



DISTRICT NEWS

Spring 2019

School Board drafts new core values, vision and mission to guide District into the future

Over the past year, the Mercer Island School Board has been revisiting the District's "why," the core values, vision and mission that are the underpinnings of the education provided to the Island's 4,450 students.

The District's current "Vision 2020" was originally adopted into Board policy 10 years ago and needs updating to better reflect the District's goals and aspirations today, said Board President Brian Giannini Upton.

"This process has been valuable for the entire Board as we looked at where we are currently as a high-performing district with tremendous support from our Island community and wanting our core values, vision and mission to best reflect our goals," Giannini Upton said.

After a series of study sessions, the Board has drafted revised core values, vision and mission statements for the District. Superintendent Donna Colosky is presenting them to a series of focus group meetings throughout the district, including to families, staff, students and community members.

At these focus group meetings, Colosky is using a digital tool called ThoughtExchange to receive instant feedback. Participants are asked to share what resonates



Superintendent Donna Colosky and Information Technology Director Andreeves Ronser work with Student Advisory Council members on the ThoughtExchange about the core values, vision and mission for Mercer Island Schools.

the most and what they feel is missing from the revised core values, vision and mission statements. In the next step, they "star" others' thoughts, giving them a rating of one (strongly disagree) to five (strongly agree).

"ThoughtExchange is widely used among school districts for just this kind of visioning process," Colosky said. "Once we complete the focus group meetings, we will share with the School Board all the thoughts and reactions to them, giving us a deeper dive into the data above and beyond a typical survey."

The School Board is expected to review the focus group results at its mid-year study session in June, and consider adopting the new core values, vision and mission for the 2019-2020 school year.



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THE MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Mercer Island School District Board of Directors are elected to four-year terms. Responsibilities include goal setting; employing the superintendent; setting district policy; adopting an operating budget; placing levies and bonds before voters; approving the instructional program; and ratifying contracts. Learn more at: www.mercerislandschools.org/board

Tracy Drinkwater
2015 - 2019



David D'Souza
2015 - 2019



Ralph Jorgenson
2015 - 2019



Deborah Lurie
2017 - 2021



Brian Giannini Upton
2017 - 2021



Donna Colosky
Superintendent
Secretary of the Board

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Mercer Island community,

As you will read on the front page of this edition of *District News*, the Board of Directors have spent many months on strategic planning and Board Policy 2020, which outlines the District's current vision, mission and values statements. BP 2020 also includes the seven fundamentals - goals which are measured and monitored annually.

This draft and revision of the why, what and how of our work with students is now ready for input through focus groups prior to the Board of Directors' adoption of revisions to this policy. The intent of this work is to center our "why" around students as the priority and our goal of supporting the whole child.

Why invest so much time in this effort? A recent report from the Aspen Institute, "From a Nation At Risk To A Nation At Hope," urges educators to set a clear vision that broadens the definition of student success to prioritize the whole child and reflect the interconnected social, emotional and cognitive dimensions of learning. The Board's recent work aligns Policy 2020 to current scientific evidence that confirms learning has social, emotional and cognitive dimensions that are inextricably linked.

The report's closing thoughts are as follows: "We must come together now and act on our collective hope. Opportunities create responsibilities and we are responsible - all of us who interact with students and all of us who care about students - for an approach to learning that touches and challenges the whole child."

Thank you to our Island community for your support of Mercer Island Schools. I hope you will join us on April 30 for the annual Mercer Island Schools Foundation Breakfast of Champions, celebrating Lifelong Learning.

Sincerely,

Donna Colosky, Superintendent

Three School Board positions up for election this year, filing for office in May

This November, three of the five Mercer Island School Board seats will be up for election. This includes board positions 1, 3 and 5. School Board directors are elected to four-year terms by Mercer Island voters.

Specific responsibilities of board members include, but are not limited to: systematically measuring the district's compliance with Board Policy 2020; monitoring superintendent performance; setting district policy; adopting an annual operating budget; placing levies and bonds before voters; and ratifying contracts negotiated with the local bargaining unit.

Individuals who wish to run for one of the three seats up for election must file with King County Elections between May 13 and May 17. To run, an individual must be a registered voter living in Mercer Island. If more than two people file for a single position a primary election will take place in August.

POINTS OF PRIDE



 The Mercer Island High School (MIHS) Marching Band co-directors **Parker Bixby and Kyle Thompson** received the Mike Sewell Tournament of Roses Service Through Music Award. This award is sponsored by the Michael Sewell Foundation and presented annually to a Tournament of Roses Band that demonstrates musical excellence and community service.

 MIHS senior **James Richardson** won two 3A titles and was named Swimmer of the Meet for his record-breaking performances for the Islanders, who finished second in the state.

 MIHS student **Katie Parkinson** earned first place in the Seattle Shakespeare Competition held at the Frye Art Museum. She will now advance to the ESU National Shakespeare Competition in New York City.

 **MIHS student musicians** had 11 category winners and many first and second alternates at the regional Eastshore Solo and Ensemble festival recently held in Bellevue. The winners qualify to compete at the WIAA/WMEA State Solo and Ensemble Contest at Central Washington University in Ellensburg April 26 and 27.

 The staff of the Islander, the MIHS student newspaper, won multiple awards at the Washington Journalism Excellence Association conference. Journalism teacher **Chris Twombly** received two awards, including Adviser of the Year.

 **KMIH 889 The Bridge student broadcasters** were honored with 20 Golden Microphone Awards at the 79th Annual Intercollegiate Broadcasting Conference and Golden Microphone Awards in New York City.

 **Islander Middle School (IMS) students earned 17 medals** at the regional Science Olympiad event, and MIHS students qualified for the state tournament by finishing in the top 10 at their regional.

 **24 MIHS DECA students** have qualified for the International conference in Orlando by virtue of their outstanding performances at the recent state event.

 **Northwood Elementary "Wize Owls"** won first place in the Mercer Island Global Reading Challenge finals. Teams of 4th and 5th graders read six selected books and then answered questions about them.

 **A combined 50 MIHS and IMS students** in band, orchestra and choir were selected to participate in the 2019 Washington Music Educators Association All-State honor groups.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 15TH ANNUAL
Breakfast of Champions



**MERCER ISLAND
SCHOOLS FOUNDATION**

Inspire

**TUESDAY, APRIL 30TH
MERCER ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

**Registration/Coffee: 7:00am
Program: 7:30 - 8:30am**

LIFELONG LEARNING

Reserve your seat online:
misf.com/individual-sign-up
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Mercer Island School District No. 400
District News Spring 2019

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elementary schools



NONDISCRIMINATION NOTIFICATION

The Mercer Island School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

**Harassment, Intimidation and
Bullying (HIB) Coordinator:**

Erin Battersby, Executive Director
206-230-6227
erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

Title IX Compliance Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Executive Director
206-230-6227
erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

Section 504 & ADA Coordinator:

Nova Williams, Assistant Director
(206) 236-4510
nova.williams@mercerislandschools.org

Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Executive Director
206-230-6227
erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org