



February 6, 2009

Dear staff, students, and families of Sanislo Elementary School:

I am writing to let you know about a leadership change at Sanislo Elementary School for the 2009-10 academic year.

On January 29, the School Board voted on final recommendations on capacity management, a key strategy in our district's overall plan to ensure excellent instruction in every classroom and protect the district's long term financial health. We are committed to a strong academic start in fall 2009 for every student, at every school, and in every program, so the work of implementing the final plan will begin immediately.

An important first step in building a strong learning community is to make principal appointments. Today, I am announcing a series of leadership changes that are a direct or indirect result of the capacity management process.

Making this announcement now strengthens the newly appointed leaders' ability to work in collaboration with the current principal, staff and families as plans are made for 2009-10. We also want to increase families' confidence in our commitment to as smooth a transition as possible. Families making choices during open enrollment can do so with the knowledge of who will lead the buildings and programs most directly affected by the decisions on capacity management.

I have appointed Mr. Ernie Seevers, current principal of AS #1 @ Pinehurst, as principal of Sanislo Elementary School, effective July 1, 2009.

An educator with over 25 years of experience, Mr. Seevers brings a depth of classroom experience, administrative expertise and passion for social awareness to Sanislo Elementary. Possessing a gift for interacting with students of all ages, he is dedicated to ensuring the educational success of every child. Mr. Seevers has a long history of involving families in life at the school, ensuring that every school event is family-friendly. He is dedicated to creating a school community that includes families as partners in every child's education.

Mr. Seevers is excited to be working in a building where the classroom education can extend to the natural environments surrounding the school. He believes that when a student enrolls in a school, the entire family enrolls in the school and that every child can become powerful readers, critical thinkers and problem solvers.

Having worked with Seattle Public Schools for fifteen years, Mr. Seevers is currently in his fifth year as principal of AS #1. He has also been an educator in the Lake Washington and Tacoma school districts, teaching middle and high school math and science. Mr. Seevers has a Bachelor of Science in Middle School Education with a concentration in math education from North Georgia State College, and a master's degree from Antioch University.

Ms. Debbie Nelsen, your current principal, has been appointed as principal at the new Jane Addams K-8 school, starting July 1, 2009. Ms. Nelsen has been an effective leader for your school and I especially appreciate her commitment to students, staff and families.

We will set up opportunities for building staff, students and families to meet your new principal. Thank you for the high expectations you set for every student. We look forward to working with you as you plan for 2009-10 and work together to deliver excellent educational experiences every day for all our children.

Sincerely,

Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson, Ph.D.
Superintendent