

June 21, 2010



Dear staff, students and families of West Seattle High School:

I am pleased to let you know that Ms. Ruth Medsker has been appointed interim principal at West Seattle High School, effective July 1, 2010.

We believe that Ms. Medsker's extensive administrative and classroom experience makes her an excellent match for the West Seattle learning community. For the past five years, she has served as an education director for Seattle Public Schools, during which time she directly supervised nine middle schools and ten K-8 schools in the district. She is also a former principal and assistant principal at Mercer Middle School.

Ms. Medsker enjoys connecting with the entire school community, and its neighborhood, so is looking forward to returning to a principal role. She is known for very strong leadership in instruction and academics, and has led the successful implementation of programs across multiple schools that have shown results in raising student achievement. These include the readers-writers workshop and Microsoft math partnership.

In 2004, Ms. Medsker received the Alliance for Education's Thomas B. Foster Award for Excellence for outstanding leadership. She was also honored twice by the Association of Washington School Principals: as a Seattle Regional Distinguished Principal in 2004 and as a Seattle Regional Distinguished Assistant Principal in 2003. Ms. Medsker also served as a math, reading, health and special education-resource teacher at Whitman Middle School and as a special education-emotional behavior disabilities teacher at McClure Middle School.

Ms. Medsker's professional preparation includes a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Washington State University and a Master of School Administration from Western Washington University.

She replaces current principal Bruce Bivins, who has resigned to take a position in California. Mr. Bivins has been an effective leader for your school, and I want to take this opportunity to thank him for his commitment to students, staff and families of West Seattle High School.

We will set up a time for Ms. Medsker to meet families, and we will let you know about those arrangements. I especially appreciate the positive learning community that you have built at West Seattle High School, and I look forward to continued success for all students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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