



Across the Board March 1, 2010

The Board of Directors thanks you for your dedication to students and asks for your continued support as we plan for the next school year. Thank you for attending your school's budget meeting. We know the information is and was difficult to hear, but we hope that it was informative. Continue asking questions, send us and the Fiscal Advisory Committee your constructive suggestions, and stay informed! We don't like the situation we're in, but we need to take the opportunity to restructure over the next five years and make adjustments for enrollment decline and State set backs. School districts throughout the state are facing many of these difficult decisions too. Please remember to support each other. These changes involve the whole District, not one school, not one classroom and not one program. As I've mentioned before, please remember all budget questions must pass a final question. What is the absolute best we can do for our kids? The Fiscal Advisory Committee is working hard to review your suggestions. Keep an eye on [Budget News](#) on the home page of the [District website](#) for updates. We will announce information as it is available.

Board President Lonnie Linn

Opportunities for Budget Information, Questions and Feedback

The District's Fiscal Advisory Committee is still actively seeking input from all staff, students, and community members regarding future budget cuts. Committee members will host a second community forum on *March 16, 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Franklin Elementary* to ask for feedback and discuss budget issues.

- *March 30, 2010*: unranked list of budget suggestions released to public;
- *April 12, 2010*: Fiscal Advisory Committee Report with ranked list of budget cut recommendations presented at regular School Board meeting, 7:00 p.m.;
- *April 26, 2010*: Special School Board Meeting at Central Services Building, 7:00 p.m., Reduced Educational Program decisions

Questions, comments or suggestions can be emailed to budget@portangelesschools.org.

Budget 101: "Do You Know" Updates

Do you know that the school district depends on the state for most of our budget resources?

- 63.4% from the State
- 22.2% from the local maintenance & operations levy
- 14.3 Federal funds
- .1% local and other resources

Are staff members who qualify as "retire-rehire" given the same seniority as if they had never retired?

In respect to “retire-rehire,” state funding is based on a person's years of experience and number of college credits. The school pays the teacher based on his/her years of experience and the number of credits and clock hours, and this is how the state allocates funds to the school. Funding has nothing to do with whether the person has retired or not. There are no additional costs or savings to the District when hiring a retiree. The courts ruled recently that schools must treat all applicants the same, including retirees. Schools are expected to hire the best qualified for the job and may not use age against an applicant.

Enrollment Report and Outlook

The District's total enrollment for February 2010 (not including Skills Center or Running Start) is 3,709.69 FTE. This is 78 FTE fewer than last year at this time but is 31.46 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 3,716.93 FTE or 38.65 students more than budgeted. *The [Enrollment Report](#) is posted monthly to the District website.*

Skyward Student Access Update

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Reid reported to the Board: For the current school year, the secondary schools are continuing the Family Access parent communication tool, which is affiliated with the Skyward Student Records System.

Staff at the secondary schools and selected elementary staff have received training in how to use the program. As the implementation is being rolled out at the sixth grade level, principals from the implementing schools have been meeting with Michelle Reid to troubleshoot grading thresholds, policies and teacher expectations that are common across the system. A smooth implementation continues with most of the technical trouble shooting being accomplished in real time.

Online Measurement of Student Progress (MSP) Test Pilot Update

At this time, the state has confirmed that Stevens will be participate in the pilot for grades seven and eight for reading and grade eight for math. As a result, the testing window for these content and grade specific assessments will be two weeks longer than the paper and pencil testing window. The pilot assessment window will run from May 3 to June 4. *[See State Testing and Graduation Handouts.](#)*

Food Service Contract Expires

The current food services contract expires at the end of the current academic year. The District will be sending out an RFP for the new food services contract this spring. Given the changes in federal nutrition expectations, as well as state and local expectations for healthy foods, the new RFP will likely reflect a greater emphasis on foods served being deemed more nutritious than in prior contract expectations.

After School Program Discussion

At our January 19, 2010 Special Meeting, we discussed the direction of the after school program in the District. The discussion revolved around ensuring that our families had affordable, convenient, and supportive after school care for our elementary students. We directed Superintendent Jane Pryne to survey the parents on their after school care needs and to report

back to the board at a later meeting with the survey results. Superintendent Pryne has drafted a survey for parents for review.

The 2010 Census is Coming! Stand Up, Be Counted!

Every year more than \$300 billion in federal funds are awarded to states and communities based on census date. That's more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period. Completing the Census helps to provide: Each state's delegation of seats for the U.S. House of Representatives; Community planning such as roads, hospitals, and schools; Jobs; Language services; and Health services. Census Day is April 1, 2010. Fill out your form ASAP when it arrives in the mail!

Let's Hear from You!

Send an email to info@portangelesschools.org.

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!

★ Thanks to Roosevelt Elementary's students and staff for their "conspiracy of kindness" during the "Help for Haiti" Drive!

★ Congratulations to to all of our students and their advisors on their wonderful efforts at regional competitions. This includes a wide range of activities: DECA, SkillsUSA, FBLA, Knowledge Bowl, and music competitions. Good luck at State!

★ A round of applause for our winter athletes and their coaches. Well done!

★ Franklin kindergarteners and teachers: Great effort on learning to count to 100! Thanks for your support of the Port Angeles Food Bank!

★ Many thanks to our [Fiscal Advisory Committee](#) and its members for the very difficult work you are doing on behalf of our District and its staff and students!!

★ Congratulations to Port Angeles High School music teachers, Doug Gailey and Jolene Dalton Gailey, and local music supporter Dewey Ehling, for recent honors by the Washington Music Educator Association!

★ Congratulations to the 31 students winners and their teachers in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Race Equality Essay Contest. 908 essays were submitted for this contest! A special thank you to our volunteers and teachers who made this contest happen. The Port Angeles City Council will honor the winners at its Tuesday, March 2, 2010 meeting at City Hall.

★ Thank you to Stevens leadership students and staff for you're the wonderful tree during the holiday season that inspired incredible giving to a Stevens students and her family!

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★ Thank you to volunteers in our schools, those who serve on our committees and task forces, and those who provide enrichment activities for our students! Franklin enrichment group, thank you for your beautiful art and contribution to Healthy Families!

How to Contact Us

President Lonnie Linn 360.477.7435

Lonnie_Linn@olypen.com

Vice President Cindy Kelly 360.452.9413

ctkelly@olypen.com

Steve Baxter 360.461.6192

sbaxter@olympus.net

Patti Happe 360.452.8368

pattihappe@wavecable.com

Sarah Methner 360.460.9730

smethner@portangelesschools.org

Board Assignments for 2009-10

View Our Board members' assignments to schools, district committees and task forces at www.portangelesschools.org. *See Board Assignments.*

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

Write Dicks:

U.S. House, Washington, D.C. 20515

Email from www.congress.org

Representative Kevin Van De Wege, D-Sequim
vandewege.kevin@leg.wa.gov

Representative Lynn Kessler, D-Hoquiam
kessler.lynn@leg.wa.gov

Write Kessler and Van De Wege:

P.O. Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Senator Jim Hargrove, D-Hoquiam

hargrove.jim@leg.wa.gov

Write Hargrove:

P.O. Box 40424, Olympia, WA 98504-0600