partner with parents on many subjects that involve critical and emotional topics. In the rare instance when, as a school, we believe a child is in harm's way, we enact established safeguards, processes, and systems at the local and state level to support students who may be harmed by their parents. If we ever believe a student is in harm's way we will not hesitate to call Child Protective Services to help both the student and their family.

LCSD will continue to maintain our focus on educational excellence in reading, writing, math, science, art, PE, social studies, and more. Please take a moment to read a book with your child or ask what they are reading and engage in those amazing learning-focused conversations.

Sincerely,



Peter Rosenkranz,  
Superintendent, La Center School District