School Visits:
I visited Garfield’s Black Lives Matter assembly organized and led by GHS students. Students shared poems they wrote; the drumline and choir sang a powerful song by Janelle Monáe “Hell You Talmbout” Say His Name; and the Black Student Union and Melanin Monthly talked about their work and the work of other leaders. Thank you, President DeWolf, for also being present at this event.

I stopped by Decatur to learn more about how they are serving students in the highly capable cohort. Principal Geoghagan and her team will be good resources in our work to better serve students needing HC services in neighborhood schools.

Today, I attended Northgate’s Black Lives Matter assembly. What a great week visiting schools and learning more about their work happening to support our students furthest from educational justice, specifically African American boys.

Other Happenings:
- The best part of my week, besides visiting schools, was the Black History Month Flag Raising, the first of its kind ever at JSCEE. I was honored to speak to staff about Black Excellence and my commitment to doing better by students furthest from educational justice, especially Black boys and young men. Thank you, Dr. Scarlett and Ms. Koyier-Mwamba, for organizing this celebration.
- I spent some time with Chris Chatmon this week. I learn so much from our coaching sessions and am so appreciative of his leadership in our work.
- I met with high school principals to hear about their plans to ensure the class of 2021 is getting the supports needed to attain 24 credits. I look forward to continued collaboration.
- Several small cabinet members met with DEEL leaders to strengthen and align our work together.
- I met with 75+ prospective school leaders. I am excited to see so many people who want to lead in SPS.
- The “snow team” huddled to reflect on what worked and what opportunities we have to make our processes even stronger. Thank you, Chief Podesta, for leading this work!
- I spoke to UW students in the Leadership Firesides class. What an impressive group of young adults! I shared, “You can’t be afraid of failure or it will paralyze you. Just be sure you fail forward.”
- Thank you, Delbert Richardson, for bringing JSCEE the AMERICAN HISTORY TRAVELING MUSEUM. While true history is difficult to read about it is so important for all of us to know it!

Good News:
Dear All,

Last time when Superintendent had a meeting with Chinese community about SPS strategic plans, she was aware that Chinese parents had very little understanding about different assessments of SPS that their children took every year. She encouraged us to connect SPS, asking somebody to conduct workshops about various assessments. With Sherri’s help and Michael’s connection, we could get in touch with Audrey.

Our After-School Program is grateful for Audrey’s presentation through Michael’s Chinese interpretation about MAP yesterday. Both of them had increased parent understanding about MAP especially the demonstrations of the testing (different grades). For Chinese parents who are non-English speaking, it is very difficult for them with language barriers to access those info. Besides, they also gave Chinese parents clearer thoughts about common challenges for their kids to take MAP and suggestions of home support. We really appreciate their time and effort that they put in for conducting that workshop.

Once again, thank you very much for supporting Chinese community!

Peggy Kwok, Youth Development Program Supervisor
CISC
Friday Memo to the Board
African American Male Achievement Initiative
Essential Information for February 3-7, 2020

I am uber excited to welcome my two newest colleagues to the Office of African American Male Achievement; Adam Haizlip, and Seattle native Kevin Loyal. As you walk the John Stanford Center, please take time to welcome our new team members; both Kings bring a wealth of experience and real time approaches to engage and empower our African American youth.

https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/district_welcomes_aama_managers

On Monday February 3rd, 2020 The Office of African American Male Achievement launched its first of many Student Leadership Council meeting. This meeting was held at the John Stanford Center for Education, and the meeting addressed and or provided opportunities for the following:

- Welcomed the Kings
- Connected young Kings to a network of elders
- Photo Shoot- Authentic Expressions of why individual Kings chose this work
- Introduced them to their roles, responsibilities, and resources
- Selected AAMA SLC logo
- Fostered student choice- while identifying ideal meeting days and frequency of meetings
- Introduced Kings the COSEBOC Rights of Passage conference happening in Seattle during the month of April 2020
- Engaged the Kings in authentic discourse regarding their aspirations, passions and interests
- Nourished the bodies mind and spirits
- High quality engagement focused on asset mapping (e.g., identification of the wealth of resources within their peer group)

Special thanks to Dr. Mia Williams’ leadership, and for encouraging many men from the community; special thanks to all the men who responded. Respondent Kings represented the Seattle Mayor’s office, Seattle Public Schools; varying community agencies, and a host of Queens that are committed to the progressive matriculation, cultural identity development, and overall Black Excellence within this community of young men.
Goal 1: Media Relations

- 2/4/20 KNKX “‘They became heroes’: Author Diane Ravitch on Seattle teachers' boycott of the MAP test”

- 1/31/2020 KING 5 “Flavored vaping products still in the hands of teens, despite bans”

- 1/31/2020 Seattle Times “KUOW teacher abuse investigation has shaken so many of us to the core, says SPS superintendent”

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

- Feature Story: District Welcomes AAMA Managers
  https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/district_welcomes_aama_managers

- Feature Story: TOPS Students Qualify for Battle of the Books National Championship
  https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/tops_students_join_the_battle_of_the_books

- Communications support for the Pan-African Flag Raising including photography, video, and sharing across all social media channels.

- Proactive web post and family letter on Coronavirus rumors and Public Health update:

- Communications support promoting the SW Regional Arts Festival on 2/6, including social media sharing, press release, and photography. Feature Story to be published next week.
Admissions
Open Enrollment:
The school choice lottery is underway! Admissions opened its open enrollment doors on February 3. As of February 5, approximately 1800 school choices were received with nearly 600 entered into the system. Lines are non-existent at the JSCEE lobby counter due to the robust staffing of all seven enrollment facilitators in the lobby; families were very happy seeing so many staff members in the lobby ready to serve them without delay.

2020-21 Registration:
As of February 5, 3000 families have successfully submitted online enrollment applications for next year. Due to an unresolved vendor related system outage, 1300 are still pending to be processed. The Admissions team has staffed for overtime based on needs of the operations to meet open enrollment deadlines and timely assignment letters mailed to families; the outage has had a nominal impact processing student school choice forms at this point.

Update re: Power School 504 Module: parent communication delayed due to vendor issues
Update to last week’s article: The communication letter to parents is delayed due to an unresolved vendor issue. Last week’s article read: Student Support Services 504 Department will be implementing Phase Two of the 504 Power School Electronic Module in the 2nd Semester. On Wednesday January 29th, the Student 504 Department will be sending an email to all parents of current 504 students informing them that they will be able to access their student’s 504 accommodation plan through The Source. In this email, parents will be provided with a QRD and instructions to contact their own school’s Building Coordinator with any questions. Board members should be aware that not all student’s plans are currently in electronic form on the 504 Module and may not be able to be viewed until the student’s annual review is completed by the school. Each school has 364 days to complete an annual review and some plans reviews may not be due until the end of the school year.

Advanced Learning
The first meeting of the Highly Capable/Racial Equity Services Advisory (HC/RESA) committee convened Tuesday, February 4. The committee of thirty-one members gathered at the John Stanford Center about their charge to build relationships, and listen to student author Azure Savage, a student from Garfield High School. The committee includes Principal/Teacher/Parent teams from Adams, Decatur, and Martin Luther King Elementary Schools, Mercer and Jane Addams Middle Schools, Garfield High School. There are also representatives from community partners, Seattle Council of the Parent, Teacher, Student Association (SCPTA), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Youth Coalition, and SPS departments of Native Education, Special Education, Seattle Education Association (SEA), Principals at Seattle Schools (PASS), Office of Civil Rights, and Department of Racial Equity Advancement. The AL team has made 98% of Highly Capable eligibility decisions and anticipate having all eligibility and appeal decisions complete by end of February. After all decisions are made, we will share demographic data for referrals and eligibility decisions.

Except students whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) indicates otherwise, we will complete universal screening (testing) from March 16 – 27 with all 2nd grade students in the district using the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT3). Families and students will be contacted directly by the Advanced Learning office prior to May 15th.

Advanced Learning’s Multi-Disciplinary Selection Committee (MSC) piloted a protocol for the MSC at four elementary buildings this past fall that included the schools’ tiered support team in our discussion for eligibility decisions. The HC/RESA Advisory committee will be reviewing the Advanced Taskforce Recommendations and will work in partnership with the Advanced Learning department to determine and plan potential new service models. This link will lead to the ALTF recommendations pages:
https://www.seattleschools.org/families_communities/committees/advanced_learning/altf_2018-19
Advanced Learning, cont’d:

Director Rankin has enquired about a pilot taking place at Bryant Elementary School: The Advanced Learning Multi-disciplinary Selection Committee (MSC) performed a protocol for the Multi-disciplinary Selection Committee at four elementary school buildings and included the multi-tiered support team (MTSS) in discussion for eligibility decisions. This was a process to understand success and challenges in working with schools on site-based decision making for advanced learning selection. Bryant was one of four neighborhood elementary schools to work with us on this protocol. We have not begun any process of pilot creation or process for participating in a new model for HC service delivery at this time.
CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION

Native American Education Library
The Native American Education Library's webpage is live and we encourage you to visit the site Native American Education Library. Visit and learn about what's new in our growing library, access the library catalog and a variety of online resources focused on Native American knowledge. Explore Destiny Discover Collections, a dynamic, online compilation of websites, videos, audio, articles, teacher guides, books and more. New resources are regularly added, so please check often.

Port of Seattle’s Proposal for a Maritime and Ocean Sciences High School in Greater Seattle
The Port of Seattle Commission will receive a briefing on the concept of a Maritime and Ocean Sciences High School in the greater Seattle area at their meeting on February 11. The meeting will take place at the Port of Seattle offices at Pier 69 beginning at noon with this item being first on the agenda. A link to the briefing document the Commissioners have received in preparation for the discussion can be found at this site Port of Seattle Meeting Attachment.

Seattle Public Schools (SPS) has been involved with the discussions in a variety of ways, including former Seattle School Board Directors Rick Burke and Jill Geary meeting with Commissioner Ryan Calkins on several occasions during their time on the Board to discuss the concept; Director Eden Mack attended the New York study tour group to visit maritime high schools; Director Rivera-Smith accompanied a group to Port Townsend to visit the Northwest Maritime Center to learn about their maritime project-based learning; and Dr. DeBacker representing Seattle Public Schools on the Maritime Secondary Education Advisory Group. The concept for the Maritime and Ocean Sciences High School is a regional high school located on or near the water and situated somewhere south of I-90 with goal of attracting students from the Road Map districts (Seattle, Tukwila, Highline, Federal Way, Renton, Kent, and Auburn). The host district has not yet been determined, but the Highline district has expressed the most interest. Seattle Public Schools will stay connected to the process through Dr. DeBacker’s participation in the advisory group.

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