

Seattle Public Schools Board of Directors

Board of Directors Performance Report

Introduction.

The Board of Directors of Seattle Public Schools is committed to providing an excellent education to all of our students. We adopted a five year plan called *Excellence For All* to raise the academic achievement of our students and operate our school system more efficiently and effectively. The Board of Directors makes policy and is accountable for the use of the resources of Seattle Public Schools to implement *Excellence For All*. The Board has evaluated its performance for the year and makes this report to the public.

Board of Directors Performance: 2008-09

The Board oversaw the implementation of *Excellence For All* and received and discussed quarterly reports from the Superintendent on the accomplishment of this year's goals and milestones. The Board oversaw the building construction and maintenance program, and the capital budget. The Board willingly addressed controversial issues. The Board made many difficult decisions including closing schools, revising the student assignment plan, adopting high school math textbooks and balancing the budget.

The Board of Directors worked as a team with the election of four new Directors. The different perspectives and experiences of the Directors enriched discussions and informed our decision making. The Board has a strong working relationship with Superintendent Goodloe-Johnson. The Directors work well together and respect each other. They engage in constructive and respectful dialogue among themselves and with the Superintendent. They are also willing to work on improving these relationships.

The Board of Directors' working relationship with the Superintendent is strong and can be made stronger. We should take the opportunity to further clarify our mutual expectations and roles as to governance, management and related communication. The Board should facilitate the success of the school district and make decisions at the policy level. The Board should not resort to micro-managing. The Directors should refer complaints and concerns to the Superintendent and her management team for response. The Directors must engage our communities and be transparent in our actions. School closure was an example when our community was informed of a major issue facing the school district and was provided the opportunity to provide input.

Dr. Tom Payzant was asked to conduct the facilitated evaluation of both the Superintendent and the Board of Directors. Dr. Payzant interviewed each Director, Dr. Goodloe-Johnson and three members of her Executive Leadership Team. Dr. Payzant presented his evaluation reports to the Board of Directors and Dr. Goodloe-Johnson.

The Executive Committee prepared this report for the Board of Directors and it is being presented in open session of the Board on June 17, 2009. The members of the Executive Committee are Michael DeBell, President, Steve Sundquist, Vice President and Sherry Carr, Member at Large.