

From: [Superintendent](#)
To: [EPS.Maillist](#)
Subject: What's ahead?
Date: Friday, April 25, 2014 7:50:04 AM
Importance: High

Dear Colleague:

With only ten ballots remaining to be counted at the elections office, the published results yesterday afternoon were higher than the day before, but still less than 60 percent. As of the announcement yesterday, we had 58.58 percent approval for the bond – an impressive majority and enough to elect the officials who guide our nation and state, but not enough to build schools for students.

This morning I am sharing with you the spirit of the response our Board of Directors President Pam LeSesne gave the media who called her when yesterday's election results were posted. I share her sentiments, as I also share our collective and dauntless resolve to continue this work on behalf of our students.

"In our classrooms, students learn about the value and power of our Democracy. The election result is not what the board or the district hoped for. However, it is our voter's answer, and we respect it.

"Voters said *no* to our request for funding to build schools for more students. While the voters said *no*, the district cannot say *no* to the families moving here and to the hundreds and hundreds of students who will enter our classrooms in the next decade.

"Voters said *no* to technology that will help students build skills they will need for their futures. Without that technology infrastructure, our students will not be as competitive in their careers and higher education.

"Our challenge now is, without these resources, how to respond to the real needs of children in Everett Public Schools.

"The board and district's next step is to consider what options we have for accommodating the hundreds of students who will be coming to our district over the next decade and in what ways we can ensure the best possible educational technology access for students.

"Until the board is able to convene and discuss tonight's results and set future direction, the district must put these capital projects on hold.

"School districts can put bonds and levies on the ballot just twice a year – that is state law. If the board decides to ask voters again for some or all of this construction funding, the soonest that election could occur is February 2015."

As President LeSesne says, the board must convene to consider options, and that is a process that will take time and certainly more than a few discussions. We will begin preparing for the board some options for the timing and staging of educational technology. We will gather options for reconsidering how we focus operational funds and capital funds – and how and if we continue with any projects on the drawing board. This is going to take time, and I will keep in touch with you along the way as we consider some difficult decisions.

Voters across the state, in districts large and small turned down capital bond requests. As of Thursday evening, only two out of 12 April 22 school issues were passing. Lakewood School District to the north of us had gleaned 60.05 percent. Reardan-Edwall School District in Lincoln County earned an impressive 66.25 percent approval.

The other district Thursday results were:

Pioneer, 59.53%

Highland, 58.90%

Everett, 58.58%

Bridgeport, 53.06%

Lake Washington, 52.39%

Tenino, 52.27%

Walla Walla, 52.17%

Oakesdale, 48.93%

Sequim, 43.61%

Dayton, 27.73%

Thank you for your work on behalf of students, and please remember that 58.58 percent speaks loudly about the majority support your work and our students have from this community.

Warm regards,
Gary