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Sent: Monday, February 01, 1999 8:47 AM
To: Joseph Olchefske (E-mail); Brian Benzel (E-mail); Barbara Schaad-Lamphere (E-mail); Don Nielsen (E-mail); Ellen Roe (E-mail); Jan Kumasaka (E-mail); Michael Preston (E-mail); Nancy Waldman (E-mail); Scott Barnhart (E-mail)
Cc: Karen Kodama (E-mail); Dick Lilly (E-mail)
Subject: Remembering the Dream: International School in Seattle
To: Seattle School Board
Joseph Olchefske, Brian Benzel, Seattle School District
cc: Dick Lilly, The Seattle Times, Karen Kodama, Principal of the International School
From: Michele Anciaux, parent in the Seattle Public Schools

Remembering the Dream: John Stanford's Vision for the International School in Seattle

On numerous occasions John Stanford spoke personally to community members about his dream for "the International School." What he had in mind was very different from the usual models for international schools where the international component is intended to attract the top 10-15% of students with a rigorous, college-prep curriculum.

Mr. Stanford envisioned a school where all children would have a chance to learn more than one language and to learn everything else in the context of the broader world that we all live in today. He wanted it to be a school that would attract immigrant children, who would be encouraged to maintain and develop the language they spoke at home, even while they learned to master English and perhaps began tackling a third language. He wanted it to be a school where English-speaking children came to understand other languages as something real spoken by real people, not just another subject to memorize from a book. All children leaving the school would be well-equipped with the 21st century skill of knowing how to learn second languages. In that climate, he believed, students who normally struggle with the basics of reading, writing, and mathematics would excel in those areas, as well.

Mr. Stanford knew that such a school had never existed in Seattle or Washington state before, but that did not stop him from dreaming or taking action to realize his dream. The effort to launch the International School is already gathering momentum:

* Current funding for the International School is provided by a 3-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

* Mr. Stanford himself selected the principal for the K-8 school, Karen Kodama. Mrs. Kodama, who was a recipient of the 1997 A+ Award for Excellence from the Alliance for Education, is working full-time on planning this year.

* There is growing parent and community involvement in the school, including support from the Alliance for Education through its International Compact. Mrs. Kodama has assembled a diverse group of educators, parents, and community members to serve on the International School Committee.

* The International School has the support of the state Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, which offers the Summer Language Immersion Camp in Seattle. Larry Strickland, Director of Social Studies and International Education at OSPI, is a member of the International School Committee.

* The University of Washington has proposed to use the International School as a model training ground for teaching languages in elementary school and developing an international curriculum in other subject areas. The UW would also help the International School students learn from others around the world through new high-speed Internet2 connections that the UW is piloting.

Mr. Stanford had many dreams, but perhaps none were unique to him in the way that the International School was. Everyone at every level of government, educational agency, and community speaks of the

importance of reading. But, part of Mr. Stanford's great skill in leadership was the ability to see beyond the immediate problems and solutions for today. He understood that a community needs to challenge itself, to attempt that which it does not yet know how to do. Creating the International School in his vision is just such a challenge for our community.

The Stanford family has reminded us repeatedly: "As you remember the dreamer, remember the dream." Mr. Stanford's own motto was "Do What You Say You Will Do." Seattle School District must do what it said it would do and continue supporting the dream and reality of "The John Stanford International School of Seattle."