

School Board Meeting Remarks
April 20, 2016

Good Evening School Board Members and Superintendent Enfield,

As a member of union leadership and a member of the staff here at Madrona, I would like to welcome the school board and district leadership to our campus. Tonight we are experiencing a unique confluence of events and that is why I asked President McCabe if I could take a few moments to mark this occasion. Tonight we would like to honor the authentic partnership that Principal Yarbough and Vice-Principal Delpino have forged with our staff. We are a staff of amazing educators, comprised of veterans and new arrivals, transfers from other schools, and transplants from other states, and what is really exciting, educators from around the world who have selected Madrona as their professional home.

In addition, last night, it was very much appreciated that Dr. Alvarez attended the Language Learning Symposium held at Mount Rainier. Director Van was kind enough to accept a last minute invitation to attend a panel presented by the staff from Madrona. I would also like to thank Ms. Delpino, as well as all the teachers and paraprofessionals from Madrona who attended as well.

Our panel presentation was on the work we are doing at Madrona to develop partnerships with our students and our families. Children from culturally diverse backgrounds do better when families and school staff collaborate to bridge the differences between home and school cultures. Families are essential to providing the support, motivation and understanding necessary to enhance our students' education. We value their expertise and insights knowing that these can enrich the quality of our students' learning. The purpose of last night's panel was to share how we are learning from parents and our students. We know that our work as educators depends on our ability to build solid, lasting relationships with our families. We are committed to finding common ground with all families and building relationships with them, with our building leaders, and with district administration so that we can best serve our students' interests.

We are very excited about the journey we are on and want Daniel to know that we will miss him for his humor, his support, his empathy, and for his leadership. At the same time we have the opportunity to welcome a colleague back into the fold. We are pleased that Kelly Hernandez wants to partner with us in the very challenging but rewarding work we do here at Madrona.

Thank you for your visit here today.

Sandy Hunt, HEA Vice President