

NEWS RELEASE**January 11, 2008****For more information:****Mike Gunn, 425-385-4190****Mary Waggoner, 425-385-4049****District is close to identifying sites under consideration for future schools**

In February 2006 the Everett School District received voter approval of a capital bond that included funding for, among other projects, land purchases for future schools. The Washington state Office of Financial Management (OFM) predicts population increases of 15 to 20 percent over the next 20 years, and these figures tell us that during this time our district will need to build three new elementary schools and more classroom space for middle and high school students, said Facilities and Planning Director Mike Gunn.

As a result, district facilities staff and consultants have been identifying and evaluating properties that potentially are in the right location and are the right size for these future schools. It is important that these properties be located near where the anticipated housing growth will most likely occur, said Gunn. This is in the southern portion of our district. It is also important to carefully consider environmental issues such as wetlands, steep slopes, traffic congestion, proximity to the urban growth area and the future availability of utilities such as sewers, water, natural gas and electrical power.

Taking all those factors into consideration, Gunn says the property acquisition team is nearly finished with preliminary evaluations of potential land acquisitions. Our property acquisition consultants will be making initial contacts with property owners over the next couple of weeks, said Gunn. We will make preliminary purchase offers at that time and will ask for permission to go onto the sites to make further evaluations. We will also offer to pay \$750 to each property owner to help cover costs of their own property appraisal or a professional evaluation of our offer. We are hopeful this open process will proceed smoothly and be successfully concluded in a forthright manner.