

From: [Communications](#)
Subject: BoardNotes - summary of the Dec. 5 school board meeting
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Attachments: [image003.png](#)

...*BoardNotes*

On Dec. 5, 2017, during its regular meeting, the five board members who attended this meeting of Everett Public Schools Board of Directors did the following:

CONGRATULATED

Students, families and staff – even momma and baby tiger – of Garfield Elementary for being a 2017 School of Distinction ... again!

Garfield Elementary is a Washington State School of Distinction for the third consecutive year! Three is indeed a good number for Garfield Elementary students, families and staff. It is a number that represents thoughtful partnerships, strategic work, dedicated professionalism and determination.

As a 2017 School of Distinction Garfield is among only 99 schools across the state that continually improved student learning each year for five consecutive years. It's difficult enough to earn this award one year, but to reach this level of continuous improvement three years in a row is exemplary.

THANKED

Snohomish County and the AquaSox organization.

Memorial Stadium is a highly visible example of a public/private partnership leveraging funds and benefiting the community. Snohomish County and the AquaSox each contributed \$300,000 to field improvements slated for completion in spring 2018. Combined with district funds, the field improvements include new synthetic turf infield and outfield playing surfaces and a now-cinder warning track to be rubber.

This partnership with the County and the team dates back to 1996 when the county and the city of Everett teamed up to provide over \$6 million to the district for improvements to the baseball facilities. The improvements were financed by the collection of hotel-motel tax revenues.

The land was donated in the 1940s to the school district for public use and in memory of those who served in the military; its history is rich and deep; its benefit to community and students is vast.

HEARD THE [SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT](#) with lots of good news, including:

- 40 district elementary and middle school robotics teams competed last weekend at qualifier events at Glacier Peak High School. Next weekend seven more district teams will compete at the second round of qualifier tournaments. Not only did these teams engineer and program a robot for this year's hydrodynamics challenge, they also prepared and presented a research project. Five of Everett's teams will advance to the semi-finals scheduled for late January at the Amazon headquarters in Seattle.
- On Saturday, NJROTC cadets competed in Burlington with seven other schools. They earned first place in Color Guard Team One, Armed Drill Team Commander, Armed Solo Exhibition, Armed Dual Exhibition, and Armed Drill Down. Way to go, cadets!
- Saturday was also the day students in the Youth Development Program (YDP) graduated from that program. YDP is a joint initiative between NAACP Snohomish County Branch, Everett Community College, and Everett Public Schools and is designed to meet the specific needs of students of African descent. YDP creates a safe environment that inspires creative thinking, instills self-confidence, develops life skills, and builds community. The curriculum explores post-secondary education pathways and provides students with knowledge, skills, and tools for transitioning from the classroom to their futures.
- Watch Q13 for a story about students who are earning credit for speaking languages other than English. For the last three years the district has offered world language credit to students who test as proficient in a language other than English. To date, these students have earned approximately 1,886 credits. This equity opportunity is offered to students for \$10 per test even though the tests can cost as much as \$255. It is important every student have the same opportunity to earn this credit. Supporting bilingual students this way is another example of the district's emphasis on equity. The Q13 story is scheduled to air before December 16.

REVIEWED AND DISCUSSED STRATEGIC PROGRESS re: how well each student in the class of 2018 is prepared for graduation next year

The district's graduation rates for the class of 2017 were once again the [highest on record](#). The class of 2018 is now moving toward graduation, and the board reviewed how well those students are positioned to graduate.

Each fall the board reviews how well students in the upcoming graduating class are doing toward meeting graduation requirements. Collectively and separately, high schools help students prepare for graduation and beyond. That is, high schools help students lay a foundation for choosing college, training and careers after they have earned a high school diploma.

A highlight of the report was Everett High Principal Lance Balla's reading the message he wrote to his staff – after learning EHS had the highest 2017 graduation rates in the district. As he explained, his message clarified why and how staff do what they do to support each student's graduation success.

You can read the [entire message online](#). Principal Balla ended his impassioned praise of EHS staff and its students with,

We live in a culture in which those who have access to wealth also have access to supports that the rest of us simply do not share. My point is this: at EHS we have a staff that works hard to try and mitigate the imbalance that is in our culture that, at its root, rises out of these inequities. We are doing great work, and we are changing the trajectory of the lives of students whose only support lies in the classrooms in which they sit, with teachers who refuse to ever give up on a single kid. Thank you all for the hard work you do every day to make Everett High a place that proudly does whatever it can to make sure that equity and access to the promise of the American Dream is afforded to all.

DISCUSSED legislative priorities for the 2018 legislative session

This year is particularly interesting – especially as it relates to the Legislature’s mid-summer efforts to meet the Supreme Court’s order to fully fund K-12.

On Nov. 15, 2017, the Supreme Court ruled legislators did not do enough to fully fund basic education by the deadline. The court admonished the Legislature for dragging its feet in adopting the funding plan of ESHB2261. Further, the court retains jurisdiction over the case, and continues daily sanctions against the state until it complies.

The board discussed K-12 funding priorities – including a request for the state to pay for the cost of building schools and the full cost of operating schools.

The board will further review legislative priorities and consider final approval at the next meeting in January 2018.

ELECTED school board officers for the next calendar year

Each December, the board elects its officers for the upcoming year. The board elected Caroline Mason to continue as the group’s president and elected Carol Andrews as vice president. Traci Mitchell will continue as Legislative Representative, a two-year position to which she was elected in December 2016.

Nondiscrimination statement

The district shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, veteran or military status, the presence of any physical, sensory or mental disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a student with a disability.

Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are: **Affirmative Action Office** – Carol Stolz, cstolz@everettsd.org, 425-385-4106; **Title IX Officer** – Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org, 425-385-4104; **504 Coordinator** – Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063; **ADA Coordinator** – Becky Clifford, yclifford@everettsd.org, 425-385-5250; Address: 3900 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201



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