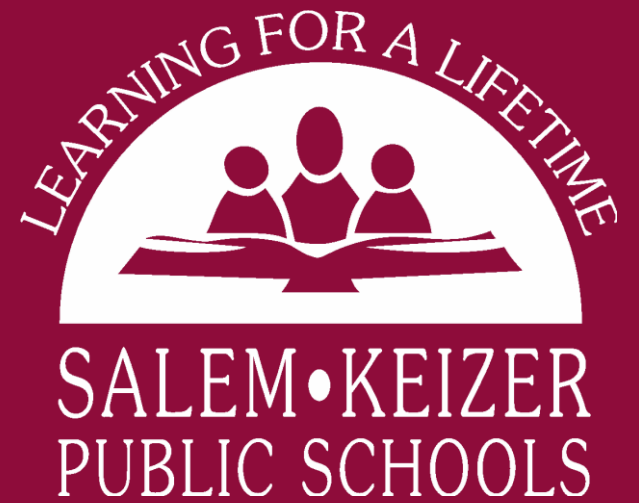


Engage, Listen & Act

Reaching Common Ground
through
Student Voice,
Community Learning and
Intentional Listening

September 21-22, 2023



Engage, Listen and Act

Student Investment Act (SIA)

Where we started pre-pandemic:

Student Investment Act (SIA)

- Hosted community listening sessions that helped create strategies to serve underserved and underrepresented youth
- Created an SIA committee comprised of staff and community
- Created a stakeholder community engagement position to continue to engage community, particularly hard-to-reach communities
- Emphasized diversity, equity and inclusion of students of color and LGBTQ+

Engage, Listen and Act

Pandemic Challenges and Solutions

Challenges we experienced:

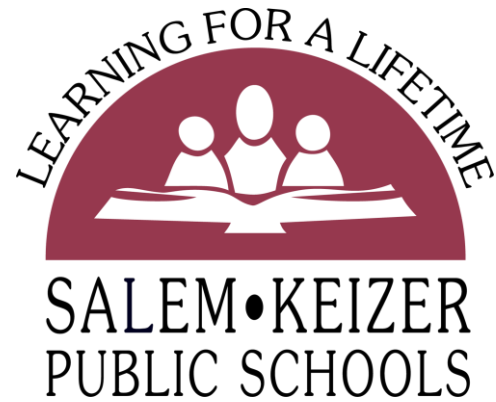
- Continuing division in communities that began in 2016
- Targeting of equity and inclusion programs and culturally relevant curriculum
- Diverging interests and differing opinions furthered division
- Bringing all voices to the table to reach a shared understanding

Engage, Listen and Act

Pandemic Challenges and Solutions

Solutions we focused on:

- Called for finding creative ways to engage community and student voice
- Emphasized diversity, equity and inclusion of students of color and LGBTQ+
- Identified ways to create a sense of belonging in schools
- Continued to implement strategies around SIA
- Understanding the process for common ground and shared understanding takes time and patience.



Strategies

Learning happens when everyone is invited to the table and agrees to let go of the need to be right.

Community Listening and Learning

Black Pioneers, Pacific Islander and Asian American, Native American

Offers opportunities for to learn about equity from those with shared experiences.



LEARNING FOR A LIFETIME
SALEM•KEIZER
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**COMMUNITY
LEARNING SESSION:**

**Celebrating Black History -
Stories from Oregon**

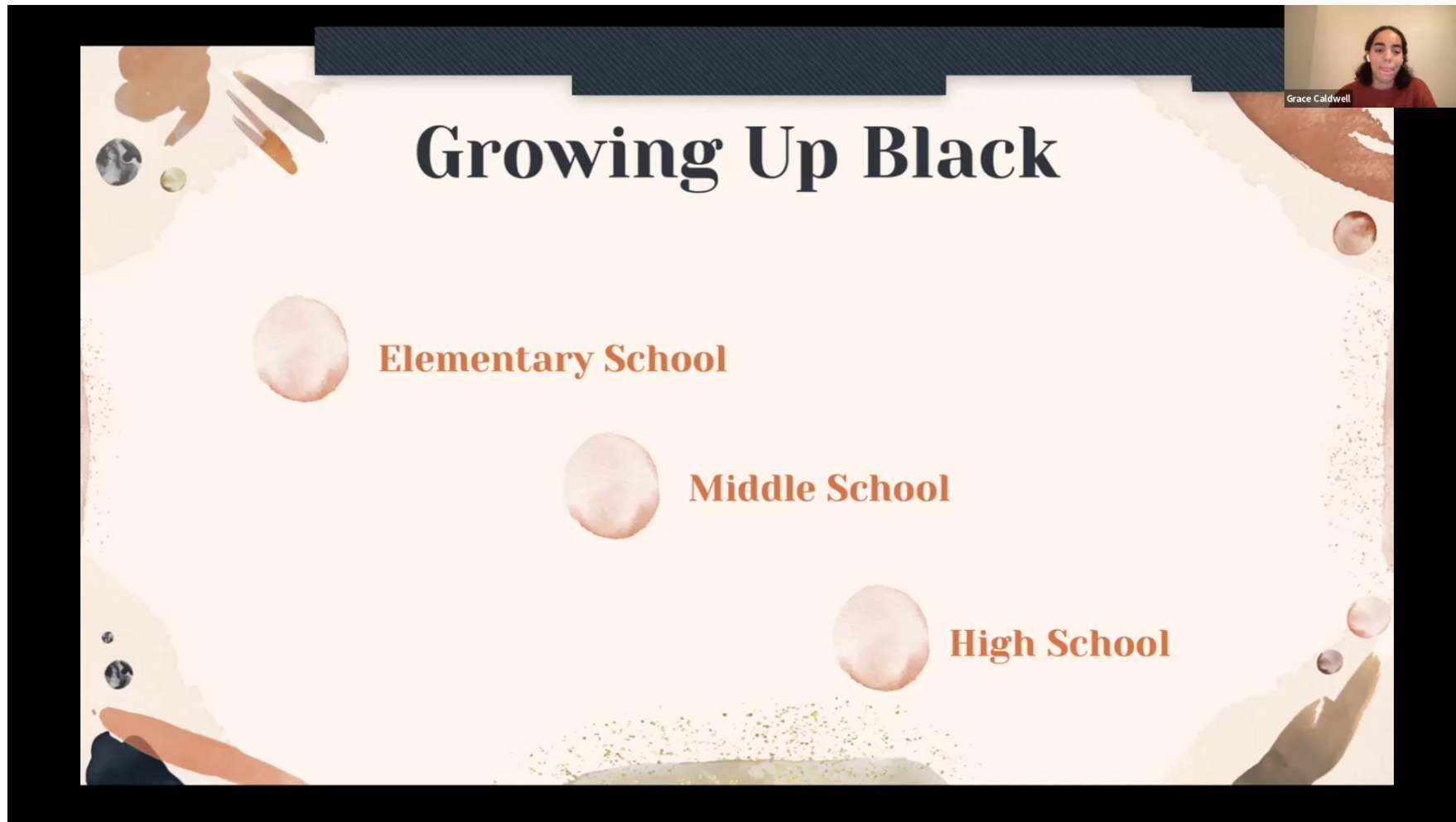
January 31, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Virtual via Zoom
More details at www.salemkeizer.org

PANELISTS

 LEW FREDERICK Oregon State Senator	 GRACE CALDWELL School Board Student Advisor
 GWEN CARR Oregon Black Pioneers Emeritus Board Member	 WILLIE RICHARDSON Oregon Black Pioneers President

Community Listening and Learning

Celebrating Black History Stories from Oregon



School Safety Series

Opportunity for Parents to Understand Our Systems

School Safety became the divisive topic.

What we did:

- Decided our families need to understand our safety systems
- Modeled partnership and collaboration
- Put our partners at the table with us: law enforcement, Liberty House, Safe Oregon, threat assessment system, etc.
- Transparently shared our systems
- Allowed for Q&A
- **Hosted a three-part series:**
 1. Safety Systems in SKPS
 2. Internet and online safety and concerns and what parents can do
 3. Student Voices – What makes schools safe and inclusive?

Student Voice on Safety in Schools

All Students Belong



Student Engagement Cafés

Opportunity for Peer-to-Peer Discussion and Listening

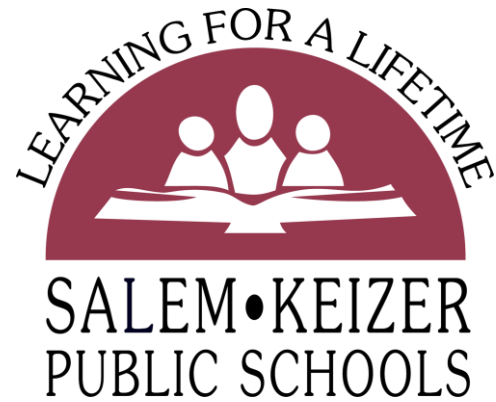
Student Engagement Cafés on absenteeism and mental health as part of the SIA community engagement strategy.

- Identified issue and target audience: Senior student absenteeism and engagement
- Created café format and process that included identifying Zoom as platform for sessions, which included breakout rooms
- Worked with train-the-trainer partner
- Identified students to participate in breakout rooms
- Facilitated three trainings for student facilitators
- Worked with students and counselors to identify questions
- Launched first café in 2021. Elementary café on anti-bullying scheduled for October

Student Engagement Cafés

Student Voice at Salem-Keizer





Common Ground

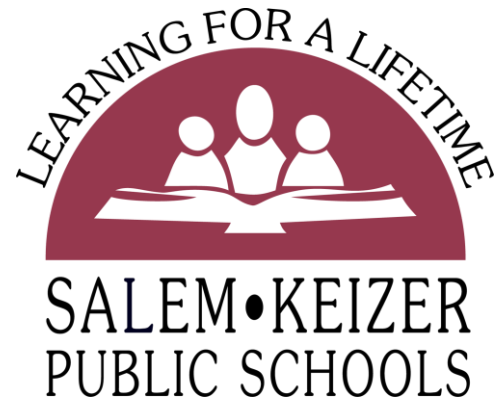
A Look Inside Your School, Your District

Engage, Listen, Act

Journey to Common Ground

Reaching common ground in your district or school?

- What divisive issue in your school or district could benefit from common groundwork?
- Is there a strategy we used that could help you navigate a discussion in your school, district or community?
- Where would you start and who would you bring to the table?



Student Voice

When we need to truth tellers, use student voice.

Engage, Listen and Act

Intentionally listening to students is our mission

Isaac McDonald - Student Advisor to the School Board:

I would love to see more focus on how we can empower students in many different ways. As a community I think we need to focus more on the positive experiences at schools and uplifting the people and systems that make those positive experiences happen. Also, the mental well-being of our students.

Engage, Listen and Act

Intentionally listening to students is our mission

Raylin Brennan - Student Advisor to the School Board:

I know a problem for a lot of students is our food situation. It's not very accommodating to students with dietary restrictions, nor is it good or appetizing to students. Another problem is the amount of harassment going on in schools. Students have been speaking up and saying something and it's important to listen to what they are saying. It's also important that parents connect with their children and communicate their concerns about the school system. As well as to keep in mind that their concerns are not going to be the same as others. We are here for our students, and we are all trying to make school the best it can be for all students.

Engage, Listen and Act

Student Voices at the Core of Decisions



Isaac McDonald and Raylin Brennan, Student Advisors to the Salem-Keizer School Board, speak to **KGW News** about their hope for common ground between differing opinions.