

HIGH POINT OPEN SPACES ASSOCIATION EVENTS COMMITTEE

MISSION

to create and support
events and projects
for and by residents
that encourage
community involvement
and enrichment

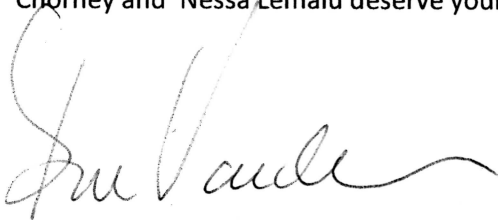
To: Larry Nyland, Superintendent, Seattle Public Schools
Re: Middle College High School

I am writing in support of the valuable and necessary educational work that is being conducted at Middle College High School located at Neighborhood House in High Point, West Seattle.

I have had the pleasure of working with the students from Middle College High School (MCHS) in a project called Keep High Point Green. MCHS "adopted" a very large garden bed which was overgrown with weeds and invasive plants. They mapped the space using techniques from South Seattle College. They patiently cleared out vetch and dandelions and then worked with a local nursery to select and install new plants. I was impressed by their willingness to get down and dig in dirt, keep track of tools, work in teams, think through the logic of plant placement, be aware of the many variables that contribute to organic horticulture. The flexible and creative teaching staff used this project as a way to discuss science, math, history and art in an interdisciplinary setting. Students were also performing valuable community service with this project. They were very visible when they were working and they inspired others to volunteer.

MCHS has become an integral part of the High Point community. It would be a loss if the school were to leave. It would also be a loss to the student who are so clearly benefitting from a small, focused, innovative approach. I have heard that many of the students are at risk and I have seen firsthand how MCHS provides substance, challenge, dignity, consistency and hope.

Please continue to value school such as MCHS with increased administrative and financial support. The dedicated, gifted teachers who guide the students of MCHS, Alonzo Ybarra, Boo Balkan-Foster, Andrea Chorney and Nessa Lemalu deserve your consistent, generous support.



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