

News release



Nov. 24, 2014

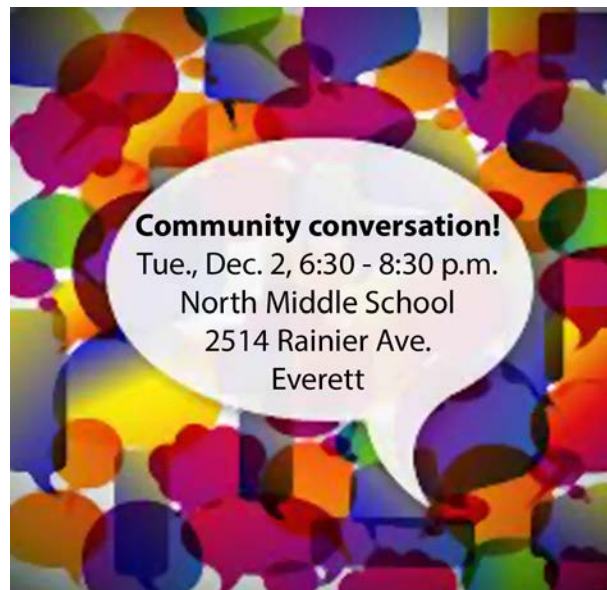
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Lots to talk about!

Join the conversation, North Middle School, Dec. 2

*Meet with school board, state legislators,
city and county officials and high school
student leaders about school funding,
school programs and partnerships*



What IS the McCleary Decision? Why is it a challenge for the state Legislature? What does it mean for local schools?

How are schools in this district partnering with businesses and public agencies to share resources and expand student learning experiences?

Why doesn't the state contribute more to renovate older schools like North Middle School, and to provide space for all-day kindergarten?

What do students today have to say about what they are learning and what their schools need to prepare them for the 21st century?

These are among the topics planned for discussion at the Dec. 2 *Community Conversation* hosted by the Everett Public Schools Board of Directors at North Middle School. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. with a welcome from Mayor Stephanson and an informational briefing presented by key district leaders. Then the format changes into a dialogue with board members, high school ASB officers, city and county council members and state legislators. The briefing, Q&A, and following conversations are scheduled to last through 8:30 p.m.

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School Board President Pam LeSesne explained the unusual plan for the evening in more detail, "The second part of the meeting will involve five separate groups at five different tables. Each table will include a board member, a city or county council member, a legislator and a student. Visitors will be invited to rotate through the tables to discuss the earlier information, and to ask questions of those at the tables – on any topic of interest or on the information presented earlier."

When asked the reason for the meeting's format, Superintendent Gary Cohn explained, "Parents, community members, businesses, and elected officials all have a tremendous stake in the success of our schools. By meeting together, having conversations together, sharing perspectives and ideas, we can strengthen our connections and leverage our resources. We can broaden understanding of how our systems work together, ensure our governance decisions benefit our communities and strengthen programs that benefit our communities' children."

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