

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

Mere words cannot express our appreciation to all the volunteers and speakers that made this *One District/Many Voices: An Evening of Storytelling* event possible. Thank you for your support, assistance, commitment, patience, flexibility, and gracious donation of your time and talents. When anyone questions the importance of volunteering, please help them remember: Professionals built the Titanic, but it was volunteers who built the Ark. Thank you!!

Allison Jack

Amy Balu

Anne Hufnus

Annie Wallis

Blaire Goldstein

D90 Board of Education's Equity Committee

District 90 Board of Education

District 90 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team

District 90 Collaboration Committee

District 90 PTOs

Dr. Ed Condon, Superintendent

Elizabeth Saunders

Gwynne Birkel

Emily Brown

Inclusiveness Advisory Board

Ingrid Payne

Jillayne Benjamin

JR Welshons

Kristin Sneeringer

Lincoln PTO Belongingness and Inclusivity Committee

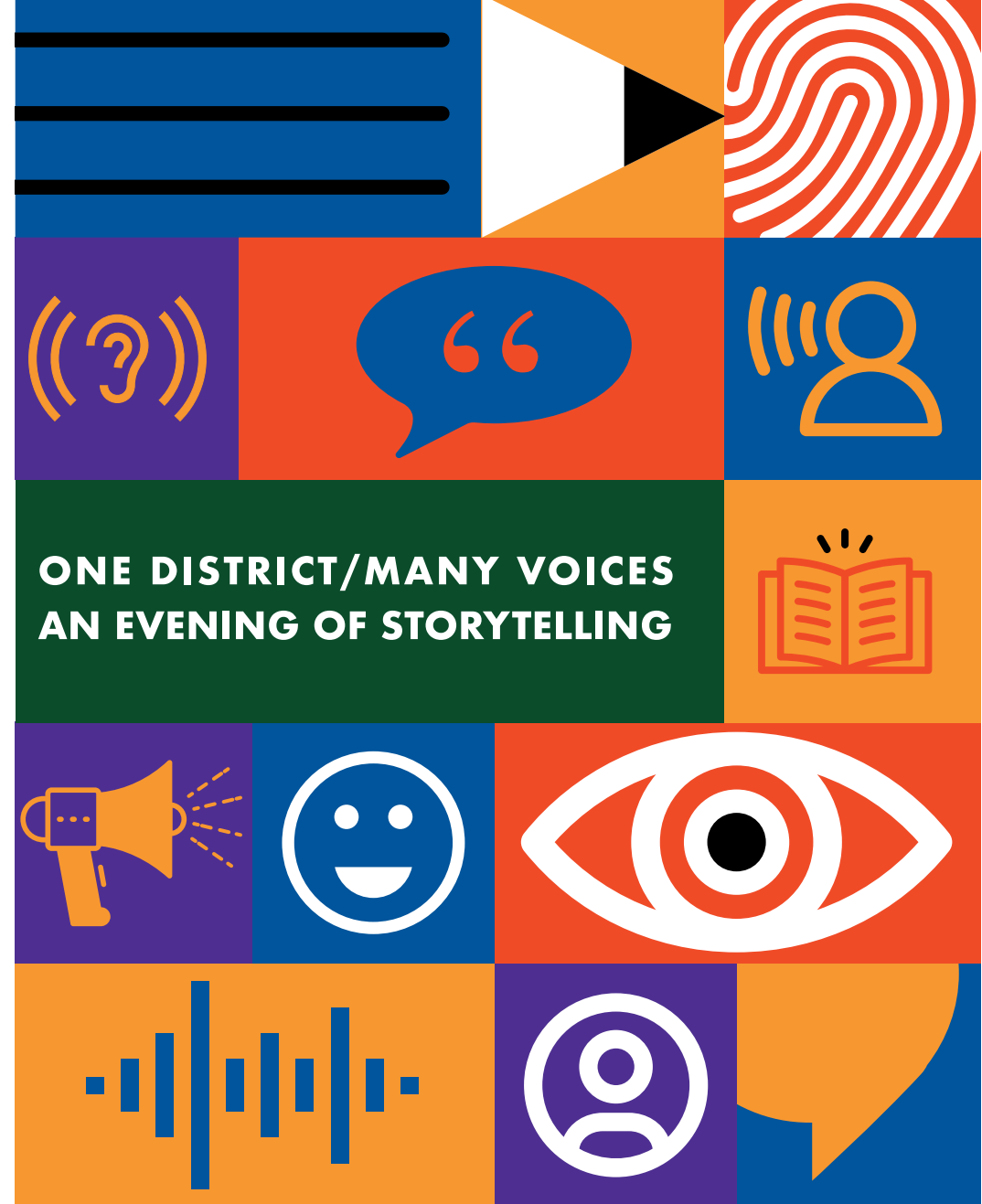
Melissa Merrick

Juan Alegria, National Equity Project

Roosevelt PTO Committee for Inclusion and Belonging

Victoria Freund

Willard PTO Belongingness Committee



**River Forest**  
Public Schools

**JANUARY 25, 2023**  
7:00 PM – 8 PM  
ROOSEVELT AUDITORIUM



## ONE DISTRICT/MANY VOICES: AN EVENING OF STORYTELLING

*One District/Many Voices: An Evening of Storytelling* is part of District 90's efforts to foster feelings of belonging for all individuals and groups in our midst. The feelings of belonging represent a basic human need and are necessary for nurturing a school community that values inclusiveness and strong relationships. The theme of the evening is "Belonging ... Or Not."

Tonight, our speakers will share their experiences with this topic with the intention that amplifying the varied experiences in our school community will help to build a greater understanding of our own and others' experiences.

### PROGRAM

Open and Welcome

**Brett Lutz, MC**

Greetings from the Board of Education  
and Inclusiveness Advisory Board

**Katie Avalos**

*Accepted And on The Path To Inclusion*

**Maxwell Starks and  
Megan Seliga**

Maxwell joined District 90 as a kindergartner at Willard Elementary and he is now in third grade. Megan is mother to both Maxwell and Jack, who attends the Inclusion Preschool at Willard.

*You Get Back What You Put In*

**Melissa Lutz**

Melissa grew up in Texas. She has been married to Brett for 21 years and has two children—Finn, 15, and Matilda, 12—and two French bulldogs. Melissa currently serves as the PTO co-president at Roosevelt Middle School and works at the Careful Peach Boutique.

*Pandemic*

**Audrey Yin**

Audrey started in District 90 in fourth grade and is currently a 6th-grade student at Roosevelt Middle School. Audrey loves to read, play piano, figure skate, and play violin. She has a younger brother who attends Willard Elementary School.

*Third Culture Children: The Military Child*

**Katie Iammartino**

*A lifestyle of constantly trying to figure out if and how you belong*

Katie lived a transient childhood lifestyle due to the many moves required as the daughter of a US Navy Officer. By the time she graduated from high school, she had attended seven different K-12 schools, each in their own unique and distinct location: Pacific Beach, CA; Subic Bay, Philippines; Newport, RI; Mililani, HI; Honolulu, HI; McLean, VA; and Champaign, IL. As she aged, each departure became more emotional and difficult, which she views as a testimony to how she was able to find a sense of belonging in each place at a particular moment in time.

*My Story of Belonging*

**JR Welshons**

JR is an 8th grader at Roosevelt Middle School. He came to District 90 and Roosevelt in fifth grade. Prior to Roosevelt, JR attended Saint Vincent Ferrer from preschool through fourth grade. JR is the student member of the Board of Education's Communications Committee and serves as a member of the Planning Committee for the One District/Many Voices event.

*Multicultural People and Our Identity*

**Tatyana Sergeyeva**

Tatyana's unique career portfolio spans across a number of industries: from international consulting and financial services to e-learning, international publishing, and academia. She has lived in five countries and speaks five languages. A firm believer in global exchanges, she proudly serves on the Board of Directors of WorldChicago, a nonprofit that helps connect youth and professionals around the world through cultural and business exchanges. Tatyana lives in River Forest with her husband and son.

Closing Remarks

**Ed Condon,  
Superintendent**

