June 19, 2014

Dear Seattle Public Schools community,

I am writing today to inform you that I am a finalist for Superintendent of Sacramento City Unified School District.

This is not an easy letter for me to write. Over the past two years I have really valued the professional and personal satisfaction I have received while working with you on behalf of our students. Considering a move is a very difficult decision for me, but being a Superintendent in California puts me closer to my family.

We have an outstanding school district and I am confident the fine work will continue. The 2014-15 school year will be busy with a continued focus on raising student achievement and providing Seattle students with an outstanding education.

As a team, we’ve accomplished much in Seattle Public Schools. Many of our schools, particularly in Southeast Seattle are closing the achievement gap for students. The district has a new strategic plan to clearly direct the work for the next five years. Through the generosity and support of Seattle residents, critical school measures were passed to provide excellent facilities to meet the needs of our growing district. And, family and community partnerships have been strengthened with a focus on equity and access for all.

If I am approved by the Sacramento Board of Education, the Seattle School Board will work on next steps for a replacement. We have strong teams in place both in our schools and in Central Office, and I know all the good work will continue on behalf of our students.

Sincerely,



José Banda

Superintendent

Seattle Public Schools