Dear ---,

It was wonderful visiting Capital Hill on February 20th, with other National Board Certified Teachers. I visited your office and left a pamphlet concerning recommendations from the National Board Policy Summit we held last November. I hope you had a chance to take a look at it. If you have any questions, I’d love to speak with you.

My other reason for emailing is to update you on some of the awesome things happening in our schools here in Spokane as a result of accomplished teachers in the classroom. As an NBCT, I have the pleasure and honor of facilitating a National Board cohort for teachers seeking to achieve National Board certification. Over the past school year, I have worked with 30 of the best teachers in our area as they go through the extremely rigorous process of completing their boards. Here are a few of the highlights:

1. One teacher in the Spokane Valley has worked intimately with tribal elders to bring local Native American tribal information, lore, and experience into her classroom. Since developing (and helping her colleagues to develop) this element of their instruction, this teacher has seen dramatic increases in her middle schoolers’ mastery of the standards and content, and a marked increase in student interest in classroom instruction. She has also seen a decrease in absenteeism. She is innovative and her students benefit from her accomplished practices.
2. One English Language Development teacher in my own school developed a unit for her social studies class on immigration. This unit already had high interest for her students as they all have their own immigration journeys, but she made it even more interesting by eliciting immigration stories from her colleagues in the school. The students interviewed one of these educators/education support professionals and created a presentation and poster, which they presented then displayed throughout the hallway outside of their classroom. Students were highly interested and learned a great deal about immigration throughout history and were able to make key connections to their own experiences. This is an awesome example of accomplished teaching.
3. An English teacher from one of our most challenging high schools in the district helped her 10th grade English students with college and career readiness. She held a socratic seminar with one class of students who showed little interest in post secondary education. They were unsure of their options and many had no plans beyond high school graduation. In this socratic seminar students lead the conversation based on questions they developed and research they completed throughout previous class periods. As a result, most of the student in this class now have goals and post-graduation plans. She is making a difference in her students now and into their futures. She is an accomplished teacher.

I have so many more stories to share, but don’t want to take up too much of your time. I think it’s important for you to hear about the amazing things happening in our public schools. Please consider these wonderful teachers as you make important decisions concerning our profession. I welcome the opportunity to talk with you more and again invite you to visit my classroom - The Newcomer Center at Joel E. Ferris High School in Spokane, WA. Please contact me about anything education related. Thanks for your time.

Best,

Mandy Manning

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