FOLLOW UP MEMO

TO: Members of the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council (S-CAC)

FROM: Monik Martinez
Patrick Bannon

DATE: December 19, 2023

RE: SCAC Meeting 12/13/2023

cc: Kelly Aramaki, John Harrison, Jason Golec, Shomari Jones, Heather Sanchez

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WELCOME AND LOOKING FORWARD:

We had close to a full house last week as we met for the last time in 2023. This gave us some inspiration to both let go of something from this past year or look forward to in 2024. So many of us are sending our kids off to the next step in their journeys. Others of us are looking for more life balance next year. That sounds pretty good to us.

UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGE AND MAKING CHANGE:

John and Jason provided a PowerPoint presentation framing the short and long-term challenges facing the district, financially. The presentation is attached. We know that enrollment drives the vast majority of funding for the district and declining enrollment means fewer revenues. The district planning team of internal experts is looking for solutions that continue to innovate and deepen the district's commitment to equity while also addressing shrinking resources.

We had originally planned on smaller group breakout sessions to discuss community engagement strategies for 2024. However, given the information that was shared in the PowerPoint, we spent considerable time diving into a deep question and answer period. The Council showed deep interest in being better informed and prepared for making decisions at our upcoming meetings and made several recommendations on communications strategies for the district.

In addition to framing out the challenge, John shared concrete ways in which our work together in SCAC is shaping the district's outreach and communications strategies. He also let us know that there are many options on the table. Since our meeting, Dr. Aramaki has announced that the middle school consolidation option is off the table for at least the next two years. We hope you'll take a few minutes to read Dr. Aramaki's statement as he reflects on the role that SCAC made in coming to that decision. It was in some ways a great lesson in our work; the importance of raising voices and being heard.

WHAT'S NEXT:

Our next meeting is January 17th. Given Dr. Aramaki's announcement and the work of the planning team, we will dive deep into what engagement on budget priorities looks like moving forward. How to better communicate with our community – and continue building our muscles

in hearing from those who've been minoritized. Until then, please have a warm and wonderful holiday. We are so fortunate to work with all of you.

Take good care!

Monik and Patrick