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Dear Clyde Hill Elementary Community,

It is with open arms and a welcoming heart that we get the opportunity to welcome back a part of our community, the Wilburton community. With the recent decision to blend school communities, we are looking toward a future that is centered in love, inclusion, and empathy. The addition of our neighbors at Wilburton allows us to re-imagine and co-create a new community as staff, students, and families. It is with immense pleasure, that I get to announce the addition of a co-principal in our community, Mr. Chhoun Mey. Mr. Mey is the current principal at Wilburton, and together we will serve as co-principals for the upcoming school year.

Here is a little information about Chhoun Mey in his own words:

When I was a kid, I did not know that one day I would end up in the teaching profession. During college I spent some reconnecting with my roots by volunteering in Cambodia to teach English at an orphanage and at an HIV/AIDS organization. That experience helped me discover a passion for teaching and education. This passion helped fuel my desire to gain some clarity around my cultural identity as a Cambodian American. My parents survived a genocide and war in Cambodia and came to the U.S. as war refugees when I was two years old. We grew up in subsidized government housing in the greater Seattle area. Due to the war, my mom did not graduate middle school and my dad did not graduate high school. Despite my family's educational background, the importance of education has always been present in our family. I graduated from the University of Washington where I also received my K-8 teaching certificate, M.Ed. and principal certificate.

Next school year will mark my 17th year in the Bellevue School District. In my time here, I have taught 5th grade at Sherwood Forest and 6th grade at Highland Middle School. I took a two-year leave from the district for an opportunity to teach 4th and 5th grade at in IB World school in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The experience my wife, Sophearum, and I had in Cambodia was amazing and life-changing for many reasons, but most of all because our son, Caden, was born there. I am excited to re-connect with educators at Clyde Hill that I worked with when I was as an ITCL several years back. More recently, I have been an assistant principal at Phantom Lake Elementary until my current role as Principal of Wilburton. In addition to Caden, who is now 8 years old, we also have a soon to be 3-year-old daughter named Kayla that keeps us all very busy at home.

Chhoun and I are excited to partner together as co-principals in our blending of communities. We have great mutual respect; we have previously collaborated in work across the district together and have always leaned on one another as building leaders of color. We are elated to pioneer the district's first co-principal model with all of you learning and leading alongside us. We both have deep personal commitment to social justice and racial equity and believe in the vital role public education plays in our society, particularly in how it should be serving our historically marginalized and underrepresented students. We believe in our shared values of community, authenticity, equity, connection, kindness, relationship, and collaboration. Although this opportunity was born out of the recent school consolidation process, we are hopeful that we can and will co-create a beautiful, vibrant, and inclusive school community at Clyde Hill Elementary.

Con Amor,

Brooke and Chhoun

