Friday Memo to the Board  
Superintendent’s Highlights  
For the week of October 14–18, 2019

3rd Grade Reading Update: I will be giving you an update on the 3rd grade reading goal as it pertains to my evaluation on Monday. Our teams in central office and in our schools are deep in the work and implementing our plans. Our community partners and families are co-creating the next steps in our work with staff and families.

Culturally Responsive Workforce: While Dr. Williams is learning from our mentors in Oakland, Dr. Scarlett facilitated a deep dive with cabinet into the next chapter of our book, “We Dare Say Love.” Staff also reviewed Dr. Yosso’s Community Cultural Wealth Model. We explored how this framework shows up in our strategic plan, how school leaders see this model play out in schools, and how it impacts our work as leaders.

Community and Partnerships:

- Multiple cabinet members and I attended the “Building a Beloved Community” in support of our partner El Centro de la Raza.
- We received a grant to be part of a Professional Learning Community to continue the great work of our Principal Pipeline Project. I want to give a huge shout out to Dr. Starosky, Dr. Codd, and their teams for leading this work.
- I attended an event as Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Aguirre guest at the “Children & Nature Collective.” I am thankful for our partnership with Seattle Parks and Recreation.
- On Thursday, many of our community partners, school leaders, and central office leaders attended a summit sponsored by the City’s Department of Education and Early Learning to continue the work on the Families Education Preschool and Promise levy.
- Staff met with some of our legislators to discuss the work for the upcoming session. Thank you Erinn Bennett and Chief Berge for leading this work.

Other Info from Board Questions:

- Some emails from GHS and RBHS might lead you to believe that most of the classes at these schools are significantly over capacity. As a reminder, the class size target is 32 for core subjects. Upon quick review, very few classes at RBHS exceed 32 students (about 5 sections). At GHS, several AP science classes and high-level math courses exceed 32 students. We did allocate staff to both schools, which may or may not be included in the schedules reviewed.
Friday Memo to the Board  
Office of Public Affairs

Essential Information for the week of 10/12/19 – 10/18/19

Goal 1: Media Relations
- 10/14/19 Education Week “Seattle Schools lead controversial push to rehumanize math“  
- 10/13/19 Seattle Times “How Seattle's Lincoln High came back to life after nearly 40 years of closure”  

Goal 2&3: District Messaging – Outbound Communications, Customer Service
- Media Operations Center filmed and produced a video for the Vegetarian Food Tasting at Greenwood Elementary for National School Lunch Week. The video was promoted on our website, social media channels, and aired on SPS TV:  
  https://youtu.be/MnPcQGULlSQ
- Promoted Filipino American History Month and Indigenous Peoples Day across our websites and across our social media channels.
- Customer Service is currently in the process of updating their FAQ page on the website – there will be an update in next week’s Friday Memo, including a link to the updated FAQ webpage.
Special Education:

The Special Education Directors and Dr. Pedroza met with the media to review the special education process, the role of effective collaboration and communication for Individual Education Plan (IEP) teams, and our goals for the department. This was an informational session for the media to understand a little bit more how special education and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) work at the school level.

Dr. Pedroza, Superintendent Juneau and Dr. Williams met with the Somali Mothers group and discussed and answered questions about special education, Black Excellence and how the district and this group can work together.

The Special Education Department Supervisors and Directors are attending the SPS professional development ‘Foundational Coursework’ sessions once per month. Additionally, the occupational and physical therapists (OT/PT) and school psychologists continue their racial equity training with the Department of Racial Equity Advancement (DREA).

Special Education directors presented to the Special Education Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) to share an overview of services the district provides for students. A link to the presentation can be here: Power Point presentation for the Special Education PTSA meeting

Special Education directors are participating in a webinar with OSPI to discuss a potential pilot in partnership with several schools to build or professional development and learning around inclusionary practices.

Advanced Learning:

The Advanced Learning (AL) team met at Decatur in two different sessions to discuss and share with them the district’s proposal.

Wyeth Jessee and Dr. Pedroza attended the Southeast Seattle Education Coalition (SESEC) meeting in southeast Seattle to also share the district’s proposal on Thursday, October 17th.

School site-based AL assessments were piloted at West Seattle Elementary, Mercer Middle School, and Olympic Hills. Plans for piloting the building level Multi-Disciplinary Selection Committee (MSC) are underway for up to 10 schools (2 from each region). This process will be facilitated by the Advanced Learning team.

Enrollment:

The Southeast boundary meeting occurred on Thursday, October 10th, each elementary and middle school principal was in attendance as were many community members. Bilingual staff were there to support translations. One more meeting is to be scheduled with Director Brandon Hersey.

Athletics:

Unified Sports of the Special Olympics kickoff event was hosted by Seattle Public Schools at Roosevelt High School on Friday, October 3. Five schools were represented at the event and thanks to Athletic Director Tara Davis for planning this wonderful event.
Friday Memo to the Board
Teaching and Learning Division

Essential Information for the week of October 14-18, 2019

CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION

Dyslexia Workgroup
The Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction department is leading a cross departmental team to identify a screener and proven, evidence-based instructional approaches to support students with dyslexia. According to RCW 28A.320.260, “Beginning in the 2021-22 school year, and as provided in this section, each school district must use multitiered systems of support to provide interventions to students in kindergarten through second grade who display indications of, or areas of weakness associated with, dyslexia.” This work is in alignment with the district's goal of providing high-quality instruction and learning experiences by addressing the needs of children identified with dyslexia.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Diane DeBacker, Chief Academic Officer at dmdebacker@seattleschools.org.