



Washington State Legislature

October 12, 2015

Sherry Carr, President
Seattle School District Board of Directors
MS 11-010
PO Box 34165
Seattle, WA 98124-1165

Re: Staff Reassignments

Dear Board President Carr,

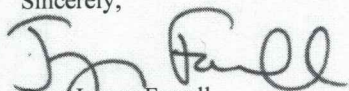
It has been our privilege work in partnership with you and to advocate on behalf of Seattle Public School students in Olympia. Many of us have students in Seattle Public Schools, and each of us cares deeply about providing all of our children with an excellent education. We recognize the extremely difficult position the District is in and appreciate the steps staff have already taken to minimize impacts to students as you seek to maximize resources consistent with enrollment. We are writing today, however, to express our concern about the disruption caused across the district by teacher reassignments, and we are asking that you consider postponing those teacher reassignments to allow the District to work with the community in order to craft a plan to keep staff at their currently assigned schools.

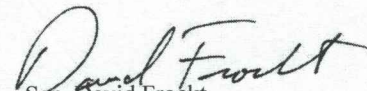
In 2012 the State Supreme Court ruled that our state was not meeting its paramount duty of fully funding basic education. Since the original ruling, the state increased K-12 education funding for important elements of basic education such as student transportation, K-3 class size reduction, materials and supplies, and all-day kindergarten. The members of this delegation have been committed to full funding of our system with new revenue and at the robust levels that are required to build out both our capital needs, hire more educators, and reduce our class sizes. Like you, we take our commitment to reducing class size seriously. We are concerned that anecdotally we have heard from parents of, for example, first grade classes growing to 28 or 29. We know staff has been extremely diligent in allocating scarce resources, and hope that you will continue to strive to meet our mutual obligation to reduce class size.

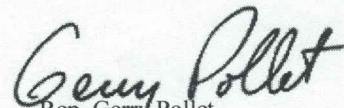
While we have made progress in meeting our obligations to amply fund education, we recognize that there is work left undone and we are committed to working with our colleagues in Olympia to meet our McCleary obligations. In the meantime, we would like ensure that all students in our district are getting a high-quality education this year and hope that we can work together to keep teachers at their currently assigned schools.

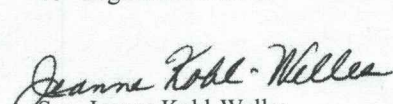
Specifically, we ask that the District give us time to work with staff, Seattle Public School parents, and other outside stakeholders to implement a plan to mitigate the impacts of the proposed staff reassignments. There is great community support for our public schools and we appreciate your stewardship of that support.

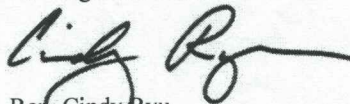
Sincerely,



Rep. Jessyn Farrell
46th Legislative District



Sen. David Frocht
46th Legislative District



Rep. Gerry Pollet
46th Legislative District

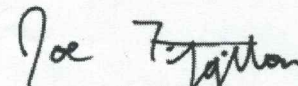

Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles
36th Legislative District

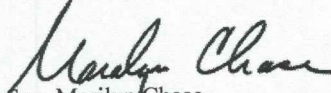

Rep. Cindy Ryu
32nd Legislative District

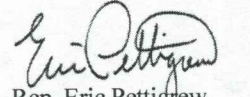

Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos
37th Legislative District


Sen. Sharon Nelson
34th Legislative District


Rep. Brady Walkinshaw
43rd Legislative District


Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon
34th Legislative District


Sen. Marilyn Chase
32nd Legislative District


Rep. Eric Pettigrew
37th Legislative District

Cc: Superintendent Larry Nyland
Board Vice President Sharon Peaslee
District Director Stephan Blanford
District Director Harium Martin-Morris
District Director Marty McLaren
District Director Betty Patu
District Director Sue Peters
District Lobbyist Clifford Traisman