

From: **Erin Okuno** <[erin@allfivesinfive.org](mailto:erin@allfivesinfive.org)>

Date: Tue, Jan 24, 2017 at 3:07 PM

Subject: Educators Not Books -- Signed by 27 Executive Directors, Advocates, and Parents

To: SchoolBoard <[schoolboard@seattleschools.org](mailto:schoolboard@seattleschools.org)>

To: Seattle School Board Directors and Leadership Staff

We are asking you to defer approving and purchasing English Language Arts Curriculum. Educators need to be prioritized over books. Purchasing \$5-million in new curriculum means money will be taken from elsewhere. Students will bear the burden if new curriculum is purchased; adding another \$5-million to the already devastating deficit will mean students will see an increased loss of educators in their schools.

We recognize curriculum hasn't been purchased in 20-years— this is not the year to make such a hefty investment. The investment made will be on the backs of students who will benefit more from stable relationships with educators than from new books.

The board and school district has publicly said they will prioritize and protect educators in this budgeting process. Purchasing curriculum is counter to this public commitment. Our message is simple: **Educators Not Books**.

Sincerely,

Kyle Angelo  
Executive Director, City Year Seattle King County

Pamela Banks  
President and CEO, Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle

Nimco Bulale  
Education Organizer and SESEC Steering Committee Member, OneAmerica

Shiela Burrus  
Executive Director, Filipino Community of Seattle

Roy Chang  
Lead Pastor of Seattle Chinese Alliance Church

Phyllis Campano  
Seattle Education Association

Gregory Davis  
Rainier Beach Action Coalition

Sandy Gunder  
Chair, SESEC Steering Committee and Program Coordinator, Powerful Schools YMCA

Lindsay Hill  
Education Advocate and South Seattle Parent

James Hong  
Executive Director, Vietnamese Friendship Association

Andrew Jay  
CEO, Tiny Trees Preschool

Michael Itti  
Executive Director, Commission for Asian Pacific American Affairs

Lexi Keeler  
Education Advocate and South Seattle Parent

George Meng  
Board Member, City Year Seattle King County

Deidre McCormack Martin  
Executive Director, Summer Search Seattle

Diane Narasaki  
Executive Director, Asian Counseling and Referral Services

Sharonne Navas  
Co-Founder and Executive Director, Equity in Education Coalition

Roxana Norouzi  
Director of Education & Integration Policy, OneAmerica

Mark Okazaki  
Executive Director, Neighborhood House

Erin Okuno  
Executive Director, Southeast Seattle Education Coalition and S Seattle Parent

Estela Ortega  
Executive Director, El Centro de la Raza

Amy Pak  
Founder, Executive Director, Families of Color Seattle

Fern Renville, *Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate*  
Executive Director, Red Eagle Soaring

Heidi Schillinger  
Founder and Principal, Equity Matters

Mia Tuan  
Dean, College of Education, University of Washington

Misha Werschkul  
Advocate and South Seattle Parent

Nourah Yonous  
African Women Business Alliance