

Friday Memo to the Board

Superintendent

Essential Information for the week of January 21-25, 2019

Directors,

Eden Mack and I attended the FEPP Levy Oversight Committee (LOC) yesterday. Eden was in the PreK break out group and I was in the K12 group. Both of us expressed the need for a stronger, more collaborative implementation plan. Eden expressed the need for not imposing tuition on SPS pre-K students, particularly students with disabilities, and we will continue to have conversations about our current capacity needs and balancing it with pre-K programs. I told the group we need to have the same indirect rate as the City, 17%. We also need to have a say in how the partnerships with our schools look and act. Basically, we want to be at the table on all things that touch our schools.

Way more conversation to go, in a very short amount of time. They plan to submit the plan to City Council on February 12.

Next LOC meeting is sometime the week of Feb 4.

Our SPS team will continue meeting with DEEL to work out our differences.

Your work session is next Tuesday with DEEL. Please look over the documents I sent earlier, and the slide deck attached to the work session agenda as preparation for that work session.

If you have questions, please let me know.

Superintendent's Happenings

- School Visits: Wing Luke Elementary, Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary, South Lake High School
- Attend Levies 2019 Community Meeting
- Introductory Meeting with new Group Health Foundation CEO
- Attend Levy Press Conference at Northgate Elementary
- Participate in the Families, Education, Preschool and Promise (FEPP) Levy Oversight Committee
- John Stanford Center Staff Meeting
- Attend Strategic Plan Community Engagement Meetings
- Meet with new Executive Director of City Year
- Attend Mayor's Signing of Resolution in Support of Seattle Public School Levies

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Office of Public Affairs

Essential Information for the week of 1/21/19 – 1/25/19

Goal 1: Media Relations

- School bus performance during viadom – Seattle Times 1/19/19
<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/education/im-just-gonna-presume-its-late-forever-seattle-school-bus-delays-consistent-during-first-week-of-viadom/>
- Missing gaps in state funding – Op-ed - Seattle Times 1/21/19
<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/the-missing-gaps-in-state-school-funding/>
- SPS plans budget cuts – KNKX 1/22/19 <https://www.knkx.org/post/seattle-school-district-plans-budget-cuts-including-reducing-some-librarians-part-time>
- Press conference for levies at Northgate Elementary on 1/24. Media in attendance: KIRO TV, KCPQ, Seattle Times, Seattle Weekly, Crosscut, Melissa Westbrook.

Goal 2: District Messaging – Newsletter and Levies

- Levies communications for the week: Rainier Beach video <https://youtu.be/iUnrlS5sWYI> and Viewlands video <https://youtu.be/w9Rcon-rzg> promoted.
- Last levies meeting held on 1/24 at Rainier Beach High School. Strong turnout and support.
- Upcoming next week: John Rogers & West Seattle Elementary video promotion; levies presentation at Horizon House/League of Women Voters, and Vulcan. Ongoing PTA presentations; ongoing social media campaign; paid online ads (i.e. Stranger, Crosscut).

Goal 3: General Communications – engagement and services

- District wide messages were sent out in English and home language to inform and invite families to the upcoming strategic plan meetings and provide open enrollment information.

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Teaching and Learning - Academics

Essential Information for the week of January 22-25, 2019

Curriculum and Instruction

Science News

Seattle Public Schools was represented at the conference of [The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine](#) in Washington D.C. on January 9. In attendance were the Academies, major science organizations and several select districts across the United States. MaryMargaret Welch, Seattle Public Schools' Science Program Manager, presented to the group the district's major goals for science improvement, strategies used to reach the goals, and challenges in accomplishing goals. As well, participants were asked to make suggestions about what the science education field needs.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) was asked by the Academies to nominate a Washington State school district who has done long-term work in science. Seattle Public Schools was invited by the Academies to present at the conference at the recommendation of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. OSPI paid for all expenses. The presentation slides are available from [MaryMargaret Welch](#).

Early Learning

Seattle Public Schools' Early Learning Department hosted a site visit and presentation with Portland Public Schools on Wednesday, January 23 at Olympic Hills Elementary and Thornton Creek Elementary. The Portland School District is currently in the process of creating a new vision for the future of education and their students. Part of this process is going on "Learning Journeys" which are curated expeditions to see and experience leading edge ideas in action, both within and outside of education.

Leadership from Portland Public Schools are looking to Seattle Public Schools as a recognized leader on innovative Early Learning efforts in the region. The Portland group was comprised of school board members, district leadership, principals, educators, parents, community and business leaders. They learned from Seattle's Early Learning efforts and successes in planning and implementing P-3 Systems.

For more information on the Seattle Public Schools Early Learning Department, please visit their website at www.seattleschools.org/earlylearn.