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Dear Seattle School Board and PTSA Leadership,

A crucial criterion for the next Seattle Schools Superintendent is his/her commitment to ensuring Seattle students learn how to be thoughtful, effective citizens. Central to achieving that is learning early and throughout their educational journey that nothing is more important than their **RESPONSIBILITY TO VOTE**. Key to giving them the knowledge and practice that makes voting an understandable, ingrained habit is **participating in required Mock Elections**.

As Superintendent of Public Instruction, Civic Education was a top priority, and for 20 years after leaving that post, I co-chaired the Council on Public Legal Education—now known as the Civic Learning Council—whose members work to ensure Civic education through knowledge and practice is a key component of K-12 Education.

Our democracy exists only as long as citizens sustain it by understanding they play the most essential role by voting for people whose policies foster and sustain it. In the end, it is not groups like the Civic Learning Council or Civics for All that decide what kids learn about voting. It is elected representatives like you and the superintendent you choose to lead Seattle Public Schools.

Please make certain Seattle students have the opportunity to learn and practice the role voting plays in maintaining a healthy democracy by selecting a new superintendent committed to implementing Mock Elections across the district.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Billings

Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1989-1997.