

School Board Action Report

"Every student achieving, everyone accountable"



DATE: October 26, 2009

FROM: Dr. Maria Goodloe-Johnson, Superintendent

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STRATEGIC THEME/

FOCUS AREA: Business and Operational Effectiveness

TITLE AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION

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|---|---|
| Operations Levy and Authorizing Resolution 2009/10-3 | For Introduction: November 4, 2009 For Action: November 18, 2009 (see discussion below) |
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BRIEF HISTORY

The existing Educational Programs and Operations Levy will expire in calendar year 2010. Staff has developed plans for a renewal levy. The package proposed would place this Levy on the ballot at the statutory levels for calendar years 2011 (\$139.5 million), 2012 (\$145.1 million) and 2013 (\$158.1 million) for an approximate total of \$442.7 million over the three-year term.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION/EVALUATION

Following introduction of the resolution on November 4, 2009, it would then be before the Board for action November 18, 2009. Approval of the resolution will authorize school district staff to forward to King County Elections the request for a special election to be scheduled February 9, 2010.

If the Governor calls for a special session in December 2009 to possibly increase the levy authority percent to 35% as proposed under SHB1776, the three year levy amount that will be proposed to the Seattle voters may be increased and Board action on resolution 2009/10-3 may be delayed to December 9, 2009.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the Seattle School Board accept the Operations levy and adopt Resolution 2009/10-3 which places a three-year program and collection totaling \$442.7 million dollars on the February 9, 2010 ballot.

ISSUE

The existing levy provides partial funding for many District programs such as full day kindergarten, Special Education, English Language Learners and lowering class size. This proposal continues this funding at the statutory rate. Without these funds, nearly one fourth of our budget would be lost.

The governor may call a special session in December 2009 to possibly approve the increase of the statutory levy authority percent to 35% as proposed under SHB1776. If the levy authority percent is increased to 35%, the District will have the authority to propose to the Seattle voters an additional \$25.7 million in tax levy. Because this amount is material to the District's budget, the three year levy amount proposed to the Seattle voters may be increased and the adoption of resolution 2009/2010-3 may be delayed to December 9, 2009.

POLICY IMPLICATION

At nearly one fourth of the District's budget, the operating levy funds our ability to educate the children of Seattle which includes programs such as full day kindergarten, Special Education, English Language Learners and lowering class size.

FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

The proposed Operations Levy would have a total revenue estimate of \$442.7 million in voter-approved tax levy collections and requires taxpayers to provide funding at approximately \$1.08 per \$1,000 of assessed value (Operations Levy only)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Three community meetings were held in October 2009 to share information about the operations levy as well as the Capital (BTA III) Levy. A public hearing is scheduled for November 12th.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommendation is for the School Board to authorize \$442.7 million dollar special election request to be put to the voters in February 9, 2010. Passage of the measure would allow for continued funding of a wide range of programs.

ATTACHMENTS

[Resolution 2009/10-3](#)