Honors LA 10

November 19, 2013 **An Ingraham Story**

**Directions**: Read the following article carefully, marking it up as you go (underline or highlight important parts, and jot down reactions or questions in the margins as they occur to you). Then, in a journal entry, give thorough and thoughtful responses to each of the questions at the end of the article.

Originally published Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 9:32 AM

**Principal of Seattle's Ingraham High School to be replaced**

Martin Floe, the popular principal at Seattle's Ingraham High, has been dismissed by interim Superintendent Susan Enfield, a move that has shocked many parents and teachers at the northwest Seattle school.

**By**[**Linda Shaw**](http://search.nwsource.com/search?searchtype=cq&sort=date&from=ST&byline=Linda%20Shaw)

*Seattle Times education reporter*

Martin Floe, the popular principal at Seattle's Ingraham High, has been dismissed by interim Superintendent Susan Enfield, shocking many parents and teachers at the North Seattle school.

Enfield declined Wednesday to say much about her decision, calling it a personnel matter.

But she said it wasn't a move she made lightly — or quickly.

It was based on data and observations over the course of this school year, she said, and reflects her desire to ensure that every school has a strong leader and high-quality teaching in every classroom.

"Looking at the data," she said, "we knew it (Ingraham) could be better."

Even a resolution signed by all Ingraham's staff members expressing confidence in Floe's leadership wouldn't change her mind, she said. "We've gone through the process and arrived at this decision thoughtfully."

Floe has 10 days to decide whether to appeal, but he declined to say Wednesday whether he will go that route.

Whatever happens, he will finish out the school year.

Many parents, teachers and students say they think Enfield and Bree Dusseault, Floe's supervisor, are making a big mistake.

"To say that I was speechless is really not even describing how I felt," said parent Cindy Nevins, who is the school's PTSA president and has two daughters who are Ingraham graduates and one who is a junior.

Nevins said she was speaking for herself because the PTSA Board hasn't yet met to discuss its collective response.

When Floe called her with the news Monday, "the idea came so far out of left field that I had trouble even comprehending what he was saying," she said.

Several teachers said all the school's staff signed a resolution supporting Floe, although Enfield said she hasn't seen it yet.

The resolution, among other things, says Floe "built Ingraham into a cohesive, caring and academically challenging school."

Science teacher Peter Schurke said Ingraham's staff feels blindsided and was "shocked, stunned and hurt" by the news.

"We feel this is tremendously unfair to a very good and effective educator," he said.

Many worried that Dusseault, who started work in Seattle in August, hasn't been here long enough to understand the culture at Ingraham or how far the school has come.

Under Floe's leadership over the past seven years, Ingraham developed the rigorous International Baccalaureate (IB) program. The school in 2009 made Newsweek's list of the nation's top high schools.

And this fall, the school will open a new, accelerated IB program for students in the district's Accelerated Progress Program (APP) for highly capable students, which makes some parents question whether it's a good time for a leadership change.

Enfield said district staff plan to meet with incoming APP parents soon to assure them of the commitment to the new program, and said she'll also meet with other parents if invited.

Four current Ingraham parents and four teachers have already scheduled an appointment with Enfield during her office hours Thursday.

Enfield said the district plans to name an interim principal while it searches for a permanent replacement.

Floe isn't the first person Enfield has dismissed in the past month.

She also dismissed the district's human-resources director and eliminated the job of the executive director of facilities.

* Accessed via <http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2015022948_ingraham12m.html>

Journal Entry: **May 11th 2011**

1. Restate the story in your own words, focusing on the facts offered in this article.
2. Where does bias appear in this article? Where is it evident that someone has their own version, or “slant,” of the story to tell? Record each of these.
3. What did you know about this incident before reading this article? What did you learn by reading? Did anything in particular surprise you?
4. What questions do you have about this story after reading? What do you want to know more about?