



Flagship

A Report to the Community

Fall 2009 www.shorelineschools.org

Bond/Levy measures placed on Feb. 9, 2010 election ballot

The Shoreline School Board has approved three proposals to be placed on the ballot at a special election February 9, 2010. This will be an all-mail election.

If all three measures were approved, the average homeowner's tax bill in Shoreline and Lake Forest Park is projected to remain stable at 2010 levels.

Proposition 1 is a four-year replacement of an expiring educational programs, maintenance and operations levy.

The levy averages \$22 million per year for each of the four years, 2011 through 2014. The maintenance and operations levy, which replaces the four-year levy passed by voters in 2006, would provide the district with about 20 percent of its general operating budget.

The current levy, which is expiring in 2010, pays for basic education programs, as well as nurses, family advocates, librarians and instructional materials. Funds are also used to support extra-curricular student activities, including music, drama and athletics. The levy helps support special education, highly capable, remedial and vocational education programs, maintenance, utilities, and transportation.

Proposition 2 is a \$150 million bond for the modernization/replacement of Shorecrest and Shorewood High Schools. The 2006 bond approved by voters included funds for the planning and design for the two high school projects, but not for the actual construction costs.

Upon passage, the district would be authorized to sell up to \$150 million in bonds. The timeline for completion of both Shorecrest and Shorewood is summer 2013.

Proposition 3 is a \$12 million, four-year capital levy for technology improvements and support. This levy would provide a funding source for technology in all aspects of the district's program. Currently, the general fund is required to support approximately \$2 million in expenses annually. These include software, licenses, subscriptions, technology equipment replacement, professional development and training for staff.

If all three proposals are approved, the estimated new combined levy and bond rate in 2011 and 2012 would be \$5.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value, and a stable \$5.15 in the years following.

The two levies require a simple majority to pass, the bond requires a 60 percent majority for approval.

Estimated Combined Tax Rate if all three measures were approved

Year	Estimated Rate
2010 (Current)	\$5.29
2011 (Projected)	\$5.25
2012 (Projected)	\$5.25
2013 (Projected)	\$5.15
2014 (Projected)	\$5.15

Proposition 1 – Replacement of Expiring Educational Programs, Maintenance and Operations Levy

Year	Levy amount	Est. Rate
2011	\$21.5 million	\$2.48
2012	\$21.75 million	\$2.48
2013	\$22.2 million	\$2.49
2014	\$22.65 million	\$2.49

Proposition 3—Capital Levy for Technology Improvements and Support

Year	Levy Amount	Est. Rate
2011	\$3 million	\$0.35
2012	\$3 million	\$0.34
2013	\$3 million	\$0.34
2014	\$3 million	\$0.33

(Rates are estimated per \$1,000 of assessed value)

Questions and Answers on Levy and Bond propositions

What is a replacement maintenance and operations levy?

The levy, which replaces the four-year levy passed by voters in 2006, will provide the district with about 20 percent of its general operating budget. Levies pay for essential educational programs, staff and supplies. They are a way for local communities to supplement

inadequate state funding for education. Levies must be approved by a 50 percent simple majority.

What is a bond?

Bonds are the way school districts fund facility modernization and construction projects. State law requires a supermajority vote, or at least 60 percent approval, for a bond to pass.

Is this a new tax on my property?

No. The combined measures are estimated to keep a tax rate of \$5.25 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2011 and 2012, and a stable \$5.15 in the years following. Once approved, levy and bond amounts cannot be increased. There are exemptions for senior citizens who meet income requirements.

Continued on back page

Superintendent's Message:

A bright future for our Shoreline Schools

Dear Shoreline Schools Community,

The Shoreline School District has recently reached an important milestone. At the November 2 School Board meeting the financial books were closed for the 2008-09 school year. As expected, the numbers presented to the School Board substantiated the fact that the Shoreline School District is on solid financial ground. The unreserved ending fund balance is completely restored at the Board policy of 5 percent.



With this achievement, the District has fulfilled its three-year commitment to restore fiscal stability to our educational community. All citizens of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park can share in the accomplishment of this goal. Your efforts and sacrifices have been greatly appreciated.

Now our collective focus can turn to building a brighter future for our students and continuing the tradition of excellence in the Shoreline Schools.

The School Board has approved three ballot measures for the February 9, 2010 special election — a Replacement of the Expiring Levy for Educational Programs, Maintenance and Operations; Bonds for Modernization/Replacement of Shorecrest and Shorewood High Schools; and a Capital Levy for Technology Improvements and Support.

Shoreline has ranked number one and number two in *Seattle Magazine's* annual review of the 110 best-known Seattle-area neighborhoods the past two years. Reasons given have included Shoreline's "lauded school system" and this year's comment was, "Good schools make good neighbors in this diverse, family-oriented community." Undoubtedly, the reputation of our community is integrally connected with the quality of our schools and many families will tell you that they "moved to Shoreline for the schools."

There is a quality of life in the Shoreline Schools that has thus far survived the

decline of K-12 funding in our state.

Those qualities include a registered nurse at each school during all student hours, a full-time certificated librarian in every school, a classified library technician at each school site, a family resource advocate in all elementary schools, two office support staff in all elementary schools, security monitors in every secondary school and a 350-to-1 ratio for all secondary counselors. No other school district in our region provides all of these services for students, families and staff.

With your support, Shoreline has been able to make significant improvements in our elementary and middle school facilities. New modular buildings provide music and before/after school care for our elementary children, and new flooring, roofing, playfields and athletic fields enhance our sites.

Over the years, however, the quality of our high school facilities has fallen behind those in surrounding districts. The upgraded facilities at Edmonds-Woodway, Lynnwood, Meadowdale, Roosevelt, Ballard, Garfield, Bothell and many other high schools around us provide 21st century academic, secure, efficient and environmentally-sustainable community resources that are the pride of their respective neighborhoods.

With the 2006 bond measure our community began the process to modernize/renovate the 48-year-old Shorecrest facility and the 34-year-old Shorewood facility. Shorewood was originally created by remodeling Butler Junior High, built in 1953 and Ronald Elementary School, built in 1951.

Recently, the conceptual schematic designs for our two high school sites were unveiled. The next step in the process will be to take the decision regarding the future of these two high school facilities to our voters in February. Please take the time to become informed and knowledgeable about the future plans for Shorewood and Shorecrest High Schools, and the two levy measures, and remember to vote February 9.

Sincerely,



Levy/Bond information sessions scheduled

The Shoreline School District will hold a series of information sessions about the levy and bond proposals prior to the Feb. 9, 2010 special election. The public is invited to attend any of these meetings.

Dec. 8 • Shorecrest PTA in the school library, 7 p.m.

Dec. 9 • Highland Terrace PTA, in the school library, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 10 • Briarcrest PTA at the school, 7 p.m.

Dec. 14 • Briarcrest Neighborhood Association, Seattle Congregational Church, 7 p.m.

Dec. 15 • Parkwood PTA at the school, 7 p.m.

Dec. 17 • Lake Forest Park PTA in the school library, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 4 • Shorewood Boosters at Shorewood HS, 7 p.m.

Jan. 5 • Echo Lake PTA at the school, 7 p.m.

Jan. 5 • Kellogg PTA at the school, 7 p.m.

Jan. 5 • Meridian Park PTA at the school, 7 p.m.

Jan. 6 • Shoreline Children's Center PTA, 5 p.m.

Jan. 6 • Shorecrest Boosters, Shorecrest HS, 7 p.m.

Jan. 12 • Einstein PTA, at the school, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 12 • Highland Terrace Neighborhood Association, at Highland Terrace Elementary, 7 p.m.

Jan. 19: Third Place Commons at Lake Forest Park Towne Centre, 7 p.m.

Jan. 20: Ridgecrest Neighborhood Association at Bethel Lutheran Church, 7 p.m.

If you would like a speaker to present information to your group, contact the Public Information Office, 206-361-4412.

High school designs reflect community values

For more than two years, the Shoreline School District has been planning for the modernization/replacement of Shorecrest and Shorewood High Schools.

When the 2006 bond issue was approved by Shoreline and Lake Forest Park voters, it included funding for design of both buildings. The Shoreline School Board is placing a bond issue on the February 9, 2010 ballot to fund the construction costs for modernization/replacement of both Shorecrest and Shorewood.

Shorecrest was opened in 1961, while Shorewood was opened in 1975 by remodeling Butler Junior High (built in 1953) and Ronald Elementary School (built in 1951).

The Shorecrest and Shorewood design teams were made up of faculty, staff and parents from each high school and community representatives from each of the middle schools and elementary schools on the respective sides of the District. The School Board adopted educational goals for the projects. Each team held three community meetings to gather input from the public, which the architects used to help create the preferred designs for Shorecrest and Shorewood.

Models of the designs are now on display at the two high schools and are also being shown at other buildings throughout the District. Both schools' conceptual schematic designs include three-story main academic buildings.

At Shorecrest (far right), the new building would be set back farther from 25th Avenue Northeast than the current structure. The modernization would occur in phases, with students occupying the portions of the building not under construction. The existing Shoreline Performing Arts Center would remain in its present location at the north end of the campus.

The Shorewood site is a greater challenge, as it is only 26 acres while Shorecrest is more than 38 acres.

At Shorewood (seen at right), the preferred design is centered in the northeast portion of the campus. The current design incorporates the historic Ronald School for shared use with the Shoreline Historical Museum. Shorewood students would be able to continue using the majority of the existing building while the new school is built on the remainder of the site.

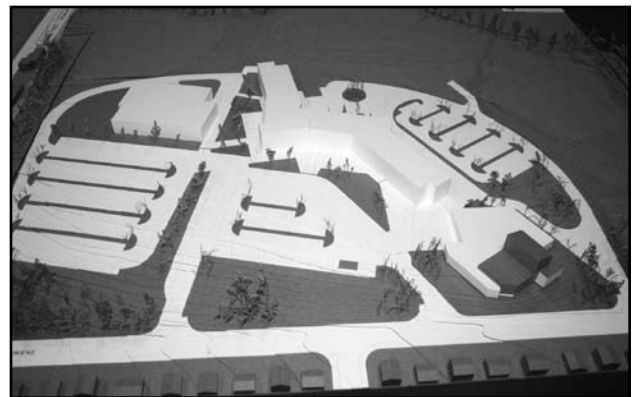
The new school would be a cornerstone



Shoreline School Board members donned hardhats to celebrate the completion of the conceptual designs for Shorecrest and Shorewood High Schools.

of the Town Center concept planned for central Shoreline, where the new City Hall at Northeast 175th and Midvale Avenue North was recently opened.

If the bond issue is approved in February, construction would begin at both sites in 2011, with estimated completion in time for the 2013-14 school year. For more information on the Shorewood and Shorecrest designs, visit www.shorelineschools.org.



The conceptual design for Shorecrest High School, looking west from the entrance on 25th Avenue Northeast. The three-story academic buildings would be set back further on the site than the current campus. The new gymnasium is in the upper left corner.



The conceptual design for Shorewood High School, looking north into the new central commons area. The main academic buildings would be three stories, and the campus would include a new performing arts theater and gymnasium.



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Bond/Levy Q&A

Continued from page 1

What projects are included in this bond?

The 2010 bond would provide funding for modernization or replacement of Shorecrest and Shorewood High Schools. When Shoreline School District voters approved the 2006 bond, it included funds for design for both high schools, but not for the actual construction. Shorecrest was opened in 1961, while Shorewood was opened in 1975 by remodeling Butler Junior High (built in 1953) and Ronald Elementary School (built in 1951).

How was the rest of the money from the last bond used?

Every Shoreline school benefited from projects in the bond approved

in 2006. A list of completed projects to date are available on the District Web site at www.shorelineschools.org. All schools received computer and technology upgrades, including the implementation of the laptop program. Building improvements included flooring, carpeting, athletic and play fields, fire alarms, painting and roofs.

Why is the District asking the community for a bond issue now?

Shoreline and Lake Forest Park citizens have a history of strong support for public education. With their votes, Shoreline School District community members have shown that they trust the District when it comes to maintaining and upgrading school facilities. With the approval of the 2006 bond, they began the process of creating designs for modernization

and replacement of Shorecrest and Shorewood.

There are several reasons that 2010 is a good time to propose a bond issue.

- Construction costs are considerably lower than in recent years.
- The District will be able to maximize the state match funding available in 2010, estimated to be \$35 million for the combined Shorecrest/Shorewood projects.
- Good bond market with low rates for borrowing money.
- Improved bond rating based upon the District's strong financial condition.
- The bonds that have been paid off to date create capacity to sell more in future years without increasing taxes.

For more information on the levy/bond propositions, please visit the District Web site, www.shorelineschools.org, or call the Public Information Office at 206-361-4412.

Shoreline Schools Calendar

For a complete list of events, visit www.shorelineschools.org

December 2009

through Dec. 18 • Shoreline PTA Council Holiday Baskets Drive; donations of food, toys and teen gifts may be dropped off at any Shoreline school. For more information, visit www.shorelinepta.com.

21-Jan.1 • No School, Winter Break

January 2010

18 • No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

19-22 • Early Release, grades ADK-6 for parent conferences

30 • Kinderfest, Shoreline kindergarten information fair, 10 a.m. to noon, Shoreline Center. For information, call 206-361-4211.

February 2010

2 • Kindergarten registration begins for 2010-11 school year at all elementary schools. For more information, call 206-361-4211.

9 • Bond/Levy Special Election. Please remember to Vote.

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The Shoreline School District #412 complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance procedures should be directed to Shoreline Public Schools, 18560 1st Ave. NE, Shoreline WA 98155. Attention: Title IX Officer, ADA Compliance Officer and 504 Compliance Officer, Brian Schultz, 206-361-4365.

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