Seattle Super Readers Update: I visited Bailey Gatzert on Thursday. Principal Belle and his team set high expectations for students and are providing students the structures and supports they need to ensure that each student reaches these expectations. In multiple classrooms, students were building their academic vocabulary in science class. This work builds Super Readers’ reading comprehension.

Safe & Welcoming Environments: Principal Belle and staff are working closely with a central office team to build out their Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). They are boldly confronting their data and are committed to ensuring that each student feels safe and welcome at Bailey Gatzert. Principal Belle lives his values. He meets with a small group of boys every other week to build positive relationships with them. He and the students look forward to these meetings!

Culturally Responsive Workforce: Did you know that our school leader corps is the most diverse employee group as compared to all staff, teachers, central office managers, and teacher leaders? I would like to thank Chief Jessee, Dr. Starosky and their team for their relentless commitment to hiring a diverse workforce.

Community and Partnerships:

- Thank you, Director Geary and all the staff that attended the Black and Orange Gala to support the Alliance for Education.
- I am circling back with Central Office staff teams to talk about the strategic plan and how their work supports the plan. I met with the Equity, Partnership & Engagement, Business & Finance, Research & Evaluation, Communications & Customer Services, and the Legal Divisions this week.
- Small cabinet continued our book study about black boys and young men. My cabinet is so committed to this work. They are strong and will continue to fight for these students.
- My team and I met with SEA for our monthly meeting. I am thankful for their partnership and commitment to our strategic plan, especially their focus on students furthest from educational justice and African American boys. I also want to thank them for their courageous conversation at Exec Committee when they shared their disappointment that Policy 2190 did not get out of committee and that their members are already doing the work to provide students highly capable services to students in all classrooms.
- I met with Asian and Pacific Islander leaders and Somali moms to share our strategic plan. I am thankful to both groups for allowing me into their space and continuing to push our practices.
Friday Memo to the Board  
Equity, Partnerships & Engagement (EPE)  
Essential Information for the week of October 7-11, 2019

The Equity, Partnerships, and Engagement division has experienced a number of staff transitions but that has provided a great opportunity to bring some new, local talent into Seattle Public Schools. We would like to welcome our newest staff additions: Kirk Mead, Director of Stakeholder Engagement, and Manal Al-ansi, Director of Racial Equity Advancement.

Kirk Mead is in his third week as director. He has an extensive background in community engagement, organizational development and strategy, economic development, and local area activism. Kirk worked most recently as the Principal of Carrington Group an organizational development consultancy. He is a graduate of University of Washington.

Manal Al-ansi started with SPS on October 7. She specializes in the implementation of racial equity strategies, competence-building, policy and goal operationalization, and culture-shifting within organizations. Manal was most recently with the City of Seattle Department of Transportation leading their Race and Social Justice Initiative. She was most recently working as Special Advisor to the Mayor to support alignment of the RSJI work across city divisions. She is a graduate of University of Washington and Seattle University Law.
Friday Memo to the Board
Operations – Nutrition Services

Essential Information for the week of Oct. 7 - 11, 2019

Food supplies at Beacon Hill International Elementary

- Nutrition Services management met with kitchen staff at Beacon Hill International Elementary School to explore concerns raised by PTSA members and volunteers about food supplies.
- The kitchen manager noted that distribution issues had led to menu substitutions at the start of school but confirmed that the kitchen is well stocked and that all orders have been fulfilled during the past two weeks.
- Nutrition Services will follow up with PTSA members and volunteers to understand and address any further concerns.
Friday Memo to the Board
Capital Projects and Planning

Essential Information for the week of 10/7 - 10/11/19

Rising Star Elementary School at African American Academy Roof Replacement

- The primary focus of the exterior roof work is to address the condition of the roof all the way from the exterior surface down through to deteriorated metal decking and to provide a finished (over-structure) system which ventilates appropriately.

- Wayne’s Roofing is continuing to move forward with construction of the roof assembly system, with the current goal of having the system completed on the west side of the north wing by the end of the day, Monday, October 14, 2019.

- The interior work focuses on working from the underside to address fireproofing and insulation issues in conjunction with the roofing system.

- We are positioned to return classrooms 220, 221, 222 and 223 ahead of schedule. These classrooms have been air-quality tested and district staff have performed various other tests to verify that our mechanical, electrical, lighting, and other systems are fully functional. Furniture and equipment are being returned to these classrooms.

- Exhaust-emitting equipment utilized to stock material on the roof created an indoor air quality issue for building staff and students generating numerous occupant and parent concerns/complaints. Capital Projects and Planning staff worked with the contractor to have the suspected exhaust emitting equipment removed from the school site.
Essential Information for the week of Oct. 7-11, 2019

2019 Capacity Projects—Communication at Portables at North Beach Elementary

- A parent’s email received on Oct. 8, 2019, expressed concern about communication at the portables during a shelter-in-place.
- Four portable classrooms were added to North Beach Elementary during the summer for a total of 12 portable classrooms.
- Each classroom/ portable has a standalone Paging Notification System (separate from the managed phone system and separate from the fire alarm system) as required by Seattle Public School standards and by Seattle Fire Department inspections. Each classroom/portable receives immediate “all-call” information sent from the school site’s main office as part of the emergency notification.
- Capital Planning is checking into the concerns expressed in the parent’s email to understand what occurred and if there are additional needs as a result of placing more portables.
Essential Information for the week of October 7-11

New Race & Ethnicity codes

- Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, expanded race categories were added to CEDARS\(^1\) in alignment with the recommendations of the Race and Ethnicity Student Data Taskforce as established in SHB 1541. Districts have four years, through the 2021-22 school year, to fully implement the recommendations.
- Seattle Public Schools implemented the new Race and Ethnicity categories on the 2018-19 and 2019-20 New Student Registration in January 2019. They were implemented on the 2019-20 Data Verification Form, which was active from 9/4/19 through 9/30/19 to be filled out by parents.
- Race and ethnicity is currently required on the Online Data Verification form. A paper version of the Data Verification form can be generated by schools for parents who do not wish to identify their students’ race/ethnicity. DoTS is working with Legal and Communications to develop a process and communication that aligns with appropriate changes to the upcoming 2020-21 Online Enrollment.
- Below are the detailed guidelines on how to collect race and ethnicity information.

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\(^1\) The Comprehensive Education Data and Research System (CEDARS) is a longitudinal data warehouse of educational data, housed by OSPI. It is used for all state reporting.
Friday Memo to the Board
Office of Public Affairs

Essential Information for the week of 10/5/19 – 10/11/19

Goal 1: Media Relations

- 10/9/19 KNKX “2 SPS board directors block proposed policy change for HCC”
- 10/9/19 KUOW “Do phones belong in the classroom? SPS weighs….”
- 10/09/19 Seattle Times “A high school is a 'slave ship'? Seattle should be….”
  https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/education/a-high-school-is-a-slave-ship-seattle-should-be-expanding-its-gifted-programs-not-maligning-them/
- 10/08/19 Seattle Times “Is math racist? New course outlines prompt conversations about identity…”
- 10/08/19 King5 “Seattle Public Schools combines math with ethnic studies”
- 10/4/19 KUOW “Seattle Schools doesn't know which students are unvaccinated”
  https://www.kuow.org/stories/seattle-schools
- 10/02/19 The Seattle Medium “Former school board candidate Emija Smith speaks out….”
  https://seattlemedium.com/emijah-smith-speaks-out/

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

- Shared updated Dress Policy information on website, social, and created a video discussing the new policy.
- The communications team published an article on the announcement of the National Science Foundation Grant (partnership between the district and UW) that will support professional development for all elementary science teachers districtwide.
  https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/equitable_science_teaching_practice_s_grant