Friday Memo to the Board
Superintendent’s Highlights
for the week of January 6-10, 2020

What a week! As I shared at the Board meeting, we jumped back into the work this week. Our health services team, school leaders and communication team worked around the clock to get over 99% of our students’ vaccine records up-to-date.

Due to an unexpected event, I was unable to visit Leschi this week. I look forward to getting to the school soon.

Other Happenings:

• Extended Cabinet met this week. This group of central office leaders is reading “We Dare Say Love” and engaging in discussions about the implications to our work. They also got an update about the work happening to support the 3rd grade reading goal. Thanks to Chief Jessee, Chief DeBacker, ED Williams and ED Toner for leading this meeting.

• Dr. Williams continues to move forward in the hiring process for the 2 new AAMA managers. I met the finalists this week.

• I was interviewed by Yvette Dinish at Rainier Avenue Radio. Such a great advocate for community!

• Directors Hampson & DeWolf and I were interviewed by students from the Nathan Hale Native Club. I’m excited to see the final video which celebrates Native leaders at SPS.

• I shared with the Ethnic Studies Advisory the urgency of getting the courses ready for the course catalog before introduction on Jan. 22. Ms. Castro-Gill committed to getting the work done on time so that students can take these new courses.

• We are pushing out communications to our Seniors about Seattle Promise. The applications are due Feb. 15.

• Chief Podesta and his team are gearing up for the possibility of snow next week. Let’s hope there is no snow—but if there is, we are more prepared than ever before…

• Highly Capable and Racial Equity Services Advisory application process closed this week. The team will review applicants and get started on the next steps in this work.

• Kindergarten and new-to-SPS enrollment opened this week. Choice enrollment opens Feb. 3.
Student Device Rollout – Update
- Elementary and K-8 schools will receive additional laptops and carts to ensure that each classroom has a cart of laptops. The K-2 device mix of either 7 laptops/5 iPads or 12 laptops is in the final stages of determination based on the feedback from the schools. These devices and carts will be delivered from May through October 2020, prioritized by Equity Tier. However, we are accelerating the delivery of additional laptops and carts to the 13 Early Literacy Focus schools, which are receiving additional strategic plan supports.

13 Early Literacy Focus Schools – Accelerated Rollout
- 3rd Grade Classrooms are to receive additional carts in mid-to-end of January 2020:
  o One spare cart was sent to each school for their 3rd grade classes to use now.
  o We have pulled out extra gently-used laptops and carts from high schools, which received updated equipment as part of the high school rollout, and we are updating these computers to redeploy to these 3rd grade classrooms.
  o We plan to deliver these extra carts/laptops to the rest of these 3rd grade classrooms from mid-to-end of January 2020.
- For the Remaining Grades in the 13 schools, we are planning on an end of March 2020 delivery.

Secondary School Student Laptops – Update
- As reported in the November 22, 2019, Friday memo, the high school rollouts have been going very well and are on schedule.
  o The 6 high schools scheduled for full roll-outs to all grades are complete now with the deployment at Chief Sealth High School on January 9-10, 2020.
  o Five more high schools are scheduled to provide laptops to their 9th graders only in late January and early February. The remaining high schools have decided to wait until fall 2020.
- Middle schools received early deliveries of laptop carts for the Science curriculum in the fall. Remaining laptop carts are expected to be delivered by end of March 2020.
Friday Memo to the Board
Equity, Partnerships & Engagement
For the Week of January 6-10, 2020

Department of Racial Equity Advancement (DREA)
- To actively work toward a culturally responsive and diverse workforce, DREA is partnering with the Office of African American Male Achievement (AAMA) in hiring its office manager.
- Met with the Student and Community Workforce Agreement Taskforce.
- Met with local small business owners regarding contracting equity.
Friday Memo to the Board

African American Male Achievement Initiative

Essential Information for the week of January 6-10, 2020

- We have completed the interview process for the two AAMA managers. We will meet with the finalist today with the superintendent.

- There were 65 applicants for the AAM Student Leadership Council. We have representation from all regions. I increased the number of leaders to 28 to be inclusive. So excited.

- Monday, January 13th, we will have our AAMA Student Leadership Council orientation from 5:30-8:00 PM
Facilities, regarding study of air filters and academic improvement – response to question from School Board

President Zachary DeWolf: Can Seattle Public Schools (SPS) utilize information in an EdWorkingPapers study (https://edworkingpapers.org/sites/default/files/ai20-188.pdf), which ties air filter installation to high student achievement.

- SPS recognizes that air quality is important for educational outcomes. The study’s findings are coincident with other studies that show school environments (indoor air quality, thermo comfort, lighting, etc.) impact student outcomes.
- To provide better school environments, two mechanical/electrical/plumbing coordinators were hired to ensure our heating and ventilation systems provide good air quality and thermal comfort while reducing long-term greenhouse gas emissions.
- Facilities maintains our air handling units by making sure they are kept clean and replacing filters on a quarterly basis.
- A concern of installing filter systems in each classroom would be the ongoing maintenance and operating costs of thousands of additional pieces of equipment.
- Additional housekeeping might provide a more significant return on investment for students and staff. Cleaning daily instead of every three days would improve indoor air quality, reduce bacteria, decrease absenteeism and improve schools’ appearance.

Nutrition Services at John Hay Elementary: Concerns were raised about breakfast and lunch issues at John Hay Elementary, specifically about lack of food options, missing items, no vegetarian options, processed breakfast options and poor communication with the Nutrition Services Director.

- Menus in previous years contained mostly highly processed food options. This school year, Nutrition Services has diversified the menu by including vegan and vegetarian items and high quality, culturally relevant foods. For example, the K-5 lunch menu was transformed by replacing processed meats with natural and/or whole muscle chicken and beef products. Also, a salad bar filled with fresh fruits and vegetables is offered every day at all sites.
- However, due to staffing, there have been no changes to the breakfast menu from previous years. Forty-seven kitchens have one person serving breakfast and lunch daily. Nutrition Services is working with the district’s budget team to assess options for increasing kitchen staffing to be able support more menu options.
- Regarding communication, Nutrition Services has implemented organizational changes to increase the capacity of supervisors to communicate with kitchen managers and manage day-to-day operations (issues, training, requests, orders, complaints, etc.).
- The district’s major food supplier has faced inventory and delivery issues following a merger. Nutrition Services worked with the vendor and resolved issues with missing items.

Skills Center Long Range/10-Year Plan Submission to OSPI

- The OSPI 2021-2023 Skill Centers Capital Manual, revised October 2019, contains requirements and guidelines for requesting OSPI Skills Center capital funds in the State of Washington’s 2021-2023 capital budget. In order to be eligible to submit future grant requests, an updated Skills Center Long Range/Ten Year Capital Plan that provides a foundation for the OSPI capital budget requests is due Jan. 15.
- Capital Projects and Planning has collaborated with the Skills Center team to update the previous 10-year Skills Center plan based upon the 2019 CTE/Skills Center annual report approved at the May 29, 2019, board meeting. We intend to submit the updated 10-year plan to OSPI on Jan. 15.
- Next steps are to submit specific funding requests, including for the Rainier Beach High School Skills Center spaces, to OSPI by May 1. No local match is required to receive the Skills Centers capital funds.
Goal 1: Media Relations
- 12/27/19 Seattle Times “In Seattle, you can register your kid for kindergarten….”
- 1/6/20 KNKX “Deadline approaches for Seattle students to meet vaccine requirements, stay in school”
  https://www.knkx.org/post/deadline-approaches-seattle-students-meet-vaccine-requirements-stay-school
- 1/7/2020 KOMO “Nearly 1,000 Seattle students may be kept from class for missing vaccination deadline”
  https://komonews.com/news/local/nearly-1000-seattle-students-may-be-kept-from-class-for-missing-vaccination-deadline
- 1/8/20 Seattle Times “Hundreds of Seattle students kept out of classes….”
- 1/8/20 KUOW “Seattle Schools to turn away nearly 1,000 students missing vaccine records:
  https://www.kuow.org/stories/seattle-schools-to-turn-away-nearly-1-000
- 1/8/20 KIRO Radio “Seattle school lunches are getting more diverse, less processed”
  https://mynorthwest.com/1662954/seattle-school-lunch-diverse/
- 1/8/20 New York Times “After a Measles Scare, Seattle Cracks Down on Vaccine Compliance”
- 1/9/20 KING 5 “Hundreds of Seattle students without updated vaccine….”
  https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/seattle/seattle-schools-vaccine-records-deadline/281-8e73d91a-20e2-4e54-a1bf-ccb3ba35be64

Goal 2&3: District Messaging – Outbound Communications, Customer Service
- Information about possible snow-related schedule changes posted to the website and emailed to all families and staff, including translated versions.
- Translated calls, texts, and robocalls sent to families of students still out of immunization compliance. Provided media support for immunization questions. A video was also created to provide an immunization update and was shared on social media and SPS TV:
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= 7hjB1cT6A0&utmfeature=youtu.be
- Invitation to Admissions Fair with link to new/Kindergarten enrollment sent to all families, including translated versions.
- #HowSPSEnrolls videos created and shared on the website, social media, and SPS TV, including translated versions:
  https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2hmEPpCQc_rXoOjUZzd4Z3E4RG_4fJxc
- Boosted SPS enrollment video to “families furthest away from educational justice” increased video views by 4,000 (total just over 7,000 as of 1/8/2019)
- Published RFP for new Content Management System on 1/7/2019.
Friday Memo to the Board
Teaching and Learning Division
Essential Information for the week of January 6-10, 2020

CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION

Seattle Public Schools’ Pre-K Program Receiving National Attention
Take a look at this article! Seattle Public Schools is being recognized for our hard work over the past several years. [https://www.educationdive.com/news/pre-to-3-seattles-voter-approved-pre-k-program-receiving-national-attenti/568670/](https://www.educationdive.com/news/pre-to-3-seattles-voter-approved-pre-k-program-receiving-national-attenti/568670/)

Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Levy School Applications
Below is the list of FEPP School-Based Request for Investment (RFI) applications received by the City of Seattle’s Department of Education and Early Learning. The City of Seattle anticipates funding 20 elementary schools, 5 middle schools and 5 high schools. Successful applicants are expected to receive an award notification by March 2020.

**ELEMENTARY AND K-8 SCHOOLS**

- Bailey Gatzert
- Beacon Hill
- Broadview-Thomson
- Concord
- Dearborn Park
- Dunlap
- Emerson
- Highland Park
- John Rogers
- John Muir
- Kimball
- Leschi
- Lowell
- Madrona
- Martin Luther King
- Olympic Hills
- Olympic View
- Rising Star/Van Asselt
- Roxhill
- Sand Point
- Sanislo
- South Shore
- Thurgood Marshall
- Viewlands
- West Seattle

**MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

- Aki Kurose
- Asa Mercer International
- Denny International
- Jane Addams
- McClure
- Robert Eagle
- Washington
- Center School
- Chief Sealth
- Cleveland
- Franklin
- Garfield
- Ingraham
- Interagency Academy
- Nathan Hale
- Rainier Beach
- Seattle World
- West Seattle

**HIGH SCHOOLS**

- Aki Kurose
- Asa Mercer International
- Denny International
- Jane Addams
- McClure
- Robert Eagle
- Washington
- Center School
- Chief Sealth
- Cleveland
- Franklin
- Garfield
- Ingraham
- Interagency Academy
- Nathan Hale
- Rainier Beach
- Seattle World
- West Seattle