Safe & Welcoming: This week I visited Lincoln High School and Broadview Thompson K8 (BT). The mission at Lincoln is “Learn with passion. Act with courage. Improve the world.” Principal Medsker and her team spent the first weeks of school building an environment where students thrive. They use “Character Strong,” which provides students with SEL competencies and character development. Students are in multi-grade level teams and are building strong relationships amongst each other and with staff.

Principal Sammons at BT has worked with staff to build strong PBIS to support students. They have the Bulldog Paws*itive Expectations, “Be Safe. Be Respectful. Be Responsible.” Students took a unity pledge and built a “Bullying Prevention Pledge Chain,” where they committed to act with kindness, acceptance and inclusion.

3rd Grade Reading: The BT team continues to grow their instructional tool kit to effectively use CCC, our adopted ELA materials. They are working on horizontal and vertical alignment at the school. Starting next week, 3rd grade students will work in small reading groups to receive instruction that is at their level. Most staff have been trained to use the “SIPPS (Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words) which is a research-based decoding intervention program proven to help new and struggling readers in grades K–12 build skills and confidence for fluent, independent reading.” SIPPS is part of the CCC instructional materials.

Culturally Responsive Practices: Staff at BT are drawing on the expertise of their families, as well as professional development (PD) in culturally responsive practices, to improve their practices. As one of our 13 focus schools, they receive central office assistance to support their MTSS, ELL, and SPED work. They use Family Connectors in partnership with N. Seattle College to teach families how to navigate our system so that they are engaged in their students’ learning. Teachers from Seattle Teacher Residency (STR) program are at BT and are steeped in racial equity. Thank you, Principal Sammons and team, for the work you are doing at BT!

Community and Partnerships: I continue to build a longer table with community, with an intentional focus on communities furthest from educational justice, specifically the African American (AA) community, and loop back with communities I already met.

- On Monday, I met with members from the Breakfast group to share our work, Seattle Excellence. They received funding from the City to run Project Mister mentoring program in four of our schools. This program supports our high school AA young men and young AA adult males to become educators.

- A central office team met with our partners, SCPTSA, for our monthly meeting. We discussed ethnic studies, TAF, the draft Anti-Racist Policy, and the Juul lawsuit.

- SPS launched the first CTE Partner Summit on Tues. Thank you for supporting this work.

- I spoke at Boeing’s Native American Network Native Heritage Month celebration. They are excited to support our Native students in the aerospace industry.

- I visited with the SPED PTSA to share a Seattle Excellence update. I’m thankful to our SPED team for building strong relationships with these families.

- Our data, budget and research teams continue to meet with goal leads to plan out the needs for each strategic plan goal. This work requires all divisions be coordinated and laser-focused on Seattle Excellence.

- Small cabinet hosted a table at the Urban League Annual Breakfast. I appreciate UL’s partnership in our work.

- Sherri and I met with Lisa Chick after the UL breakfast for our monthly meeting. The Alliance is fully behind our efforts to lift Seattle Excellence. I am thankful for all our partners in this work!

- TAF Update—We are meeting with the WMS staff on Monday. We have the community meetings scheduled in December for families at Bailey Gatzert, John Muir, Thurgood Marshall, Madrona and Leschi elementary schools. The JOA continues to move through the drafting process. We plan to bring everything to the Board at the Executive Committee of the Whole on Dec. 18.
Friday Memo to the Board
Department of Technology Services

Essential Information for the week of 11/18/19 – 11/22/19

Student Device Rollout – Update

- 6 High Schools were designated for full rollouts this school year
  - Cleveland, Lincoln, & Franklin all have laptops for all students
  - Rainier Beach will deploy laptops to all on 12/4-5/2019
  - Chief Sealth will deploy to all on 1/9-10/2020
  - World School will be scheduled in the next month

- Remaining High Schools were to receive laptops for 9th graders only this school year
  - West Seattle will deploy to 9th graders on 1/21/2020
  - Ballard will provide laptops to 9th graders on 2/3/2020
  - Other high schools are TBD and may choose to wait until Fall 2020

- Middle schools received priority laptop carts for the Science curriculum this fall.
  Remaining laptop carts are scheduled for delivery by end of March 2020.

- Elementary schools will receive laptop carts after the middle schools. However, we are prioritizing the 13 Strategic Focus schools earlier:
  - 3rd grade classrooms will receive laptop carts in mid-January 2020 to provide device practice time before Spring assessments
  - Other grades in the 13 schools will receive laptop carts by end of March 2020
Equity Synergy Meeting

- On November 21, 2019, EPE and AAMA invited a coalition of committee members from DiD (Disproportionality in Discipline), AAMAC (African-American Male Advisory Committee) and ERAC (Equity Race Advisory Committee) to discuss the development of the Anti-Racism Policy and AAMA.

- The goal of this meeting was for EPE and AAMA to give updates, engage with committees that are accountable to Students/Communities of Color, and receive feedback on further development of the Anti-Racism Policy and AAMA. The co-created space fostered great conversation and a compilation of meaningful feedback. Holding an integrated meeting promoted equity synergy across our work.
Friday Memo to the Board
Operations
Essential Information for the week of November 18-22, 2019

Fleet Operations – Response to inquiry from multiple directors

- Operations staff are developing a Vehicle Replacement Plan to address the fact that new light-duty vehicle purchases have replaced only 10% of the fleet in the past five years.

- **18 vehicles were purchased at the end of the 2018-19 school year,** 16 for Facilities, two for Security. Sixteen existing, aged fleet vehicles have been surplused/sold out of the fleet. These working vehicles (vans, trucks) were replaced with higher efficiency turbo diesel or “Eco-Boost” engines to maximize fuel efficiency while maintaining high capability and reliability.

- Currently, there are no hybrid or electric working vans or trucks available on the market; if/when they are added, they will be evaluated for inclusion in future replacement plans.

- Future light-duty passenger vehicle replacements will be traditional hybrid or plug-in electric.

Nutrition Services – Response to inquiry from Director Brandon Hersey

- Every student is provided fresh fruit and vegetables. One way this is accomplished is through a **salad bar,** which typically offers a garden lettuce mix, cauliflower, broccoli, cucumbers, bean, tomatoes, oranges, grapes and apples. Salad bars are provided in each school, except for South Lake High School. The high school doesn’t have a salad bar due to lack of space. Nutrition Services is looking for a unit that will fit the school’s limited space and are working with the principal and the supervisor to accomplish this by January 2020. South Lake students currently are provided a limited offering of fruits and vegetables.
Friday Memo to the Board
African American Male Achievement Initiative
Essential Information for November 2019

Two Manager, Office of African American Male Achievement positions.
The positions are open until filled with first consideration given to applicants who apply by December 1.

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- Cabinet Book Club “We Dare Say Love” Highlight:
  Chapt. 7: It Makes Me Feel Like I’m A Monster Navigating Notions of Black Damage in this work

• School Visit Highlights: My visit to Lowell with Principal Dr. Talbot on November 12th. I was able to pop into the boys group meeting for a minute and a third-grade reading classroom. Such a joy.
Friday Memo to the Board
Schools and Continuous Improvement

Essential Information for the week of 11.18.19

Safe and Welcoming School Environments: A priority goal of the District’s new strategic Plan, Seattle Excellence, is to ensure students furthest from educational justice feel safe and welcome at school.

- Over 60 schools have participated in Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS) training; the first of 3 for this current school year. A PBIS session was also held specifically for School Leaders to outline expectations and needed supports.

- Next Steps:
  - Sub-groups of the Safe and Welcoming stakeholder workgroup will select three areas of focus to examine current practices and develop materials and actions that will improve school climate.
  - A team has been formed to review the current student climate surveys and revise to better align with student voice and the strategic plan.
  - The development of a comprehensive social emotional learning framework is well underway. The framework seeks to integrate and support the development of the “whole child” during lessons, circles, and advisory.
  - A cross-departmental group will come together to identify areas of inequitable access to services impacting students furthest from educational justice in order to set targets and develop a plan.
Friday Memo to the Board
Office of Public Affairs
Essential Information for the week of 11/15/19 – 11/22/19

Goal 1: Media Relations

- 11/20/19 Seattle Times “Seattle’s Licton Springs school will move out of its namesake area….”
- 11/20/19 Seattle Times “Seattle Public Schools has a new performance report. The achievement gap isn't part of it”
- 11/18/19 KUOW “2,600 Seattle students lack permanent housing”
  https://www.kuow.org/stories/2-600-seattle-students-lack-permanent-housing
- 11/18/19 Seattle Times “WA students have new options to earn a high school diploma,”
  https://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/washington-students-have-new-options-to-earn-a-high-school-diploma-whats-next/

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

- Published School Beat, our monthly newsletter including thanks to outgoing board members, published video format Juneau’s Journal focused on vaccinations and clarifying the recent Juul lawsuit.
- Highlighted Rainier View’s Seattle Super Reader work and support of the strategic plan, Seattle Excellence:
  https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/building_literacy_at_rainier_view
- Continued communication highlighting Native American Heritage month:
  https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/native_american_heritage_month_proclamation
- Celebration families, students, and staff at the Annual LBGTQ2+ Family Dinner
  https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/annual_lgbtq_family_dinner
- Celebrating our substitute educators including profiles of substitutes nominated by their peers and school leaders:
  https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/celebrating_our_substitute_educators
- Prepared and distributed operational communications:
  - Academy of Rising Educators Applications open:
    https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/academy_for_rising_educators
  - Career and Planning Tool Registration Opens:
CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION

Instructional Materials Committee
The recently revised Board Policy No. 2015, *Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials* indicates that it is the policy of the Seattle School Board to create an Instructional Materials Committee (IMC), pursuant to RCW 28A.320.230. The policy indicates that the selection process for the IMC will be fair, consistent, and transparent. Further, the policy indicates that member selection, within the confines of the established structure provided in the policy and procedure, should endeavor to be inclusive and reflect the diversity of our students and families.

Using the above criteria, we are preparing to create an IMC to oversee upcoming curriculum adoptions, i.e., High School Chemistry B and Ethnic Studies. You may recall the recommendation of the High School Instructional Materials Board Action Report (BAR) approved on May 19, 2019, the Science Department has been completing the development of the district-developed materials for Chemistry B, with an anticipation that it would be submitted to the Board for approval in the spring of 2020. Additionally, Ethnic Studies will be ready to begin the adoption process in early summer. We will soon begin the application and selection process for the Instructional Materials Committee. We anticipate sharing the names of candidates to the Curriculum & Instruction Policy Committee in January and to the Board in early February.

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