June 20, 2014

Dear Seattle Public Schools staff, families and community,

We just learned that Superintendent José Banda is a finalist for Superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District. We certainly understand why they would seek him out to lead their district.

Mr. Banda stepped into his role in Seattle at a very difficult time. He pulled us together, he built a team and he created stability. He oversaw creation of the Strategic Plan that will guide our work for the next five years, and he pushed our district to ensure equity, access and opportunities for all of our students. I know I speak for the entire Board that if Mr. Banda becomes Superintendent of Sacramento City Unified, we will be very sorry to see him leave Seattle.

However, I certainly understand he has roots in California, and that moving to Sacramento will help him be closer to family. If the Board of Education in Sacramento does decide to hire him, they will not be disappointed.

I want to assure our families, staff and community that the Board will quickly create a plan to ensure continued stability for our District. We will meet early next week to talk about next steps. I have a lot of faith in the current leadership team to continue working on behalf of our students. The Board will work together with staff and the community to make sure we find another strong leader to guide the District and continue the momentum toward achieving the goals in our Strategic Plan.

Sincerely,

Sharon Peaslee

President

Seattle Public School Board