



# ***One Community Dialogues*** **Latinx Community & Education:** **Agenda & Meeting Notes**

January 25, 2022 - 10am - Zoom

<https://uncw.zoom.us/j/83066743374?pwd=eTkzVTZpekZjMXo5S09aODF1N0wvUT09>

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## **Who is here?**

Please indicate your participation in this meeting by adding your name, organization & contact info in the Zoom chat.

- Amanda Boomershine, UNCW Dept of World Languages and Cultures, [boomershinea@uncw.edu](mailto:boomershinea@uncw.edu)
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- Alejandra Sotelo, Deputy Chief Wilmington Police Department, [alex.sotelo@wilmingtonnc.gov](mailto:alex.sotelo@wilmingtonnc.gov)
- Elizabeth Cooper, Director of El Cuerpo @ Christ Community Church, [elizabeth@cccwnc.com](mailto:elizabeth@cccwnc.com)
- Julie Varnam, NHCS Asst Superintendent for Student Support [Julie.varnam@nhcs.net](mailto:Julie.varnam@nhcs.net)
- Rachel Bodkin-Fox, Project Manager, Our Future Cape Fear, [ourfuturecapefear@gmail.com](mailto:ourfuturecapefear@gmail.com)
- Karina Runyan, MSMC B.S. Social COMM, Community Engagement Partner, Novant Health Community Wellness, 704-384-4192, [kprunyan@novanthealth.org](mailto:kprunyan@novanthealth.org)
- Josh Smith, NHCS Chief Communications Officer
- Sandra Sarmiento, NHCS Community Engagement Specialist
- Christopher Barnes, NHCS Asst Superintendent HR
- Dawn Brinson, NHCS Asst Superintendent Technology
- Russell Clark, NHCS Media Relations Manager
- If you attended but did not sign in - email us at [boomershinea@uncw.edu](mailto:boomershinea@uncw.edu)

## Welcome

- Dr. Edelmira Segovia, Director of UNCW Centro Hispano & Latino Alliance
  - Latino Alliance mission
  - Purpose of One Community Dialogues
  - Terminology

## Introduction of NHCS Guests

- Josh Smith, Chief Communications Officer
- Chris Barnes, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
- Julie Varnam, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services
- Sandra Sarmiento, Community Engagement Specialist
- Dawn Brinson, Assistant Superintendent, Technology and Digital Learning
- Russell Clark, Media Relations Manager

## Discussion with NHCS Staff

- Updates
  - All emergency info now goes out in Spanish
  - School Messenger and PowerSchool are now also in the language the family prefers
  - School newsletters are now also available in Spanish or via translation in Smore (newsletter program)
  - Families can opt-in for School Messenger texting [please share this info with your networks - [English](#)] & [Spanish](#)]
  - Dr LaChawn Smith is now Chief Equity Officer for district
    - Working on budget now, working to support that office
  - District is hiring a Chief Academic Officer
- Update on process to opt-in for Spanish communication from schools / district
  - How do families opt-in for their preferred language?
    - When families enroll via scribbles it asks what is the preferred language for communication; they are able to update that information by logging into their scribbles account at any time.
      - Power school pulls directly from scribbles and School Messenger (our automated messaging system) pulls directly from Powerschool
      - If they are not receiving messages in their preferred language they can call the school and speak with the data manager. If they are Spanish Speaking and need assistance with this process they can reach out to a [Bilingual Parent Liaison](#).
- Update on Spanish classes for bilingual speakers (MS / HS levels)
  - Enrollments for Semester 1 and Semester 2?
    - New Hanover - 31 (fall) / 21 (spring)
    - Hoggard - No course fall semester / 25 spring

- Laney - 27 fall semester / canceled class spring semester due to lack of Spanish teachers
    - Ashley - 13 fall semester (they had more to start the year - some must-have dropped/canceled class spring semester due to lack of Spanish teachers)
    - It was asked why Laney and Ashley heritage speakers classes were canceled due to staffing shortages and not L2 classes (Spanish 1, 2, etc).
    - Dr Barnes is checking on staffing for heritage classes at Laney and Ashley for Spring 2022
- Bilingual job openings update
  - Are there any bilingual openings currently?
    - [FAMILY LIAISON-TITLE 1 @ Williston Middle School](#)
    - [TEACHER-SPANISH- Laney](#)
    - [TEACHER-SPANISH- Williston](#)
    - [Community Engagement Specialist](#)
- HR updates
  - Discussion on need for custodians, cafeteria staff, etc needing a CV in order to apply currently - this will change in the coming months as NHCS is transitioning to a new hiring platform that will differentiate between classified and certified hiring credentials
- Is there a Spanish-language text system available for families to communicate directly in Spanish (two-way messaging)?
  - Please clarify which bilingual communication tools are being used by the district and schools and if any are two-way.
    - School Messenger is the district-wide tool for communication. Emails, phone calls, text messages are sent in Spanish through School Messenger. It does allow for two-way communication when staff and parents download the [School Messenger app](#).
    - Staff are still being trained on all of the capabilities of School Messenger so not everyone is using app right now.
  - Is Talking Points approved? If so, can you notify all principals and administrators of this?
    - Talking Points is approved for use on a school-to-school basis with principals having to approve and purchase this program
    - Communication can only be between staff and parent, not students
- Update on NHCS EDI Committee, new Chief of DEI, Equity Plan
  - Dr. Lachawn Smith has been selected to serve as the Districts Chief Equity Officer
    - She is currently meeting with members with Equity Workgroup members and EDI committee members on small goals to accompany the five larger goals the district has surrounding Equity
    - During the budget season, she will be submitting her proposal for additional human, supply, and training resources to move forward

- Does NHCS provide in-state tuition assistance for employees who have DACA through sponsorships for community college?
  - This is the employee sponsorship form for CFCC  
<https://cfcc.edu/admissions/wp-content/uploads/sites/46/2019/08/COMPANY-SPONSOR.pdf>
  - Not currently, but will look into it, important to notify hiring supervisors of DACA
  
- COVID-related questions
  - How are absences being coded in the district so that eligible families receive p-ebt benefits while their kids are out of school due to quarantine or isolation?
    - Schools are coding for this for quarantine and isolation directly into PowerSchool
    - Amy Stanley is the new Child Nutrition Manager
  - If a child returns to school after being sick but does not specify they had COVID and did not take a COVID test, does the school send them home for testing? Do they code them for p-ebt eligibility?
    - No requirement for testing to return to school
    - There is a test-to-stay option for those who had symptoms but not positive for COVID
    - Health Dept staff at schools are in communication on this
  - Which COVID safety measures are required vs recommended?
    - CDC order stating that masks required on public transportation
    - NHCS school board requires masks except active athletics
    - Follows as much of Strong Schools Toolkit measures as possible to maintain full in-person capacity
  - How is the school communicating new quarantine/isolation guidelines with families?
    - pages 15 - 17 of the Strong Schools Toolkit have a chart for determining isolation & quarantine
    - School nurse will give specific timeline for each child
    - All school nurses are NHC Health Dept employees, so all info has been approved by health department leadership
  - If a student misses multiple days of school, is the school social worker or other staff checking in on them?
    - School social workers are following up on patterns of absences
  - Are schools aware that NourishNC is providing students with meals while they are out of school due to quarantine / isolation if the school social worker refers them?
    - Yes, social workers are aware, shared with Tanya Jordan (Supervisor of School Counseling & Social Work) who shared it with the school social workers.
  - Do you have an estimate of how many Latinx NHCS students have lost a parent due to COVID? What supports does the district provide in these cases?
    - No data collected on these types of cases but school district is in touch with county health officials

- Behavioral Leadership Foundations Professional Learning Community
  - How is this going? Which schools are participating and how can Latinx families learn more?
    - Elementary schools with highest number of out-of-school suspensions were identified
    - Exemplary schools: 2 were selected as models
    - 5 months, 6 trainings completed in January 2022
    - All parents are included, everyone has a role in the process
    - Will be using outcomes data to measure effectiveness of the program

#### **Not addressed in this meeting**

- Is the district considering a Newcomer School / Academy?
  - This could serve students new to the US with limited English and would also address the needs of SIFE students