

## Superintendent's Community Advisory Committee on Investing in Educational Excellence

### **Meeting #4**

September 8, 2005, 7:30-9:30 a.m.  
John Stanford Center Auditorium

#### **Best Practices**

Monte Bridges, co-chair, introduced Deborah Gonzales who talked about what makes a healthy district. Washington large urban schools districts were studied to see what characteristics were similar in districts that are improving. Three main characteristics were identified: 1) Ongoing data analysis, 2) enlisting outside groups, and 3) improving life opportunities (bigger than the test score). Tacoma, Federal Way, and Highline were districts that stood out in these characteristics and the ensuing positive outcomes. These are districts that are closing the achievement gap between students of color and white students.

There was discussion about being clear when comparing district data in Washington because districts do not all report the same information in similar categories. Therefore, sometimes making specific comparisons is not accurate.

#### **Community Engagement**

September 13 is scheduled as the first community meeting. There will be a brief introduction about the work that is being done and then the majority of the time will be spent eliciting responses from participants. The intent is to ask open-ended questions to get unbiased feedback. Each committee member will serve as a facilitator and each was asked to recommend others potential facilitators.

#### **Academic Planning Subcommittee**

The committee has sought to postpone the District's work on the academic plan with the intent of obtaining a more comprehensive plan about what we are funding. There are four main action items:

- 1) Secure outside and internal resources to work solely on new academic plan.
- 2) Have the committee make recommendations on external people.
- 3) Be involved in what's going to be covered in the plan and the approach taken.
- 4) Have a representative sitting in on meetings.

#### **Finance Subcommittee**

The subcommittee heard reports on special education spending and a transportation report. At this afternoon's meeting, the subcommittee will hear additional reports on bilingual, outside contracts, and building framework.

#### **Action Items and Next Steps**

The next discussion of the committee will be how to pull all this together.