

From: [Cohn, Gary](#)
To: [EPS.MailList](#)
Subject: Getting the Facts Straight About Longfellow
Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 8:47:27 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Colleague:

Last week I wrote about the opportunities we have during this election season to connect with our community about the work we are doing, and to answer questions about the upcoming Capital Bond and Replacement Educational Programs & Operations Levy.

This week presented another such opportunity – this time in an unfortunately timed, inaccurate, and misleading ad in the *Daily Herald* placed by the Historic Everett Society about the old Longfellow Building. The ad encourages readers to vote “no” on an issue that does not appear on any ballot, but which the ad connects to the Feb. 13 Capital Bond that includes funds for a new comprehensive high school.

I can assure you that our school board and I support Historic Everett Society’s efforts to preserve this area’s rich history. We frequently share district documents and historic information with the society and its members. We are proud to collaborate on the display you have likely seen in a hallway foyer at the CRC – a display that documents the district’s role in the region’s history. And the district spent significant funds preserving Everett High School’s main buildings and the adjacent old church that houses the little theater, and the old South Junior High building that houses Sequoia High School.

Below is factual information about the Longfellow Building and the district’s negotiations with the Everett Museum of History (a different entity than that which placed the negative ad). The information appears in two formats – a short version, because I know you are busy, and a [longer version](#) in case you want more details.

- The Longfellow Building opened in 1911 and served as an elementary school until 1971. That year, the building was converted to a district support facility. In 2013 (when it was 102 years old), the building was shuttered. It is not safe to occupy today.
- In 2015, the district offered the building for sale to buyers who could prove financial capability to buy it, and to upgrade it for a safe, modern use compatible with the district’s use of Memorial Stadium.
- In March 2017, the Everett Museum of History (EMOH) and the district began negotiating the museum’s purchase of the Longfellow Building.
- On August 21, 2017, the EMOH proposed to purchase the building, but did not provide information to satisfy the original requirements of the offer to sell, including proof that they had the funds to make the necessary improvements to the Longfellow Building. In addition, they proposed to place a height limit on adjacent district property. The EMOH set Sept. 15 as a deadline for the deal, about 25 days later.
- Meeting the September deadline wasn’t possible because such a sale requires separating the Longfellow land from the rest of the district property that includes Memorial Stadium. This “short plat” process is run by the city, not the district, and usually takes months.

- On October 27, 2017, following the district's repeated efforts to develop a common understanding with the EMOH on the material terms of a potential transaction, the district was notified by EMOH of its decision to withdraw from negotiations.
- In December 2017, the EMOH announced it was purchasing a different property.
- The school board hasn't made a final decision about next steps for the Longfellow Building – although demolition is among possibilities discussed with the directors.

I thank you in advance for sharing this information with those who might have questions for you about the Longfellow Building. Very best regards,



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