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News Release

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Seattle Public Schools Chief Operating Officer Mark Green to become Director of Business Affairs at the UW School of Medicine **Fred Stephens, Director of Facilities, named Interim COO**

Seattle Public Schools (SPS) announced today that Chief Operating Officer Mark Green has been tapped by the University of Washington's School of Medicine as their new Director of Business Affairs. Mr. Green has served SPS for nearly eleven years, first joining the district as its General Counsel in October 1996. He was promoted to Chief Operating Officer by Superintendent Raj Manhas in March 2004.

Superintendent Manhas readily credits Mr. Green for leading the remarkable turnaround in the district's financial condition. "It is not possible to overstate the difference that Mark made through his many years of dedicated service to Seattle Public Schools. His tenure as the Chief Operating Officer culminates in the district having received the highest ranking given by Standard and Poors. This would be a tremendous accomplishment for any urban school district, but given the deficit situation we were in when Mark stepped up to take on the COO role, it is nothing short of breathtaking. Mark's keen intelligence, generosity of spirit, and unfailing kindness will be sorely missed."

In addition to the "strong" rating from Standard and Poors, the district's bond rating was recently upgraded to "Aa1" by Moody's, reflecting "strong financial management." This is in sharp contrast to the significant financial challenges Mr. Green inherited four years ago. The district has since created a reserve of more than \$26 million and implemented stronger accountability systems to better manage financial resources.

As notable as the nation's leading financial institutions' rankings are, Mr. Green is widely recognized by senior leaders in the district for forging a genuine partnership between operations and academics. The dramatically improved financial state and this spirit of collaboration have allowed the district to dedicate additional fiscal resources to the classroom and increase its efforts to align the district's budget to support the academic vision.

In consultation with incoming Superintendent Dr. Maria Goodloe-Johnson, Manhas named Fred Stephens, Director of Facilities, to assume the duties of Interim Chief Operating Officer as of July 30, 2007. Mr. Stephens joined Seattle Public Schools as Director of Facilities in April 2005. As Director of Facilities, Mr. Stephens built a reputation for bringing a new level of excellence and responsiveness to the community to the district's capital projects and maintenance programs. He led the team that developed the Building Excellence III capital bond proposal, which voters overwhelmingly approved in February 2007. He established a more rigorous approach to environmental health and safety issues, placing SPS in the forefront of urban school districts. Mr. Stephens also fostered development of the district's successful Historically Underutilized Businesses Programs (HUBS) that is regarded as a regional and national model.

Mr. Stephens came to SPS from an already distinguished career in the public sector. He served for six years as Director of the Department of Licensing of the State of Washington where he led transformation of customer service standards at licensing renewal offices and implemented an agency-wide program to provide licensing services via the internet. Mr. Stephens also served for two years as Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Gary Locke. In this role, he oversaw 22 cabinet agencies, and spearheaded the Governor's regulatory reform and quality improvement initiatives.

Stephens also served as Chief Administrative Officer for King County; Assistant Secretary of the Management Services Division of the State Department of Health and Human Services; and held positions at Hewlett Packard and Xerox. He holds a BA from Wilberforce University in Ohio; an MA from Yale University; and has attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government Leadership Programs at Harvard University.

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