



Across the Board January 2010

Happy New Year! We hope you had a great holiday season and winter break and are refreshed and ready to jump back in to the school year. It's hard to believe that the end of this month marks the half way point of the school year! We're counting on you to continue your good work with students with a continued focus on getting all students to graduation.

By now you're aware that the District will again be facing financial challenges on the local and state level. We've prepared for a declining enrollment hit, but with added state budget pressures, we'll be looking very closely, again, at ways to cut the budget for the 2010-11 school year.

In December Governor Chris Gregoire announced her [proposed 2010 supplemental budget](#) to close a \$2.6 billion state budget shortfall. The governor plans on introducing a second budget in January. We'll be listening closely to determine how the state cuts will affect our District schools. Board members will be asking for your feedback once again as to how best to retain and maintain quality programs with fewer dollars. You can learn more about Washington State's budget [here](#). Rest assured that this board and boards across the state are fighting to keep these cuts from affecting our classrooms.

Welcome Back to School!
Board President Lonnie Linn

School Board Directors Take Oath of Office

Sarah Methner and Director Cindy Kelly, who was re-elected as Director 2 of the Port Angeles School District, were sworn in to office by Judge Brooke Taylor at the December board meeting. Sarah replaces retiring Director Nancy McLaughlin after winning the Director 1 position in the November election.

Director Lonnie Linn was elected as Board president and Cindy will serve as vice president. They were elected for one year terms in these roles. Steve Baxter and Dr. Patti Happe remain as directors. Harper Grimes serves as the student representative to the board.

The Board also confirmed [committee, task force and school assignments](#) for the 2009-10 school year.

Introducing Sarah Methner

As the mother of four children in the Port Angeles School District, Sarah has a very strong interest in how it is run. She has worked as a member of the District's Fiscal Advisory Committee which has provided her vast knowledge of our budget and the complex web of laws that affect school funding.

“What I have learned is that there is no ‘magic bullet’ to solve our problems,” she says. “The District is going to need to become more flexible, more innovative and more open to outside ideas. Businesses, service organizations, and community leaders need to come together for the betterment of all. Teachers, parents, administrators and politicians can't solve these problems alone.”

“I will be valuable in my frequent interactions with parents,” Sarah explains. “I am in a position to hear concerns that the board may not even be aware of. I am the queen of ‘the parking lot talk,’ and am very eager to hear a wide range of views, opinions, and hopefully great ideas.”

“Now is the time for real solutions, and I am eager to work toward excellence in our public schools. With excellent schools we invite new business, new professionals, new jobs and new growth. Together we can tackle the problems by being innovative and united behind what is best for Port Angeles and our students.”

Enrollment Report and Outlook

The District's total enrollment for December 2009 (not including Skills Center or Running Start) is 3,745.47 FTE. This is 87.49 FTE fewer than last year at this time but is 67.24 FTE students above budget. The budget is based upon the average FTE over the entire school year. If the month-by-month enrollment trends from the past five years continue, it is projected that the average enrollment for the 2009-10 school year will be 3,717.02 FTE or 38.74 students more than budgeted. *The [Enrollment Report](#) is posted monthly to the District website.*

Purdue Project Participation

At our December 14 meeting, the directors approved participation in the Purdue Project. This project offers the opportunity to partner with Purdue University's Gifted Education Resource Institute in the development and implementation of Total School Cluster Grouping for our highly capable elementary students. This is a key area of recent work by our Highly Capable Student Task Force. Data needs are minimal, focusing primarily on data that our District routinely gathers in the course of educating students. There is no cost for our participation.

Cluster grouping is a widely recommended and often used strategy for meeting the needs of high-achieving and high-ability students in the regular elementary classroom. Its use has gained popularity in recent years because of the move toward inclusive education, budget cuts and heterogeneous grouping policies that have eliminated programs for gifted students. Total School Cluster Grouping aims to

- provide full-time services to high-achieving, high-ability elementary students,
- help all students improve their academic achievement and educational self-efficacy,
- help teachers more effectively and efficiently meet the diverse needs of their students,
- weave gifted education and talent development “know-how” into the fabric of all educational practices in the school.

WSSDA Conference Board Participation

Several board members and Superintendent Jane Pryne attended the [Washington State School Directors Association Conference](#) in Seattle during November. The annual conference features workshops and clinics on the latest trends and issues in education and gives those in attendance

the chance to exchange ideas with other Washington State school board directors and administrators. If you'd like to read through some of the presentation materials, you can view them on the [WSSDA conference handout website page](#).

Let's Hear from You!

Send an email to info@portangelesschools.org or join us for an upcoming [school board meeting](#). Consider attending the January meetings on January 11 at Central Services and January 25 at Lincoln High School or log on to BoardDocs[®] and [follow us online](#) .

Congratulations and Thank You!

We know the reason for student success is largely due largely to teacher and staff support, so let's celebrate our students, and your, success!

★ Welcome again to our newest board director, Sarah Methner! Congratulations to Cindy Kelly: Four more years! Many, many thanks to retired Director Nancy McLaughlin for her eight years of service to our students and staff!

★ Congratulations to Stevens Principal Chuck Lisk for his recognition by the Association of Washington Middle Level Principals as *Olympic Region Principal of the Year for 2009-2010*.

★ A round of applause to Bill Tideman! At December's school board meeting, he was honored for his thirty-five years of service to District athletic programs.

★ Many thanks to Principal Loren Engel, Hamilton and Lincoln students for appearing "live" on the Todd Ortloff KONP district radio show in December: Alexis Biss, Molly Standley, Cory Miller and Jordan Lemon (Lincoln) and Nathaniel Gamez, Emily Johnson, Ellie Engel and Janelle Stevenson (Hamilton).

★ Thank you to Ms. Christine Chang and her Jefferson students for representing classmate Theo Nelson as "Secretary of the Day." Congratulations for your first place award in the Lion's Peanut Butter Drive.

★ Thank you to staff members for your generous donations to United Way! Thank you to our *PAHS United Way Outrageous Olympics* team members Aishia Dueno, Connor Spurr, EV Grier and Elizabeth Helwick.

★ Sodexo Director John Koch reports local carrots were purchased from Nash's Organic Farms for use in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Grant Program at Dry Creek Elementary. Thanks, Sodexo! The students thought it was cool the carrots came from Nash's!

★ Roosevelt Elementary paraeducator JoAnn Lewis reports Blue Thunder runners have already completed 14,248 laps for 3,562 miles since September. Congratulations to top runners to date:

Grayson Mahany, 375 laps; Lainey Sukert, 360 laps; and Brady Nickerson and Tanner Lunt, 280 laps. *Go, Blue Thunder runners!*

★ Congratulations to PAHS DECA and FBLA organizations for receipt of grants totaling \$1,000 from the Port Angeles Education Foundation. Jack and Terri Harmon, Victoria Rapid Transit, Inc. and Robert and Marsha Steffen of Wisconsin awarded the grants to the business and marketing organizations through the Foundation.

★ Kudos to PAHS student Bret Carey and his teacher Dan Lieberman for their involvement in the new natural resources website. Visit www.opnrc.org and check it out!

★ Thanks to all school groups who raised money and goods for our community, entertained with song and instrument, or hosted family and friends at holiday luncheons and dinners! *What a giving spirit you have!*

How to Contact Us

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Board Assignments for 2009-10

You may view board members' assignments to schools, district committees and task forces at www.portangelesschools.org. *See Board Assignments. These were updated at our December 14 meeting.*

How to Contact Your Legislators!

Please use your home email and phone!

Senator Maria Cantwell (D-Mountlake Terrace)

202.224.3441

Senator Patty Murray (D-Freeland)

202.224.2621

Write Murray and Cantwell:

U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510

Email from www.congress.org

Representative Norm Dicks (D-Belfair)

800.947.6676

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