



Update

A monthly publication for the Shoreline Schools community

March 2010

Superintendent's Message:

Thank you for your support of bond, levy measures

Dear Shoreline Schools Community,

On behalf of our students, staff and entire educational community, THANK YOU to the citizens of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park for your strong support of the three ballot measures on February 9.

We are especially grateful to the Citizens for Shoreline Schools campaign committee for its commitment to the children of our community.

With the passage of the four-year Levy for Educational Programs, Maintenance and Operations, and the four-year Capital Levy for Technology Improvements and Support, the Shoreline Schools will be better able to meet the future ever-changing, complex learning and support needs of our students and families, while continuing to offer a comprehensive educational and extracurricular program.

The passage of the Bonds for Modernization/Replacement of Shorecrest and Shorewood High Schools marks an exciting milestone in the history of the District. We are thrilled that the Shoreline School District will be able to provide safe, secure and 21st century high school facilities to serve our students and community for many years to come.

In addition to the strong support of our local community in February, a landmark court decision related to educational funding in Washington state was announced on February 4. After a trial that lasted nearly eight weeks, Superior Court Judge John Erlick determined that our state is failing students and taxpayers of Washington, by not fully funding K-12 education.

The Shoreline School District and the Shoreline Education Association were among a coalition of more than 75 school districts, statewide civic organizations and community groups, education associations, parents and teachers that joined in the lawsuit as the Network for Excellence in

Washington Schools (NEWS).

The court ordered the state to determine the actual costs of providing all children with the knowledge and skills set forth in the state's high academic standards and to fully fund that actual cost with stable and dependable state sources.

The Governor, Attorney General and Legislators must now decide whether to appeal Judge Erlick's decision. Let's hope that does not happen. There are better uses of our limited resources and there is certainly significant harm in delay. Washington's students continue to progress through a system that does not provide the resources necessary to meet all of their needs. The time is now to make the changes to "fully fund" education in Washington. We all know that it is long overdue.

Sincerely,

Final Election Results

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

Yes	12,675	70.35%
No	5,343	29.65%

Proposition 2: Bonds for Modernization/Replacement of Shorecrest and Shorewood High Schools

Approved	10,788	62.47%
Rejected	6,482	37.53%

Proposition 3: Capital Levy for Technology Improvements and Support

Yes	11,405	65.86%
No	5,913	34.14%

P-5 math programs available for review

The Shoreline School District is in the process of selecting a new math program for our students in preschool through grade five. During the fall, grade level Math Review Teams of teachers and principals examined four math curricula that aligned most closely with the new Washington State Math Standards. Using the information from this initial review, the Mathematics Achievement Team (MAT) eliminated one program in December.

Through April, approximately 30 teachers on the Math Review Teams will field-test and evaluate lessons from the three remaining programs: *Math Connects*, *Math Expressions*, and *enVisionMath*. Before the field-testing began, each grade level team of teachers carefully selected the sequence of lessons that matched our Shoreline math pacing guides and would

ensure that the students mastered the Washington State Mathematics Standards.

Parents and community members have the opportunity to evaluate these math programs during the month of March. The materials will be available in the Instruction Department at the Shoreline Center during the day from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This office will also be open on two evenings, March 17 and 18, until 8 p.m.

In May, the Mathematics Achievement Team will analyze the data from the field-testing and the parent/community surveys in order to determine the program that they will recommend for Shoreline students. The school board will make the final decision in June, teachers trained in August, and this new math program will be implemented in September.

New state assessments to be offered this spring

Two new tests replace the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) this spring in Shoreline and school districts throughout Washington.

Measurements of Student Progress (MSP)

The name of the MSP, given to students in grades 3 to 8, conveys the goal of the test: to measure student progress. The MSP will be shorter to take than the WASL and will be moved online over the next few years. Reading, math and science will take just one day each instead of two with the WASL. For now, writing will still take two days.

The dates for testing in spring 2010 are May 12-28 for paper-and-pencil and May 3-June 4 for online testing in grades 6 to 8 in reading and math. In Shoreline, online testing will be used at Kellogg Middle School for reading and at Room Nine Community School for grades 7 and 8 for reading and math.

High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE)

This test measures the proficiency of students in high school and serves as the state's exit exam. Students must pass this assessment or a state-approved alternative in reading and writing in order to be eligible to graduate. The dates for testing in spring 2010 are March 16 to 18 (reading is one day; writing is two) and April 13 (math) and April 15 (science). Students in the classes of 2010-2012 must pass both the reading and writing assessments to be eligible to graduate. If a student has already passed a specific assessment via

the WASL (ie., reading), they will not have to take the HSPE in that content area. Students in the Class of 2013 are the first to be required to pass reading, writing, math and science assessments. The HSPE is shorter to take than the WASL and will also be moved online over the next few years. Reading, math and science will take just one day each instead of two with the WASL. For now, writing will still take two days.

Visit Washington's Online Testing Web site, www.watesting.com, to download tutorials, view demos, and more.

Help design Sunset Park at March 6 workshop

The Friends of Sunset Park, the Shoreline School District and the City of Shoreline are working together on a community visioning process for the future development and use of the former Sunset Elementary School site.

Shoreline residents are invited to a day-long design workshop on Saturday, March 6, at 9 a.m., at the First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach, 18354 8th Avenue NW.

The District closed Sunset Elementary in 2007 due to declining enrollment. Since then, there has been interest in the use of the former school site and adjacent open space as a park.

For more information, contact City of Shoreline Capital Projects Manager Dave Buchan at 206-801-2475 or dbuchan@shorelinewa.gov.

Teacher of the Year nominations due

Nominations are being accepted for the 2009-10 Shoreline Schools Teacher of the Year and are due in the Public Information Office by Friday, March 12, 2010. The form is available on the District Web site at www.shorelineschools.org.

The recipient will receive a \$500 award from the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation. Teacher Appreciation Week will take place May 2 to 8. Contact the Public Information Office at 206-361-4412 if you have any questions about the form and process.

Shoreline Schools Calendar

March 2010

- 1 • School Board regular meeting, 7 p.m., Shoreline Center
- 2 • Shorecrest HS Unity Festival, 6 p.m.
- 3 • Westside Honor Choir concert, 7:30 p.m., Shoreline Center Auditorium
- 4 • Eastside Choral Singfest, 7:30 p.m., Shorecrest Performing Arts Center
- 4 • Children's Center registration begins for new families for 2010-11 school year
- 8 • School Board Committee of the Whole meeting, 4:30 p.m., Shoreline Center
- 11 • Second trimester ends
- 11 • Shorewood World Night, 6:30 p.m.
- 12 • No School, staff work day
- 13 • District Math Olympiad at Shorecrest
- 15 • School Board regular meeting, 7 p.m., Shoreline Center
- 16 • High School Proficiency Exam (Reading)
- 17-18 • High School Proficiency Exam (Writing)
- 25 • Shoreline Public Schools Foundation Breakfast and Luncheon, Shoreline Center

For more events, visit www.shorelineschools.org

The Shoreline Public Schools Foundation

Board of Trustees

Invites you to be a part of
Our 17th Annual Spring Event
March 25, 2010

Breakfast 7-8:30 or Lunch 12-1:30

The Shoreline Room

18560 1st Avenue Northeast

\$50 per seat/\$400 per table of 8

RSVP by March 10th to
SPSF Office at 206-368-4107
or

Make a reservation online at
www.shorelinefoundation.org

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