

## Letter of Support for Middle College High School High Point and Ida B. Wells site

I am a parent of a child in the Seattle Public Schools, an employee of the district and a community member of West Seattle. I am writing in support of the students, staff and families of Middle College High School High Point and Ida B. Wells site.

The goals of our strategic plan are (a) to ensure educational excellence and equity for every student (b) improved systems district-wide to support academic outcomes and meet students' needs and (c) strengthen school, family and community engagement.

Middle College High School High Point has served West Seattle and the south end for 18 years. For the past few years, 20-25 students graduate from the school annually. This school is doing the one thing our district is striving to accomplish - closing the achievement gap. The student body is comprised of youth who are disenfranchised from our traditional high schools. Through the hard work and dedication of the teachers at Middle College High School High Point, the teachers are able to build relationships and connections with the students in a smaller setting. As a result of feeling cared for, the students are motivated to work hard and do well.

Closing Middle College High School High Point will be a great injustice to the students, their families, staff and the community of High Point. Our district will knowingly choose to fail all three goals of our strategic plan. What will happen to these students? One can only imagine that they will lose the meaningful connections they have built with their teachers, and will most likely drop out of school. Also, if Middle College High School High Point closes, the Ida B. Wells site will be isolated. Our district needs to retain the experienced teachers of color who work tirelessly to support these students.

It's very disappointing to know that the district chose to inform the students, families and staff that their school was closing by letter rather than having the courtesy to engage with them face-to-face.

Closing this school will mean that our district is choosing not to follow the three goals outlined in our strategic plan. In addition, this action will antagonize the community.

Please renew the lease with High Point Center and negotiate one that is long-term so that the students can continue on their educational journey. Educational excellence for every student.

Sincerely

Rosslyn Shea