



March 16, 2011

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

I am writing to let you know that Ms. Ruth Medsker, currently interim principal at West Seattle High, has been appointed principal for your school. Executive Director of Schools Aurora Lora consulted staff and families before recommending this appointment. We heard that Ms. Medsker has provided the school with strong leadership and she holds students and staff to high standards. Under her guidance, West Seattle High School has developed a more consistent schedule that facilitates increased focus on instruction. Staff are benefiting from a newly structured Professional Learning Community format, and the school is in the process of creating a registration process and master schedule that will work best for students.

Ms. Medsker has extensive administrative and classroom experience. She served for five years as an education director for Seattle Public Schools, during which time she directly supervised nine middle schools and 10 K-8 schools in the district. She is also a former principal and assistant principal at Mercer Middle School. In addition, Ms. Medsker 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.

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 from Washington School Principals: as a Seattle Regional Distinguished Principal in 2004 and as a Seattle Regional Distinguished Assistant Principal in 2003.

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.

I want to thank you and congratulate you on creating a positive and inclusive learning community at West Seattle High. I look forward to celebrating many future achievements with you as I know your school community will flourish under Ms. Medsker's continued leadership.

Best wishes,

Susan Enfield, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent