



Imagine what you can learn!

November 6, 2019

Dear Bridgette, Lynn, Diana and Hector:

Thank you for writing to inform me of your interest in collaborating with Vancouver Public Schools as we respond to the Washington State Attorney General's investigation of disproportionate discipline for special education and minority students. I want to assure you that we are treating the AGO's conclusion as a matter of the utmost importance. We share your goal of eradicating discriminatory systems and practices.

VPS welcomes the engagement of Vancouver's NAACP, SW WA LULAC and other community-based organizations in gaining a deeper understanding of the student discipline data and formulating an appropriate, whole-system response. We look forward to receiving the recommendations of Dr. Daniel Losen, the consultant from the UCLA Center for Civil Rights Remedies who will provide technical assistance. Those recommendations are expected in January.

In preparation for the consultant's report, VPS will form a steering committee composed of 12-15 internal and external stakeholders to review the AGO's report, the relevant data and the work completed to date. Representatives of NAACP and LULAC will be invited to serve on that committee, which will convene in December. The steering committee will meet monthly thereafter to oversee and guide the process of developing and implementing action plans. This process will include broader outreach and communication with parents and families, teachers and staff, and community members.

Once again, we are grateful for your willingness to help VPS as we address this complex challenge, which we know is not unique to Vancouver but is present in school districts and communities throughout our state and nation. We hope that the work we will do together can serve as a model for others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven T. Webb".

Steven T. Webb, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Vancouver Public Schools

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