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From: Waggoner, Mary
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...NewsLinks *Special Edition*

A Web-based newsletter for the staff of Everett Public Schools

Nov. 5, 2009 Special Edition (*NewsLinks* articles are now [archived on DocuShare](#))

IN THIS ISSUE

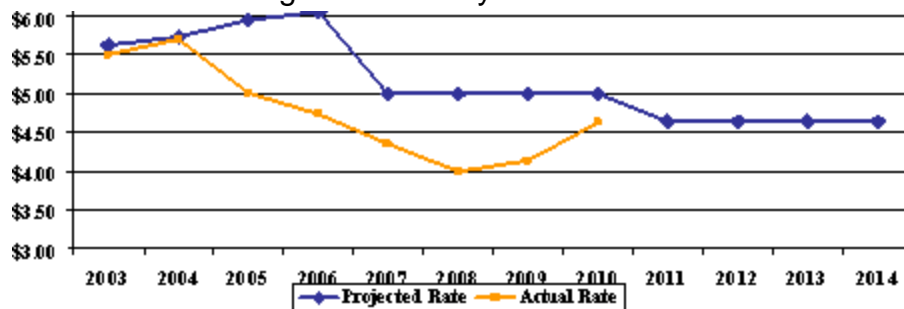
- Board places two levies on ballot for Feb. 9, 2010
- Board develops community engagement plans and processes to renew strategic plan
- November H1N1 flu clinics cancelled
- Preparing for winter – snow routes on the Web site

BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES TWO LEVIES FOR FEB. 9, 2010 BALLOT

At their meeting on Nov. 3, the board of directors of Everett Public Schools unanimously approved two resolutions authorizing ballot issues for voter consideration on Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010.

The first, a *Replacement Levy for Educational Programs and Operations*, will replace the existing four-year levy voters approved in 2006 and which will expire at the end of 2010. Known in the past as a *Maintenance and Operations Levy*, funding from this source is requested by the district every four years.

"This local levy equals just about 20 cents of every classroom dollar," noted Board President Sue Cooper. "Renewal of this levy will buy textbooks and classroom materials and pay competitive salaries for teachers and those who support classroom learning. It will make it possible to continue work to improve our graduation rate which has risen from just barely 50 percent five years ago to over 80 percent today. We will also be able to offer more challenging courses for students with funding from this levy."



The second, a *Building Repair and Technology Levy*, is a six-year levy to be used to "replace worn-

out electrical, heating and ventilation systems which will save energy costs,” noted Cooper. “This will also ensure that we can replace worn-out roofs. We will also buy computers and software for students to continue learning on tools for their futures and ensure that replacement technology is available for students on a regular cycle.”

Jeff Moore, the district’s Executive Director of Finance and Operations, reviewed the proposed ballot issues with the board prior to the board’s vote of approval.

“These measures, as proposed for you to consider this evening, honor your request that we avoid tax dips and spikes for our residents. As you will remember, we have a history of planning these issues so that the total local school tax rate stays essentially level or declines over time.”

As Moore explained, in 2002, voters approved a local school tax rate of \$5.63.

“By comparison, the proposals voters will consider in February of 2010 will be at a local school tax rate of \$4.65 – almost a dollar less than met voter approval eight years ago. District property tax statements for 2009 reflect a total local school tax rate of \$4.13,” said Moore. “The 52 cent change, leveling out at \$4.65 in 2010 through 2014, includes all past voter approved bonds and the two proposals voters will consider in February.”

Moore showed the board the chart above detailing total local school tax rates between 2002 and what is projected through 2014. “We have managed projects and bond sales in such a way that our actual tax rate has consistently been less than the projected rate. Keeping the local school tax rate level and being good stewards of public finances have very likely been reasons our voters have consistently supported their local schools.”

BOARD LAYS FOUNDATION FOR 18-MONTH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

In August, the board spent two and a half days working with new Superintendent Gary Cohn on plans and expectations. On Tuesday, they continued their work and furthered their plans to involve the community in a series of meetings and discussions that will result in a renewed district strategic plan.

Culminating in October of 2010, and marked by events approximately every month between now and then, the process will bring diverse community and district voices together for discussions on topics such as diversity, community partnerships and preparing students for their futures in a global world. The board plans by December of this year to determine the discussion topics.

The Center for Educational Excellence surveys, which staff and parents have already begun to take, will factor into the process as perceptual data about schools and the district.

Watch for more information and opportunities to be involved in this process.

SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT CANCELS NOVEMBER H1N1 VACCINATION CLINICS

Details on the [district home page](#). (You could have gotten this message earlier if you were [following the district on Twitter](#).)

SNOW ROUTES ON THE WEB SITE

The days are shorter, and the temperature is colder! Are you ready for the

possibility of school schedule delays or closure?

The transportation department has just published the [school bus snow routes](#) on the Web site. If your family, or students you know ride a school bus, please take time to learn what a “buses on snow routes” announcement means to their ride to school on bad weather days.

Is your contact information up to date in [Employee Online](#)? Many schools and departments use Connect-ED to notify you of late starts or school closure. You’ll miss the call if your information is outdated.

ANOTHER ISSUE OF NEWSLINKS NEXT WEEK

Because this week’s articles are longer than usual, we’ll combine good news and opportunities in an edition early next week. Stay tuned.

Everett Public Schools complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, veteran status, or disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Affirmative Action Officer, Title IX Officer, ADA District Coordinator, or Section 504 Coordinator. Affirmative Action Officer, Carol Stolz, 3715 Oakes Ave., Everett WA 98201, 425-385-4106, Title IX Officer, Randi Seaberg, 3715 Oakes Ave., Everett WA 98201, 425-385-4104, ADA Coordinator, Kristine McDowell, 202 Alder St., Everett WA 98203, 425-385-5250, Section 504 Coordinator, Becky Ballbach, 4730 Colby Ave., Everett WA 98203, 425-385-4086.