The Shoreline School Board has two new directors and new officers this year.

**Debi Ehrlichman** was elected president of the Board in January. Elected in 2005 to the District 2 position, Debi is a past president of the Shoreline PTA Council and past co-president of the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation. She chaired the successful 2002 Shoreline Schools levy campaign and held various offices on PTA boards at Lake Forest Park, Kellogg Middle and Shorecrest High School.

She earned a B.A. at Stanford University, a M.Ed from the University of Washington, and is a former special education teacher. Debi and her husband, Peter, live in Lake Forest Park and have three children who are Shorecrest graduates.

**David Wilson** was elected as the board’s vice president. Elected to the District 3 position in 2005, David participated in a variety of school organizations and district-wide committees before joining the Board, including serving as president of Sunset PTA and co-president of the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation.

David graduated with a B.A. in History from Jacksonville University. He and his wife, Linda, have two children attending Shorewood High School.

**Mike Jacobs** was re-elected to the District 1 position he has held since being appointed to the Board in 2001. He is a partner in the Riach Gese law firm, and holds bachelor’s degrees from the University of Washington and a law degree from the University of Puget Sound School of Law. Mike and his wife, Janelle, both graduates of Shorewood, have four children attending Shoreline schools. He served as president of the Board for the past three years.

**Maren Norton** was elected to the District 4 position. Maren is an attorney at Stoel Rives LLP. She is a graduate of Shorewood High School, where she was senior class president, and Stanford University, where she earned a degree in political science and served as student body president. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, where she served two terms as president of the Law School Student Senate.

**Dick Potter** was elected to the District 5 position. He has worked for the Boeing Company for 29 years, including more than 10 years as an Associate Technical Fellow providing corporate-wide technical advice for database technologies. He holds a bachelor’s degree in economics and a master of science in industrial technology from the University of Wisconsin. Dick and his wife, Teri, have two children attending Shoreline schools.

Jacobs, Norton and Potter were elected to four-year terms that expire in December 2011.

School Board meetings to begin earlier
Shoreline School Board regular meetings will start a half-hour earlier at 7 p.m. Committee of the Whole meetings are held at 4:30 p.m. Executive sessions, if needed, will now take place after the regular meeting’s agenda is concluded.

The upcoming School Board meeting schedule is as follows:
- March 10: 7 p.m.
- March 17: 7 p.m.
- April 14: 7 p.m.
- April 21: 4:30 p.m.
- April 28: 7 p.m.
- May 5: 7 p.m.
- May 12: 4:30 p.m.
Message from Superintendent Sue Walker

Dear Shoreline Schools Community,

Several members of our educational community traveled to Olympia in February to communicate with elected officials on the topic of K-12 school funding. Many others have attended town hall meetings, placed personal phone calls, written letters or sent emails to our legislative representatives on the topic.

Our message has been simple: it is imperative that our elected leaders collectively address their responsibility as defined in Article IX of our Washington State Constitution. As stated, “It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders . . . The Legislature shall provide for a general and uniform system of public schools.”

By all accounts, Washington’s leaders have fallen short on this mandate for many years. Since 1981 the state has reduced K-12 school funding from 50.4 percent of the state’s general fund budget to 40.5 percent. This equates to a $3.3 billion loss for K-12 public schools bi-annually (see the chart below). As a result, Washington has slipped to 42nd in the nation in K-12 funding.

In the past few weeks, more and more local school districts have announced the need to make reductions in their future spending. Most will need to increase class size and reduce vital support staff. Some, like Shoreline last year, will need to close schools in order to reduce overhead expenses and protect the classroom. Local school districts simply cannot continue to fund their existing programs on the revenue provided by the state.

The formulas used by the state for K-12 funding are inequitable and unfair. School districts in Washington receive varying amounts of state funding for their teachers, classified and administrative staff. This inequity shortchanged Shoreline more than $2.4 million last year, over the higher-funded districts. Found unconstitutional by the courts in 2007, this issue is now before the State Supreme Court on appeal.

Although higher than the state’s authorized levy lid, Shoreline’s levy lid is below that of many neighboring districts and therefore, the percentage of local support in Shoreline is lower than Seattle, Bellevue and Mercer Island. Even so, our local levy dollars are required to cover the non-reimbursed costs associated with salaries, benefits, special education, transportation, security, and technology support. These levy dollars are intended to provide enrichment, not fund basic education.

Washington’s public education system, particularly Shoreline’s, do exceptionally well by national standards, despite the inadequacies of our state funding. We will not, however, be able to continue to provide the educational opportunities and support at the current levels our children deserve. There will always be excuses for why we are not able to address this issue at the state level, but we cannot in good conscience accept them.

The citizens of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park have always raised their voices in support of public education. We ask that you join us now and send a message to Olympia that 42nd is simply not good enough. Our children deserve better.

Sincerely,

Sue Walker

Dan Wing named to Music Educators Hall of Fame

Dan Wing, orchestral music teacher at Shorewood High School for 20 years, has been selected for induction in the Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA) Hall of Fame. Wing was inducted into the WMEA Hall of Fame during WMEA’s biennial conference in Yakima.

The WMEA Hall of Fame was established in 1998 with a charter class of 125 members and augmented two years later with an additional 70 members. Since that time, up to 10 members are elected to the Hall of Fame every two years. Neil Lieurance, John Law and Ken Noreen, retired Shoreline School District music teachers, are also in the Hall of Fame.

Wing’s orchestras have twice performed at Carnegie Hall (2003, 2007); at the WMEA state convention; have toured in seven states or provinces; and won multiple awards at the Northwest Orchestra Festival.

Shoreline Schools history book now available


Publication of the book is the culmination of countless hours of work by a group of current and former Shoreline School District staff members and many others from the community to commemorate the District’s 60-year history, from 1944 to 2004. Content includes the pictorial history and interesting facts, memories and events in the district and every school, including programs and activities.

Copies of the book are available at the Shoreline Historical Museum and in the Superintendent’s office at Shoreline Center for a donation of $30. Proceeds will go to the Shoreline Historical Museum and the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation.

General Fund Budget for K-12 education

This chart shows how the percentage of K-12 education spending has declined to 40.5 percent of the 2007-09 biennial budget. Washington now ranks 42nd in the nation in K-12 funding.
Several significant capital projects have been completed and others are now in the planning stages as part of the $149.5 million bond issue approved by Shoreline School District voters in February 2006. These include improvements made to facilities and technology for students and staff.

By law, capital projects funds may only be used for facility or technology improvements, and are separate from general fund monies for basic education and instructional materials.

Projects planned for the summer of 2008 include:

- New synthetic turf fields at Kellogg and Einstein Middle Schools, replacing heavily-used grass fields;
- Replacement of portable classrooms (used for the extended day learning program and band and orchestra programs) with restroom-equipped, pre-fabricated buildings at eight elementary school sites — Briarcrest, Brookside, Echo Lake, Highland Terrace, Lake Forest Park, Parkwood, Ridgecrest, and Syre.

This spring, the District will be selecting architectural firms to lead design of upgrades or replacement for Shorecrest and Shorewood High Schools.

The District recently completed a year-long process of developing educational specifications for the high schools. Teams at each school worked to develop goals for their buildings.

The School Board adopted a set of joint high school goals in January. They include developing a safe and secure environment, creating an environmentally-responsible campus, and creating one that honors community values and community access.

Upgrades completed:
- Shoreline Stadium now sports a new all-weather track, replacing one that was more than 20 years old. The track is used not only for athletic events, but also as a walking and jogging path for the community. Built adjacent to the stadium is a new storage building for track and field equipment. Overlooking it all are new enhancements to lighting. This completes the improvements to the stadium which began in 2006 with the installation of a new synthetic turf field.
- At Shorecrest, synthetic turf was installed on the football/soccer field and baseball/softball fields at the school. The project also included an all-weather track, enhanced lighting, security cameras and an equipment storage facility.
- At Shorewood, new lockers were installed in both the boys and girls locker rooms.
- Two schools, Parkwood and Echo Lake, received new roofs, expected to last 30 years.
- In the classroom, new adaptive technology allows students with physical challenges to access technology by use of touch screens. Students can touch menus, pictures, letters and words on a screen without using a keyboard or mouse.
- The “Phonic Ear” system has been installed in elementary classrooms, allowing clear, articulated speech and enhanced hearing from the teacher anywhere in the room with the use of a collar microphone and wall-mounted speaker.
- Laptop computers are now provided to all fifth and sixth graders in the District for daily classroom use. The laptops remain at school, stored in special carts that provide for overnight charging.

For more information on capital projects, visit www.shorelineschools.org or watch the capital projects presentation on Channel 26.
Echo Lake honored as Apple Distinguished School for integrating technology in the classroom

Echo Lake Elementary in Shoreline has been selected as an “Apple Distinguished School” for its work integrating technology into the classroom. The Apple Distinguished School designation is reserved for schools that have implemented a 21st century vision of education using Apple technology.

This year, Echo Lake is one of just 18 schools Apple is recognizing nationwide and the only school in the state of Washington.

Apple presented the award to Echo Lake at the Feb. 25 Shoreline School Board meeting.

“Echo Lake Elementary continues to be recognized for its innovative use of technology in education as a direct result of the leadership of Principal Mary Koontz and the hard work of the school’s teachers and staff,” said Shoreline Superintendent Sue Walker.

Echo Lake was the first in the District to pilot a one-to-one laptop program. It has since grown to include Shoreline’s two middle schools, two high schools, and fifth and sixth-grade classrooms at all nine elementary schools. A 2006 bond issue approved by Shoreline voters has helped the District fund its classroom technology program.

“Students are encouraged from kindergarten through sixth grade to work with each other to create projects and to find solutions to problems,” said Koontz. “By sixth grade, teamwork and school are synonymous. Our Apple technology is the perfect catalyst for collaboration and creativity. The students keep raising the bar for one another – a digital projector connected to a laptop equals magic in the classroom.”

Three Echo Lake teachers — Paul Shanahan, Paul Witzel and Shari Wennik, have been previously named as Apple Distinguished Educators for their expertise in educational technology leadership.