



May 7, 2010

Dear Madrona K-8 Community:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Farah Thaxton as the new principal for Madrona K-8 School.

Representatives from the community and staff developed a profile of the qualities desired in the next school leader. A team from Madrona then participated in the selection process; they interviewed a series of candidates, and provided feedback on the strengths of each applicant relative to the needs of your school. The candidates were drawn from a highly qualified pool of individuals who participated in a rigorous interview process conducted by principals and administrators. Led by Education Director, Ruth Medsker, the finalists that your school team recommended then participated in a Learning Walk at Madrona. During this walk, they visited classrooms, interacted with students and wrote some reflections on what they observed. The Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer conducted final interviews and made the appointment.

We believe Ms. Thaxton to be an excellent principal choice for Madrona. She has an ability to connect with students. She also has successful experience working with racially and socio-economically diverse populations, including students who have not yet experienced academic success. In addition, Ms. Thaxton is a strong instructional leader and a lifelong learner who has also spent time as a classroom teacher.

Ms. Thaxton's recent experience includes three years as a lead kindergarten teacher at Seattle's Whittier Elementary, one year as a K-12 curriculum and instruction specialist for Victory Schools in the Philadelphia School District, and two years as assistant principal at Philadelphia's Southwest Leadership Academy.

Ms. Thaxton's professional preparation includes a Bachelor's Degree in sociology/elementary education from Seattle Pacific University and a Master's Degree in educational leadership/principal certification from the University of Delaware.

We want to also take this opportunity to thank Kaaren Andrews for her outstanding educational leadership. Her dedication to providing the best possible education for every child has been a gift to Madrona. We wish her all the best in her appointment as principal of Interagency Academy.

Sincerely,

Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson, Ph.D.

Superintendent