

School Notes

Port Angeles School District

For Our Business Community

REPLACEMENT LEVY: FEBRUARY 8, 2011

The February 8, 2011 maintenance and operations levy is a replacement levy, not a new levy. It renews the current four-year levy which expires at the end of 2011 and will maintain levy funding for the Port Angeles School District for four years through 2015.

Frequently Asked Questions

What exactly is the levy?

A levy is a property tax on real estate that helps finance educational programs and operations of public schools. The levy specifies an amount to be collected each year.

Is the School District requesting additional levy funds?

Yes. Due to the decreasing funding support from Washington State, it is necessary to conservatively raise the requested levy amount.

Does an increase in property values mean schools get more money?

No. Only an increase in the levy amount means schools get more money.

Why does the Port Angeles School District need levy funds every year?

The legislature only funds approximately 65% of what it costs to provide a child's public education. The balance of the money needed is expected to come from local levies and the federal government.

Did the recent budget and projected shortfalls result in the School District asking for a higher levy?

Yes. The Board of Directors is asking for a higher levy to offset the loss of Washington State cuts and to guard against deeper cuts expected from legislative mandated costs.

What School District programs and operations are supported by this levy?

The School District levy provides critical funding for important programs that could not be offered without it.

The February 8, 2011 levy request totals approximately 24% of the School District's budget. Programs like athletics, music, drama, debate and other student activities get all of their funding from the levy. Part of the cost of career and technical education, student transportation, regular maintenance to school buildings, special education services, and staff trainings come from the levy.

Does the School District still need levy money if enrollment is declining?

Yes. When enrollment is declining, so too does the amount of money received from the state. This is because state funding is based on the numbers of students being served by the School District. As state funding declines, due to lower enrollment, the local levy dollars become a larger portion of the dollars needed for maintaining the day-to-day operations of schools.

What are the election requirements?

Washington State law requires school levy measures to achieve a majority vote — that means that at least 50% plus one of the votes must be "yes" in order for the measure to pass.

Can the money to do these things be found somewhere else?

The levy is the "somewhere else." Schools are limited by law as to where they can raise the money — the levy is the primary place allowed.

Does passing the levy support local economic development?

Yes. Area realtors, Clallam County Economic Development Council leadership, and Olympic Medical Center spokespersons have stated that businesses, physicians, and families ask about quality schools when thinking about moving to or starting a business in Port Angeles. The maintenance and operations levy is necessary to provide money for basic education, for special education, and for a well-rounded education.

Do you have a question about the February M&O levy? Send it to levy@portangelesschools.org or by U.S. Mail to: Superintendent, Port Angeles School District, 216 East Fourth Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

Visit Levy News at www.portangelesschools.org for levy information.

Clallam County Heroes - DECA students, left to right, Corbin Brabant, Jennifer Boesenberg, Felicia Horton, Hayley Pearce and Alex Zuzich (See story on page 2.)



January 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 3, 2011
School Resumes

January 10
School Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Central Services Bldg.

January 17
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Holiday

January 24
Regular School Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
Hamilton Elementary School

January 28
Teacher Work Day
No School for Students

VOTER REGISTRATION

Call the Clallam County Auditor's Office for voting information at 360.417.2221. or view on-line at <http://wei.secstate.wa.gov/clallam/Elections/Pages/default.aspx>.

EXEMPTIONS

Property tax exemptions are available for qualifying seniors and low-income homeowners. Those interested should contact the County Assessor by phone at 360.417.2207 or email web_assessor@co.clallam.wa.us.

LEARN ABOUT THE LEVY

Monday, January 24
6:00-7:00 p.m.
Hamilton Elementary
1822 West Seventh Street
Ask School Board and Administrative Staff questions about the February 8, 2011 levy!

ADVOCACY • ACHIEVEMENT • ACCOUNTABILITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SCHOOL WEBSITES

Port Angeles High School

www.portangelesschools.org/pahs/

Lincoln High School

www.portangelesschools.org/lincoln/

Stevens Middle School

www.portangelesschools.org/stevens/

Dry Creek Elementary

www.portangelesschools.org/drycreek/

Hamilton Elementary

www.portangelesschools.org/hamilton/

Franklin Elementary

www.portangelesschools.org/franklin/

Jefferson Elementary

www.portangelesschools.org/jefferson/

Roosevelt Elementary

www.portangelesschools.org/roosevelt/

Parents As Partners

www.portangelesschools.org/parents-as-partners/

DISTRICT ONLINE CALENDAR

www.portangelesschools.org

Check for your school's Calendar and Events!

DECEMBER EDUCATION SUMMIT RESULTS REPORTED

The School District's December Education Summit — *Community Forum for Strategic Planning* — was the culminating activity for the beginning of the creation of the District's Strategic Plan. It was attended by approximately 80 community members, staff, students and parents who formulated the ground work for the five-year plan. The overriding question was *What is Our Preferred Future?*

The Education Summit work centered on understanding the School District's past and present in order to create a preferred future. In this two-day process, the collective group came up with a preferred future statement for each goal with a series of plans of actions for each. The goals centered on organizational culture, student achievement, resources, adaptability and community. Action plan ideas generated by forum participants can now be viewed at www.portangelesschools.org. See *Administration*, then *Strategic Plan*.

The Board of Directors and School District leadership will now take the data from the Education Summit and begin the work of creating the five-year strategic plan.

Questions, comments and suggestions regarding the strategic planning process and its development may be sent via email to info@portangelesschools.org, or by U.S. Mail to: Superintendent Jane Pryne, Port Angeles School District, 216 East Fourth Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

ENROLLMENT ABOVE BUDGET

The School District's total enrollment for December 2010 (not including Skills Center or Running Start) is 3,638.36 full time equivalent (FTE). This is 107.11 FTE fewer than last year at this time, but is 50.10 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 2010-11 school year will be 3,612.61 FTE or 24.34 FTE more than budgeted. Visit www.portangelesschools.org for additional information. See *ADMINISTRATION*, then *ENROLLMENT OUTLOOK*.

CLALLAM COUNTY HONORS PUBLIC HEALTH HEROES — DECA RECEIVES AWARD

The Public Health Advisory Committee of Clallam County announced its 3rd Annual Public Health Heroes awards in mid-December.

DECA students Corbin Brabant, Jennifer Boesenberg, Felicia Horton, Hayley Pearce and Alex Zuzich were presented the Youth Award for their efforts mobilizing individuals and community groups to donate blood. The group has generated three-hundred sixty student blood donations over the past year.

"These chosen individuals and groups within Clallam County have demonstrated exemplary efforts to improve public health," Committee Chair Carey Melmed said. "They have contributed to our community by promoting prevention and healthy living, implementing innovative public health concepts and programs, and by filling identified gaps in health needs through sustainable programs. The continued good health of all of Clallam County's residents depends on the efforts of these contributions."

Hero awards were also presented to Beth Loveridge (Individual Award), League of Women Voters (Group Award), and Arts & Minds Memory Loss Program (Innovative Award).

TRACKING STUDENT SUCCESS

KATI McCASLIN – PAHS CLASS OF 2005

Growing up in Port Angeles was a wonderful experience. I was involved in a lot of recreational activities and it was a great place to be a part of that. The schools that I attended made a huge impact on my life. The teachers that had a great impression on me have made me the teacher that I would like to be.

My senior year in high school I was a teaching assistant at Hamilton Elementary. This introduced me to a lot of teachers I want to be like in my own teaching career.

I participated in extracurricular activities while in middle and high school, most of which were sports teams. I was always on a team whether at school or in the community. This participation helped me to know my fellow classmates. I was able to use our social interaction from the teams and bring it into the classroom. It also helped me build characteristics needed in the classroom and still have now - leadership, confidence, teamwork, perseverance, determination, discipline, respect and trust. These have followed me not only just in middle or high school, but all the way through my college career and now into my teaching career.

After completing a student teaching assignment at Roosevelt Elementary during the fall, I will be starting my masters program in curriculum and instruction at Eastern Washington University. Along with attending and graduating from Eastern Washington University, I have been a part of the fastpitch program at Eastern since 2005.



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