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## Possible East-County Table for Board Engagement w/ Local Government

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Stacy Michaelson

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Hi all,

I think by now I've had at least an initial conversation with the majority of you about the possibility of creating a cross-district regional table for board members to engage with our local government partners (primarily at the city, county or Metro level). This comes out of hearing a desire for more opportunities for board members to engage and also a desire by MESD Board members to convene some of their colleagues across the region.

This would start by the MESD board inviting the other districts in East County to **identify one or two board members who are interested in attending a planning meeting**, where the interested folks could discuss preferred meeting cadence and priority topics. My current assumption is that quarterly meetings would make sense, but I want to leave space for the interested folks to add their thoughts.

In terms of focus and work, I see this as an opportunity for our board members to use their position as elected officials to raise the spectre of issues identified by district admin. With that, my plan is to offer the group a short list of potential topics vetted by you all as superintendents from which they could then choose a couple of areas to focus on for the coming year. This will help ensure that this table of board members supports your priorities rather than creating additional or alternative work.

Based on recent discussions, the current list of topics I would offer the board members are the following:

- access to safe transportation and roadways (e.g., crosswalks and sidewalks in East Portland East County)
- balancing the needs of our houseless community members with students' access to safe routes to schools and how to communicate with parents/families about these issues
- how board members can help share information about relevant local government happenings with families/the school community (e.g., if there is an expansion in local parks services, what role can school board members play in making sure families know about/have access to those expansions?)
- exploring opportunities for students to engage with/learn about local government

**If you have any concerns/questions about those proposed topics, or have additional topics you would like to put forward, please let me know.**

**Based on my conversations with MESD Board members, I would anticipate that invitation to other boards going out in the next week or two and aiming to have at least an initial planning meeting by the end of December.**

Again, I welcome any input or feedback.

Thanks all,  
Stacy

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