Across the Board March 2, 2011

Thank you to our community, and especially staff members, who worked countless hours supporting the passage of our levy. We can't express how much we appreciate all the work many contributed with this successful campaign for our students, schools and community.

While attending the National School Board Association's Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington D.C., twenty-eight Washington State School Board Directors and I, spent one day "on the hill."

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's message supported his belief that American education is in dire straits. He strongly believes the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) will occur this year with changes.

The Washington delegation's message was - promote reauthorization of the ESEA now with local authority, if not by June, stop sanctions on our districts, and fully fund Title and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Senator Murray was very responsive; she is one of eight senators working on a negotiating team regarding the rewrite of the ESEA. Congressman Dicks was supportive of the reauthorization, agreed with stopping the sanctions, but is not sure reauthorization will happen this year.

Board members and Superintendent Pryne spent last weekend at the Legislative Conference in Olympia. We listened to updates from Superintendent Dorn, representatives from the Governor's office, and the Senate and House Educational leadership, and met with Representatives Van De Wege and Tharinger and Senator Hargrove.

Our message focused on the operating budget, capital budget, local control, local effort assistance (LEA) funding, no reduction of school days, the state's education governance system, K-4 enhancement funding and summer school funding for our skills center. Our representatives have requested ideas for balancing the budget. (Contact information is included in this newsletter.)

We'll continue to stay in contact with our federal and state elected officials as we move through this difficult legislative session.

Thank you for everything you do on a daily basis for our Port Angeles students and community!

Board President Cindy Kelly

Other News

Enrollment Report and Outlook

The District's total enrollment for February 2011 (not including Skills Center or Running Start) is 3,617.23 FTE (full time equivalent). This is 92.46 FTE fewer than last year at this time but is 28.99 FTE students above budget. The Enrollment Report is posted monthly to the District website.

MSP Update by Michelle Reid 2/14 Board Meeting

An update was provided regarding the upcoming MSP and HSPE testing for the district. See BoardDocs - Agenda 2/14, Item 10.01 for documents - www.boarddocs.com/wa/pasd/Board.nsf/Public.

Recent Action Approvals by the Board

Collaborative Time Task Force - The District has organized a task force to review our current schedule of Collaborative Time, to study the pros and cons of same day early release/late start, and what impact instructionally, and financially it will have on all schools in the system. See BoardDocs - Agenda 2/14, Item 12.03 for documents - www.boarddocs.com/wa/pasd/Board.nsf/Public.

Natural Resources Credit – The Natural Resources 2 course was granted science elective credit equivalency. See BoardDocs - Agenda 2/14, Item 12.01 for documents - /www.boarddocs.com/wa/pasd/Board.nsf/Public.

Clallam County Detention Center Cooperative Agreement for Service - The general purpose of this agreement is the formation of a service to provide education programs for children and youth confined in the Clallam County Juvenile Detention Center. See BoardDocs - Agenda 2/28, Item 10.01 for documents -/www.boarddocs.com/wa/pasd/Board.nsf/Public.

Congratulations and Thank You!

Congratulations, Chuck Lisk – Washington State Middle Level Principal of the Year!

Twenty-six students were honored by the Port Angeles City Council for their winning essays in the recent Race Equality Essay Contest. Thanks to our teachers and staff for their support of this annual event!

Roosevelt teacher Jody Adams has joined the ranks of National Board certified teachers! Congratulations, Jody!

PASD Counselors, we appreciate your support of our students and staff. Thank you!

Food Service Staff, we're pleased that more of our schools are enjoying the fresh food lunch program! Thank you for your efforts!

The multi-talented Mike Pace has been an Artist in Residence at Dry Creek Elementary through a Port Angeles Education Foundation grant! Thanks for sharing your talent, Mike!

Betsy Wharton and Steve Methner, words can't quite describe our gratitude for your PACE leadership during our recent levy campaign! Thank you for your great leadership

PAHS success-Check out all the recent media releases on the District website – SkillsUSA, National Merit Finalist Louisa Rogers, NJROTC, DECA, FBLA, Aerospace Scholar Lissy Moriarty, and more.

Check out the new Hamilton Outdoor Classroom! A $5,000 grant and the efforts of many – including PTO's Anne Mitchell and Carrie Walls, plus contractor John Kimmel and community member Pat Milliren - helped resurrect and improve the old classroom.

Kudos to the rowing community who have supported this activity in our schools! See BoardDocs - Agenda 2/14, Item 12.01 for more information - www.boarddocs.com/wa/pasd/Board.nsf/Public.

Congratulations to PAHS Leadership and the many talented performers who made the 2nd Annual Benefit Talent Show in honor of Kevin Jones and family a huge success!

We encourage all of you to learn more about the escript program through Safeway. The PAHS ASB recently earned over $5,000 in the Fall Back to School Program. Learn more about this program and how your dollars can support our schools - www.escrip.com.

How to Contact Us

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Board Assignments
View our Board members' assignments to schools, District committees and task forces at www.portangelesschools.org. See BOARD ASSIGNMENTS.

How to Contact Your Legislators *(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 Steve Tharinger, D-Sequim
tharinger.steve@leg.wa.gov
Representative Kevin Van De Wege, D-Sequim
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Write Tharinger and Van De Wege:
P.O. Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Senator Jim Hargrove, D-Hoquiam
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