

## **Friday Memo to the Board**

### **Superintendent's Happenings**

### **For April 22 - 26, 2019**

Monday, 4/22, I held my monthly meeting with Seattle Council PTSA. We continued the discussion around equitable funding, with a focus on PTSA funding used to buy staff.

Tuesday, 4/23, an SPS team meet with Gates' and Seattle University to discuss growing the partnership. I look forward to building out a plan with these partners that is in alignment with our Strategic Plan. We are so fortunate to have these teams who want to support Seattle students! I also held my monthly meeting with PASS. They shared their support for the Strategic Plan and are excited to align their work behind it.

Wednesday, 4/24, I started my day with the Executive Committee then moved right into work time with the Small Cabinet. At lunch, Small Cabinet members took their administrative assistants to The Derby for lunch. We are all so thankful for their support. We couldn't do what we do without them. I met with Chief Librarian Marcellus Turner. He is excited to support the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading initiative. Last, thanks to Dr. Jones and his team for the insightful oversight work session.

Thursday, 4/25, I visited Dearborn Park International School where I heard stories from students in Mandarin and Spanish. Then I spent time with Principal Andrews and the Kings at Interagency. What an impressive group of staff and students working together! Per an invitation from Manuela Slye, I went to Denny International Middle School to visit 2 amazing science classes that use Amplify. The student discourse, writing, and engagement was a powerful lesson about the strength of great teachers. I have no doubt that Amplify instructional materials will enhance the science education happening in this district and prepare our students for STEM college and careers if that is what they wish to pursue! I stopped by Seattle Central College's gala to support our wonderful partners with Seattle Promise.

Friday, 4/26, I met with Tod Leiweke from the NHL to discuss partnership opportunities with the new NHL team. Then I attended the Project MISTER Tie-One-On luncheon. I'll say it again, we are so lucky to have so many great partners and mentors in our schools.

#### **Neighborcare Update:**

As you know there was a dental sterilization incident at the Neighborcare (NC) Dental facilities in some of our schools. A dental handpiece, is the base that you attach tools to, such as polishing cups and burs, used in dental cleaning and filling procedures were cleaned with the germicidal disinfectant, CaviCide, which kills pathogens associated with hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV, but some handpieces did not undergo the additional required autoclave/heat sterilization process, possibly exposing some patients to infectious diseases. All other instruments used during dental procedures were properly sterilized. In consulting with the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC), Neighborcare understands that no literature has ever demonstrated that infectious disease transmission has ever occurred from a dental handpiece. Public Health – Seattle & King County also believes the risk of exposure to pathogens for infectious diseases is low. On March 27 NC sent letters to any possibly affected patients. They are also following those letters with letters translated to Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese for families that indicated those language preferences. In the letter to patients, NC is offering patients get tested for hep B, hep C, and HIV at no cost to the patients through Immediate Clinic urgent care centers, which is a third party that NC Health has contracted with to provide the testing. They will follow up with all patients as needed. Moving forward, we are requesting the following:

### **General Requests from the District**

- **Public Health King County:** Hold NC accountable to consistent, culturally responsive communication and engagement plan for each site. Families need to know well in advance if students will be receiving care, have the opportunity to accept/decline services, and ask questions if needed.
- **Neighborcare:** Move from a 1-time enrollment approach, with opt-out in person option, to annual enrollment and verification that families still desire the service.
- **Public Health King County:** Include a detailed crisis communication plan as part of the contract between PHKC and provider to alleviate issues in the future. Crisis plan should include key point people/positions and scope of responsibility.
- **Seattle Public Schools:** Amend health center building lease agreements and/or the associated MOA (memorandum of agreement) to include required evidence of annual procedural audit from PHSKC

### **General crisis management recommendations for Public Health King County and City:**

- Make changes to enrollment and communication practices & procedures immediately at each school site; consider how to share changes with broader public (earned media) so the public and families know PHKC and Neighborcare took the situation seriously and are working to improve processes in response to parent feedback- PHKC will need to identify a credible spokesperson. NC needs someone to vouch for them.
- Consider how to emphasize the good aspects of NC; paid social media campaign – targeted around schools with NC health centers.
- Get NC to engage in school-based school community events - build relationships with families & manage reputation issues.
- May need to rebrand if school-based health centers stay but enrollment drops
- May need to close dental services for a period-of-time; reopen after a full audit of all practices and procedures has been done and communicated out – again if enrollment drops
- May need to open-up RFP for another dental provider if enrollment drops significantly

# Friday Memo to the Board

## Legal Department

### Response to Question from Board

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**Question 1:** Why do we, as a Public School District, rent our facilities to churches?

- The Supreme Court has ruled it is constitutional for a school district to allow religious groups to use school property for meetings during non-instructional hours if the school district's policy allows other community groups to use its facilities. The Court found that once a school district adopts a policy to allow outside groups, it creates a "limited public forum." When a limited public forum is created, we, as a government agency, may still regulate speech occurring on its property, but the restrictions on speech must be viewpoint-neutral.
- Viewpoint neutrality means we may not restrict access based on a group's point of view. In other words, an organization cannot be denied the ability to rent space pursuant to our policy because it advocates a particular opinion, no matter how deplorable or unusual.
- If we decide to prohibit religious groups from using our facilities, we would need to establish a policy that restricts all outside groups from using school facilities. A decision to restrict would cause our community to lose benefits provided by making our facilities available to outside groups.

## **Friday Memo to the Board**

### **Capital Projects**

#### **Response to Question from Board**

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##### **Question:**

- What is the usual replacement time or life cycle for synthetic turf?

The existing synthetic turf at Garfield High School athletic field was installed in 2008, placing it at the end of its useful life, and now requires replacement. The District typically replaces synthetic turf on a ten to twelve-year cycle depending on usage. Some fields are used more extensively by the District athletic programs and the Parks Department rentals and need to be replaced sooner. At Garfield, the existing synthetic turf field has performed as anticipated, but has areas where the synthetic fiber has worn to the point of where it should now be replaced.

In doing so, the District will be using a cork and sand infill mix in lieu of a crumb rubber infill. The cork and sand infill material as is the District standard. The last eight athletic fields where synthetic turf has been installed in the District have used the same infill mixture.

# Friday Memo to the Board

## Office of Public Affairs

### Essential Information for the week of 4/20/19 – 4/26/19

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#### Goal 1: Positive & Strategic Storytelling

- BEX IV Project at Bagley Elementary  
[https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what\\_s\\_new/levies\\_updates/bex\\_iv\\_project\\_at\\_bagley\\_elementary](https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/levies_updates/bex_iv_project_at_bagley_elementary)
- Lift Up Your Voices: Four Elementary Schools Participate in Choir Festival  
[https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what\\_s\\_new/schools\\_participate\\_in\\_choir\\_festival](https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/schools_participate_in_choir_festival)
- Ballard Filmmakers Shoreline Festival  
[https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what\\_s\\_new/ballard\\_filmmakers\\_shoreline\\_festival](https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/ballard_filmmakers_shoreline_festival)
- Sand Point Elementary Wins Symetra Heroes in the Classroom Award  
[https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what\\_s\\_new/sand\\_point\\_award](https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/sand_point_award)

#### Goal 1: Media Relations

- 4/23/2019, KCPQ, “Partner PE is bringing together students of all abilities.”  
<https://q13fox.com/2019/04/23/partner-physical-education-is-bringing-together-students-of-all-abilities/>
- 4/19/2019, KIRO tv, “Teacher hurt in Lake City shooting spree gets to meet Aerosmith.”  
<https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/teacher-hurt-in-lake-city-shooting-sprees-gets-to-meet-aerosmith/941671928>
- 4/19/19, KIRO tv “Nathan Hale students growing plants helping to reshape young lives.”  
<https://www.kiro7.com/video?videoid=941847377&videoVersion=1.0>
- 4/19/19, Seattle Times, “Here’s why pink liquid keeps flooding Seattle’s John Muir Elementary School.” <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/education/heres-why-pink-liquid-keeps-flooding-seattles-john-muir-elementary-school/>

#### Goal 2&3: District Messaging – Outbound Communications, Customer Service

- Culturally Centered Family Engagement Training Series posted to website:  
[https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what\\_s\\_new/community\\_engagement/culturally\\_centered\\_family\\_engagement\\_training](https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/community_engagement/culturally_centered_family_engagement_training)
- Graduation Dates and Locations posted to website:  
[https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what\\_s\\_new/graduation\\_dates\\_and\\_locations](https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/graduation_dates_and_locations)
- This May, the web services team is hosting a series of in-person workshops to support school and dept. web editors. They will be held regionally on Job Alike Wednesdays to help web editors learn practical web editing techniques and boost positive user experience and engagement on SPS websites. They are also actively engaging in a “web tips” communication campaign in Schoology, which reaches more than 640 members.
- The *Let’s Talk* Communications Tool now has 39 users in the central office who have engaged in a total of 103 “dialogues” with customers, with an overall customer satisfaction score of 9.2 (out of 10).  
Customer types: 59% Parents, 17% Employees, 17% Community Members, 9% Students. Dialogue types: 55% Questions, 31% Concerns, 8% Comments, 3% Suggestions, 3% Compliments.

# Friday Memo to the Board

## Teaching and Learning – Academics

### Essential Information for the week of April 22-26, 2019

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#### CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION

##### **PowerTeacherPro Transition**

A Grading and Gradebooks Steering Committee led by Teaching and Learning, Department of Technology (DoTS) and schools is preparing to implement new K-12 progress reporting technology. As reported in February, PowerTeacherPro is replacing a technology platform not supported next year. As well, the Elementary Progress Report (EPR) K-5 will no longer be supported by Puget Sound ESD. PowerTeacherPro will also house the EPR.

For the 2019-2020 school year, educators will see changes ranging from minor (secondary) to more substantial (elementary). Some secondary teachers may need to adjust to new restrictions to improve consistency and accessibility, and others will want access to standards-based grading within the tool. The elementary standards progress report will look similar to teachers and families. However, updated standards in most subject areas and social-emotional learning, means educator, family and community engagement around the report card is planned. Seattle Education Association is partnering in an Educator Advisory Team weighing in on engagement for a smooth adoption.

##### **School Board Policy No. 2024, Out-of-District Credits and Credit Recovery**

After feedback from Directors and families, the College and Career Readiness staff further revised both the policy and the procedure. The BAR for Policy 2024 was re-presented at the April 23 C&I Policy Committee meeting and moved forward for approval by the full Board. It will be introduced at the May 1 Board meeting. The policy was revised to better explain purpose and to outline major elements covered in corresponding procedure. In the policy, we now reference that the procedure will include an appeals process, clearly explain responsibility for costs for out-of-district and credit recovery courses and name providers for out-of-district and credit recovery courses.

We have made even more changes to the Superintendent Procedure 2024, including both the changes that we proposed to the C&I Policy Committee in December and the changes we have made since that time. The latter are italicized. Note that these changes all pertain to out-of-district credits for first time credit, rather than credit recovery. Major changes:

- Out-of-district credits will appear on high school transcripts as pass/no pass, rather than letter grades.
- Principals will determine when to approve out-of-district credits using a decision tree:
  - Students may take courses with OSPI approved online providers, public and private high school in Washington, and postsecondary institutions in Washington. *Students can appeal for permission to take courses with other providers if the course they seek is not available with an approved provider.*
  - Generally, students may take out-of-district courses when the course they need is not offered at their school or offered but it is full. *Students will be able to appeal to take out-of-district courses even if the course is available and open at their school if:*
    - *Student is in the class of 2020-2023 and has already planned a high school course of study that does not leave room for a particular course, or*
    - *Student is facing extenuating circumstances that require missing 1 or more periods of the school day throughout a marking period.*
- Middle school students will not be allowed to take out-of-district credits to add to high school transcripts.
- Students will be limited to 4 out-of-district online credits for first time credit.
- *Students can appeal to the district to take additional online credits under extenuating circumstances.*

We plan to review the changes to Superintendent Procedure 2024 after a full year of implementation and will be open to making further changes as they are warranted. Please follow this link for an extensive FAQ on the proposed changes: <https://www.seattleschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=627&pageId=75876127>.

As you may recall, the Board Office received several emails from constituents regarding proposed changes to Policy/Procedure 2024 in February, just before the BAR was going to be voted on. The College and Career Readiness team is emailing those constituents to let them know that the policy and procedure have been revised, that the revised policy and procedure are being introduced to the Board, and to share the FAQ referenced above. Note that the Board office only received emails from 4 constituents. If you received emails that did not go to the Board Office, please feel free to share the FAQ with them.