

**From:** [Cohn, Gary](#)  
**To:** [EPS.MailList](#)  
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Good morning! I hope your spring break was relaxing, and you've enjoyed your first week back with students and colleagues. I certainly have! Tonight our school board meets in a [work session](#) to discuss next steps for our capital construction program. You may want a few facts in advance of hearing the results of the board's work.

Voters' February approval of the district's Educational Programs and Operations **Levy renewal** was really good news. Those results seem to indicate --despite concerns about property values-- voters recognized the value of our work, our staff, our students, and our programs. I am deeply grateful for that community support.

More than a simple majority of voters (55.4 percent) also saw the value of investing in school construction and capital improvements. However, that proportion of "yes" voters does not rise to the 60 percent supermajority required for bond passage. That outcome gives rise to the question, "So, what's next?"

**"What's next?"** is the topic of tonight's (April 17) [special board meeting](#). The board will discuss ways to manage and respond to the district's continuing student enrollment growth. You and I know a record number of students are here, today, in our Everett Public Schools, and more are coming. (Our new projections add **1,858** students over the next decade.) It's our responsibility to provide each student a high quality learning environment, where students and you can do your very best work.

What might the "what's next?" options include? We've considered and evaluated many in the months leading up to last February's election. The board will revisit those options again, and the directors will consider other ideas at tonight's meeting. I fully expect this meeting to generate more planning and input gathering sessions in the months ahead.

If you haven't received questions or been involved in conversations about the capital bond since the election, I'm pretty sure you will be while this complex and community-inclusive process unfolds. In the meantime, you may find it helpful to have the following factual bits at hand.

- **NO HIGH SCHOOL BOUNDARY CHANGES for school year 2018-19.**

Background: The district endeavors to give families many months to make plans for boundary changes made with a community committee and public process. Not enough time exists between now and the first day of school 2018 for a public process and family planning for high school boundaries, ***although the board may consider this as an option for future years.***

(Online, you can see the work of the [ELEMENTARY boundary change process](#). A committee has been working on elementary boundaries since November 2017. Their work is related to [new elementary school #18](#) which will open in fall 2019.)

- **Construction projects underway now, and those starting this spring, were approved in 2016.**

Background: The yet-to-be-named elementary #18 will help relieve the overcrowding in our

south region elementary schools. Another big thank you to voters who approved the [2016 Capital Bond](#). Without that voter support we couldn't build a new elementary school or modernize North Middle School and Woodside Elementary School.

- **Jackson High School is overcrowded today, and more students are coming.**

Background: Jackson High (without portables) has permanent building capacity for 1,759 students. JHS has 17 classroom portables and **2,137** students. By 2023, there are projected to be 2,514 students and 30 classroom portables on site --unless other arrangements are made for student enrollment growth.

- **Cascade High School is nearly at capacity today, and more students are coming.**

Background: Cascade High (without portables) has permanent building capacity for 1,795 students. CHS has 1 classroom portable and **1,743** students. By 2023, there are projected to be 1,983 students and 8 classroom portables --unless other arrangements are made for student enrollment growth.

- **Everett High is growing and will continue to do so, but EHS is not at capacity.**

Background: Everett High (without portables) has permanent building capacity for 1,930 students. EHS has **1,398** students and no classroom portables. By 2023, there are projected to be 1,586 students.

- **Older district schools will wait longer than in the past for major modernizations.**

Background: In addition to routine school maintenance, the district has conducted major school modernizations based on a long-term, published modernization schedule. (Examples include projects at Garfield, Silver Lake, View Ridge, Jefferson and Monroe elementary schools.) Initially, that modernization cycle was approximately every 40 years. Without voter approval of 2014 and 2018 capital bonds, the modernization cycle is now potentially every 48 years, or longer. This means schools originally slated for modernization in the near future will now wait longer for that work.

These six “factual bits” are among dozens of others the board will be reviewing and discussing tonight as they review the February election results and consider “what’s next?” in our work to provide each student a high quality learning environment where students and you can do your best work.

During this busy time of year, I know it’s really unlikely [school board meetings](#) are on your calendar. While you may not be able to attend, I encourage you to follow the school directors’ progress as they work, and to take part in the ensuing discussions and public process.

Warmly,



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**Superintendent**

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