



Legislative Building

## Washington State Legislature

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

September 10, 2018

Superintendent Carla Santorno and  
Tacoma School Board Members  
P.O. Box 1357  
Tacoma WA 98401-1357

Dear Superintendent Santorno and Tacoma School Board Members:

We write as members of the Washington Legislature who have portions of the Tacoma School District within our respective legislative districts. Like you, we highly value the school district and those teachers, classified staff and administrators who are a part of teaching our children. We are disheartened by the failure of the parties to come to a contract agreement and hope that the commitments we make below might help move settlement conversations forward.

We recognize that the funding formula agreed upon in 2017 disproportionately affected Tacoma Public Schools and a few other districts. We aim to fix these inequities in the 2019 legislative session because we want to keep salaries competitive to attract and retain great teachers and staff.

There are a myriad of issues which, combined, have placed Tacoma schools in one of the most difficult positions of any district in Washington. While not all of these issues will be able to be addressed in a single legislative session, our energies will be focused on addressing levy capacity, appropriately funding special education costs, funding health care costs under the new system, addressing salary regionalization factors, funding institutional education costs, increasing funding for support staff, addressing the experience-mix multiplier, examining the prototypical staffing model and improving equity for high poverty school districts like ours.

While the Legislature and Supreme Court agree that the McCleary challenge has been met, our work is not complete. Solving the McCleary challenge was never the end of the education funding discussion, nor was it ever the only policy discussion when it comes to schools. We stand with you in our commitment to get our kids back to school and to address the unique, long-term funding challenges faced by the Tacoma School District. It's in all of our best interests.

If there are additional ways we can help resolve negotiation challenges, please let us know. We stand ready to help.

Sincerely,



Steve Conway  
State Senator-29<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Laurie Jenkins  
State Representative-27<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



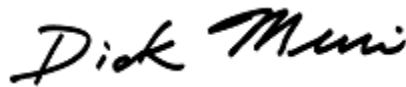
Jeannie Darneille  
State Senator-27<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Steve Kirby  
State Representative-29<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Jake Fey  
State Representative-27<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Dick Muri  
State Representative-28<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Christine Kilduff  
State Representative-28<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Steve O'Ban  
State Senator-28<sup>th</sup> Legislative District