

Mary Fertakis, M.Ed. – CEO, *M Fertakis Consulting, LLC*; Board Member, *Washington State Board of Education*; Former Director, *Tukwila School Board (WA)*; Consultant, *National School Boards Association - Equity Department*; Consultant, *Washington State School Directors Association Leadership Development Cadre*.

Mary Fertakis is the CEO of her own consulting business, specializing in P-12 education and equity issues, including strategic planning and resource allocation through an equity lens. As a Consultant with the NSBA Equity Department, she has provided training and assistance to the AK, CA, GA, KY, OK, OR, MN, NC, TX, WA and WI School Board Associations on equity and inclusion issues, and worked with school districts in WA, WI, NC, KY, and GA.

Fertakis served on the Tukwila School Board for 22 years, representing a school district that has been called the most ethnically-diverse in the United States. During her tenure, Fertakis served two terms as the Board President, seven years as the Board VP, 10 years as the Legislative Representative, and was engaged in the policy, resource, and culture shift as the district transitioned from being a majority White to a majority Students of Color district and community.

Fertakis was the 2012 President of the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA), served on WSSDA's *Closing the Achievement Gap Task Force*, Urban Issues Committee, and Diversity & Multicultural Action Team. She also served as Chair of the Washington State Federal Relations Network, advocating for her students at the federal level for 21 years. She represented WSSDA on the Expanded Learning Opportunities Council, a task force of the state legislature, and served on the Early Learning Work Group for Washington State's ESSA plan process. She was elected to the Washington State Board of Education (SBE) in Nov. 2019, serves on the Board's Equity and Legislative Committees, and is the SBE representative on the state-wide Social Emotional Learning Work Group.

She is an original member of the *Racial Equity Policy Design Team* of the Puget Sound ESD and WSSDA, which created a process for school district leadership teams to develop Race and Equity policies, and delivers this content through a series of all-day convenings.

She also serves on the *Leadership Tomorrow Curriculum Committee*, co-designing the Education Challenge Day for emerging leaders who represent the public, private and non-profit sectors, and ensuring that a race, equity, and social justice focus is embedded in the year-long program's curriculum.

In addition, Fertakis serves on the *Community Leadership Team (CLT)* of the *Road Map Project (RMP)*, a regional, cradle-to-career initiative involving seven school districts, with the goal of doubling the number of post-secondary degrees earned by students in South King County by 2030. The CLT is charged with implementing the regional strategic plan, which has a strong racial equity focus. She has served on the *RMP's High School to College Completion, Birth to 3rd Grade, Summer Learning Loss, and Bi-Lingual Teacher Pipeline Work Groups*.

She is the founder of the *Tukwila Children's Foundation*, which helps meet the unmet needs of children in the Tukwila community, and serves on the Board of *Still Waters*, a non-profit serving homeless families in Tukwila.

Fertakis is a Seattle native with a life-long interest in, and appreciation for, world cultures. She served two years as a *Rural Community Development Program Officer* for the US Peace Corps in Senegal, where her projects included: constructing a school; creating micro-enterprise opportunities for women; primary health care training; reforestation; gardening/nutrition; introduction of fuel-efficient stoves; improving grain storage/preservation; and improved access to water and sanitation. She maintains regular contact with her Senegalese family and village.

Fertakis holds a B.A. in Political Science and a B.A. in International Studies from the University of Washington, an ELL Teaching Certification from Seattle University, a Master's degree in Education Policy from the University of Washington School of Education, and certification in P-3 systems work from the UW's P-3 Executive Leadership Institute. She has certifications from the Harvard Graduate School of Education's P-3 Institute and their Family Engagement Institute.

She is married to Jon and has two sons, both college grads who are actually working in their degree fields. They share their home with two Golden Retrievers, and a lot of Seahawks paraphernalia collected over many years.