Safe & Welcoming: This week I visited South Shore PK8 (SS PK8). This has been a multi-year focus for SS PK8. They use additional grant dollars to buy mental health staff, additional support staff and an assistant principal to support students Social Emotional Learning (SEL).

To support black boys and other boys of color, SS PK8 has partnered with ACE Academy, Academy for Creating Excellence, to create a middle school course. ACE Academy is committed to creating a diverse learning environment and celebrating the accomplishments of young men within the school, the greater community, and the world. They are providing professional development for staff, after school programing for students, and parent engagement sessions. Principal Hendrickson looks forward to working with ACE Academy to create a class for younger students at SS PK8.

3rd Grade Reading: In several K-3 classrooms students were reading in groups, with adults or independently. In one class, 2nd graders were doing “Flocabulary” which is a supplemental material that uses hip hop to engage students. In this lesson, students made inferences in a story they listened to and wrote about their inferences. Engagement was very high, and students were successfully creating meaning from the story that they listened to.

Culturally Responsive Practices: Principal Hendrickson and his staff have been very intentional in hiring staff, especially teachers, who have a connection to SE Seattle. They have several teachers who graduated from Seattle Teacher Residency (STR) program. As a result, over 60% of the PreK-elementary teachers are people of color. They have a staff that looks like the students at SS PK8 and have the skills to support our students furthest from educational justice!

Community and Partnerships:

- TAF Update-We had a very positive meeting with TAF and WMS staff. The staff asked good questions and was confronted with difficult data. On Thursday, TAF staff and my office met with approximately 45 John Muir and Leschi families to share information about the STEMbyTAF model. On 12/17 we will host a similar meeting with Bailey Gatzert and Madrona families. On 12/19, we will meet with Thurgood Marshall families. We plan to bring everything to the Board at the Executive Committee of the Whole meeting on Dec. 18.

- I continue to meet with JSCEE staff to discuss their work as it ties to Seattle Excellence.

- I met with leaders from the League of Education Voters to share legislature agendas. We will be working on similar issues in Olympia.

- The Black Clergy and I discussed the great work SPS is doing in support of Black boys. They were very impressed by the actions we have already taken and look forward to continued partnership.

- I attended the Seattle Metro Chamber 2019 Public Officials Reception. SPS has many fans in this group and I look forward to continued support from the Chamber.

- Director Hersey and I dropped by RBHS for the deployment of the 1:1 laptops. Students and staff were so enthusiastic!
Friday Memo to the Board
School and Community Partnerships
For the Week of December 2 – 6, 2019

Early Literacy Community Convening
• On 11/21, School Community Partnerships Department collaborated with Curriculum and Instruction to co-facilitate the 6th meeting of the Early Literacy Community Convening. About 20 SPS staff and community members came together to discuss the collective assets, skills, and resources that we can contribute to raising strong and joyful readers among African-American/Black boys.
• Housing and Education Manager, Kathlyn Paananen, coordinates with the Curriculum and Instruction team to convene a steering committee and include youth services and housing partners in our strategic plan goals. The group split into three “learning labs” centered on student-teacher and school-family relationships, welcoming school environments, and literacy supports. The community stakeholder group will be developing strategies and ideas for how to reach our third grade literacy goals through the collective power of community.

FEPP RFI Levy Application Update
• SPS Internal Review Process was developed to provide additional support and feedback to schools on FEPP Levy Applications.
• Draft applications were submitted to SPS central office from 33 schools including: 6 high schools, 3 middle schools, 22 elementary schools
• Internal Review Team is made up of 25 staff from the following SPS teams: Curriculum & Instruction, Partnerships, CCR, DREA, Grants, Health Services, McKinney-Vento, Schools and Continuous Improvement.
• Feedback to be returned to schools by COB, Dec 6th to be incorporated into final application due to the city by December 13th.
Nutrition Services – Menu changes

- We have been belatedly advised by our primary food vendor that they will not be able to fulfill orders for some products, which will require changes to the menu for the duration of December.
- Nutrition Services is coordinating with kitchen managers to provide the updated menu, which utilizes substitute foods we have on hand and those stocked by our primary vendor.
- Next week, kitchen managers will receive the ordered replacement menu items, which means they won’t have to reorder items.
- An updated menu will be available on the Nutrition Services webpage.
- The Nutrition Services team is working with procurement staff to establish relationships with other vendors to avoid these issues in the future.
Essential Information for the week of December 2-6, 2019

CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION

Ethnic Studies Reclassification/Cross-Crediting of Courses
Members of the Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction department (including English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Ethnic Studies) are currently working to reclassify/cross-credit courses that are of the Ethnic Studies genre to core graduation requirements in World History II, World History III, US History, and English Language Arts 11. We anticipate in future years that we’ll consider additional courses, but all involved in the process believe these four are the most appropriate for the first round. Individuals who have been involved in the reclassification/cross-crediting discussions include Kathleen Vasquez (Program Manager for English Language Arts and Social Studies), Tracy Castro-Gill, (Program Manager for Ethnic Studies), Caleb Perkins, Cashel Toner, and Diane DeBacker. We’ll also involve members of the Ethnic Studies Teacher Advisory Group and educators who are currently teaching high school courses considered for reclassification/cross-crediting. It is our intention to complete the process in time to inform guidance to students on the course pre-registration process for 2020-2021. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Diane DeBacker, Chief Academic Officer at dmdebacker@seattleschools.org.
Friday Memo to the Board
Office of Public Affairs
Essential Information for the week of 11/25/19 – 12/06/19

Goal 1: Media Relations
• 12/5/19 The Stranger “The battle over SPS gifted programs heats up”
  https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2019/12/04/42169178/the-battle-over-seattle-public-schools-gifted-programs-heats-up
• 12/2/19 KNKX “Citizens’ group files a complaint to the state AG over advanced learning in Seattle”
• 11/29/19 Seattle Times “What are WA schools doing to help kids fight the vaping habit?”
• 11/26/19 KIRO 7 “Confiscated on Campus: KIRO 7 investigates what kids are bringing to school”
• 11/25/19 Seattle Times “It takes 7,200 students before WA will pay for a middle school's nurse. How much will it cost to change that?”
• 11/23/19 Forbes Magazine “SPS plan for math and social justice actually adds up”

Goal 2&3: District Messaging – Outbound Communications, Customer Service
• Small Seattle Excellence 2019-24 Strategic Plan posters were made available to staff. A Seattle Excellence brochure is currently in production and will be available for distribution next week.
• Board Member Oath of Office meeting support with photography and social media updates.
• Native American Heritage Month Proclamation feature story
  https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/native_american_heritage_month_proclamation
• Posted Advanced Learning Task Force Update and Next Steps on homepage and social media
• Posted African American Male Student Leadership Council Application on homepage and social media
  https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/community_engagement/student_leadership_council
• MySPS redesign survey sent to staff via NewsBrief, MySPS, and School Leaders Communicator: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mysps-staff-website