



SCHOOL BEAT

An e-news update for school district staff

February 15, 2007

District News

Voters approve bond, levy proposals in Feb. 6 special election

Superintendent thanks volunteers, organizations for their work

On Feb. 6, the citizens of Seattle demonstrated their support for the children of this city by approving two funding measures – Proposition 1, a six-year, \$490 million capital bond and Proposition 2, a three-year, \$397 million educational programs levy. Both received the more than 60 percent “supermajority” of yes votes required for approval.

“We are grateful to our voters for this solid demonstration of support and affirmation of our mission,” said Superintendent Raj Manhas. “We are particularly grateful for the continued investment in our children, who will reap the huge benefits for years to come.”

“I want to give special thanks to Schools First, Alliance for Education, Seattle Council PTSA Association, Seattle Education Association and all the countless number of associations, community groups, staff, and volunteers who helped tirelessly during the campaign,” he said.

As of Feb. 16, **Proposition 1** was passing with 71,809 yes votes and a 68.54 percent approval rate. The bond replaces an expiring capital levy and provides funds for the design, construction and renovation of school facilities, infrastructure and technology improvements throughout the District. The measure includes a program to renovate or replace four high schools, two middle schools, and one K-8 school.

As of Feb. 16, **Proposition 2** was also passing with 76,003 yes votes and a 72.23 percent approval rate. The levy replaces the expiring 2004 levy and represents 24 percent of the district’s annual general fund budget. It supports basic educational services not fully funded by the state, such as instructional programs, technology support, student activities, staff salaries, bilingual and special-education services, continuation of full-day kindergarten, student transportation, and security and maintenance for school buildings and grounds.

King County Elections reported that of the 339,984 registered voters in the District’s area, 105,790 had cast their ballots as of Feb. 16. To validate the bond proposition, a total of 90,873 residents must have turned out to vote.

King County Elections will certify final results on Feb. 24. For the latest election results, visit the [King County Elections Web site](#). For more information on the bond and levy propositions, visit the [Seattle Public Schools Web site](#).

Santorno recommends relocation delay of Marshall programs

District to conduct comprehensive review of all programs serving at-risk youth

Chief Academic Officer Carla Santorno announced Feb. 14 that she is recommending that the relocation of the John Marshall programs be delayed for one year, to the 2008-09 academic year. Santorno said that after conducting a review, school officials determined that more time and information was needed to ensure that students could continue with Marshall's non-traditional programs at other locations.

Santorno said they also concluded that the District needed to review programs at other non-traditional schools, including Interagency Academy, South Lake Alternative High School, and Middle College. District staff expects to complete the reviews by October.

In July last year, the School Board recommended closing the Marshall building, as well as school buildings at Viewlands, M. L. King, Hughes, Fairmount Park, Whitworth, Columbia, and Rainier View. The Board also recommended the merger of Viewlands with Broadview-Thomson. Unlike the situation involving other building closures, a specific new location or site was not identified for the programs in the John Marshall building.

"I look forward to working with teachers, principals, students, families, and the greater community to identify the services — both academic and social — that will benefit our students and will lead them to a high school experience that truly prepares them for college and work," Santorno said.

School Board thanks community for input in Superintendent search

Input gathered in a recently completed round of public meetings has been critical in shaping [key qualifications](#) the Seattle School Board will seek when selecting the next Superintendent. Board members thanked community members for their involvement.

"Hearing the concerns and hopes from our diverse set of stakeholders was invaluable at the onset of our search," said School Board President Cheryl Chow. "We heard about the importance of specific skills and characteristics and received recommendations of specific individuals who should be contacted for their potential interest."

Superintendent Raj Manhas announced in October that he would be leaving the District at the end of the 2006-07 school year. Ray and Associates, the search firm hired to recruit superintendent candidates, is gathering resumes. The application deadline is March 13.

For more information on the superintendent search, visit the [School Board Web site](#) or contact Ray and Associates at (319) 393-3115, or visit their [Web site](#).

Around the Community



Chief Academic Officer Carla Santorno, second from left, and Bilingual Community Liaison Hung Pham, third from left, listen to speakers at the opening ceremonies of the Vietnamese Lunar New Year celebration at Seattle Center, Feb. 10.

Vietnamese New Year celebration honors Seattle educators

The Vietnamese community recognized all Seattle teachers, administrators, and educators during its Tet celebration Feb. 10-11 at the Seattle Center. Tet, which means the first morning of the first day of the new year, is the Vietnamese New Year. In 2007, the lunar new year will officially start on Feb 18 – the year of the Pig. The celebration lasts for seven days. For residents with Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, and other Asian heritage, the lunar new year is one of the most celebrated holidays of the year.

Seattle Public Schools Chief Academic Officer Carla Santorno was one of the guests of honor and helped cut the ribbon to officially open the celebration, with this year's theme of "Honoring Our Educators." Linda Hoste, former bilingual program director, and Marion Vinson, principal at Emerson Elementary, also attended the event, along with several other School District employees.

Hung Pham, the District's bilingual community liaison and resource teacher, and Martin O'Callaghan, principal at the Secondary Bilingual Orientation Center, were honored for their tireless efforts in supporting bilingual education. Both received gift baskets and recognition for their work.

Khanh Cao, a teacher at Emerson Elementary and this year's program director for the Tet celebration, said the festival highlights the important role that schools and teachers play in the lives of our children and community.

The public is also invited to continue the [Lunar New Year Celebration](#) on Saturday, Feb. 17, in Seattle's Chinatown/International District. Activities include a lion dance and dragon dance performance; other live cultural performances; children's activities; food, and arts and crafts displays.

Lunar New Year Celebration

Noon – 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 17
Union Station Great Hall
401 S. Jackson St.
Free admission

Seattle Green Teachers encourage food-recycling program

Students and staff at Lawton Elementary have successfully started a food-recycling program and now are encouraging other schools to do the same. Peter Hubbard, a teacher at Lawton, helped initiate the program last year by ordering a composting dumpster from Cedar Grove Composting, then sorting the school's trash in the lunchroom every day by separating compost, trash, recyclables, and liquids.

Several schools are now composting in their lunchrooms using this same model, including Laurelhurst and West Woodland elementary schools, and other schools are considering it. Patrick Howard, a teacher at Laurelhurst, said the group is actively showing other District schools how the program works and is seeking grants to help finance the switchover.

"It's a really great idea that's saving the District money, teaching environmental stewardship, and moving the city of Seattle toward its goal of recycling and composting 60 percent of its waste by 2010," Howard said.

More information about the food-recycling program is at [Lawton Elementary's Green Schools Web page](#).

District purchases comprehensive translation, database service

Seattle Public Schools has purchased a comprehensive online subscription for a service that provides mandated parent-notification letters in multiple languages. The TransACT/EduPortal service is intended to help the District save time and money on translations, parent communication mandates, and searchable education databases.

The District has subscribed to TransACT "General Education Parent Notifications" in 21 languages since 1994, and many school sites already know about this service. What is new are parent notification forms that require translations, such as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and the Individuals with the Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA).

The EduPortal database is also new. The database contains more than 12,000 resources specifically selected for Washington school leaders, including fully searchable Washington Administrative Codes; the Revised Code of Washington; Educational Research Service bulletins; Office of the Superintendent of Public Schools memoranda, bulletins, and administrative law judge decisions; Attorney General's opinions; Washington Association of School Administrators resources; and more.

For information on the TransACT document collections, contact Hilary Shirey at (425) 977-2119 or hilary@transact.com. For information on the EduPortal databases, contact John Dekker at (800) 859-9272 or jdekker@wasa-oly.org.

Fees for traffic education to increase in September

Beginning in September, tuition for traffic education classes at Seattle Public Schools will increase \$101 – from \$314 to \$415 – because of a state requirement that students receive an additional two hours of behind-the-wheel training.

Students will have to complete six hours of on-street driving instruction, instead of four hours. The new fee will help cover increased costs in teachers' wages, gasoline, and vehicle maintenance.

Other fees going up are:

- **Course repeat fee:** from \$157 to \$270 (for those who have previously taken the course through the Seattle Public Schools and who need to repeat either the classroom instruction or on-street driving lessons – or both.)
- **Additional driving lessons:** from \$40 an hour to \$45 an hour.

Students who are interested in taking traffic education and will be least 15 years old by the first day of class are encouraged to take advantage of the current lower fees before prices increase next school year. Classes and schedules for after-school and summer sessions are available at the [Traffic Education Web site](#).

New Multilingual Interpretation Equipment improves translations

In response to the increasing student diversity at Seattle Public Schools, the District recently acquired state-of-the-art Multilingual Interpretation Equipment, which facilitates interpretation of up to six different languages simultaneously through the use of headsets.

The equipment consists of six transmitters and 100 receivers – all wireless and with rechargeable batteries. During meetings or events, transmitters are allocated to bilingual staff who translate the proceedings according to the language needs of those in attendance. People needing translations use the receivers and headsets to hear the proceedings in their language.

Equipment funding came in large part through the generous contribution from the Seattle Council of the Parent Teacher Student Association, and the efforts of the District's Department of Communications and the Family and Community Partnerships Program.

To fill the growing need for interpreters, the District is also providing professional development workshops for interpreters, bilingual staff, and instructional assistants. Some of the training includes how to use the Multilingual Interpretation Equipment, as well as strategies to improve interpretation and translation skills.

Washington State PTA policy papers available online

Policy papers on Washington State PTA's top five issues are available online at the organization's Web page. The papers were also included in packets for members attending Focus Day in Olympia, a day in which PTA members from across the state congregate at the state capitol to advocate for changes that will positively impact our children.

The policy issues available are:

- K-12 Education Funding: www.wastatepta.org/leg/ed_funding.pdf
- Math/Science: www.wastatepta.org/leg/math_science.pdf
- Simple Majority: www.wastatepta.org/leg/simple_majority.pdf
- Reduce Class Size: www.wastatepta.org/leg/reduce_class_size.pdf
- Recess: www.wastatepta.org/leg/recess.pdf

The preceding top five issues are also available in one document at www.wastatepta.org/leg/issue_papers07top5.pdf

Celebrations

Five Seattle students accepted in aerospace scholars program

Five Seattle Public Schools juniors have been chosen to participate in the [Washington Aerospace Scholars program](#), which offers a Web-based, NASA-designed curriculum and a six-day internship at the Museum of Flight in Seattle. Some students will have a chance to work with scientists and engineers and plan a human mission to Mars.

Students selected for the statewide, online learning experience are:

- April Harbright – Chief Sealth High School
- Victor Leiataua – Chief Sealth High School
- Rylan Bauermeister – The Center School
- Molly Williams – The Center School
- Ben Snyder – Roosevelt High School

The scholars are now participating in the first phase of the program – the online activities, studying space exploration, and learning about space shuttles, space stations, and lunar and Mars explorations. The students have ongoing contact with experts and

professionals from the fields of math, science, engineering and computer science.

Next, students will undergo another round of selection for the second phase of the program: the summer residency at The Museum of Flight students. During this experience, students will work in teams to design a human mission to Mars; participate in briefings from engineers, scientists and aerospace professionals; and attend tours and field trips. Aerospace engineers, college staff/students, and teachers mentor the students during the residency.

Karen Hansen honored as SYF Teacher of the Year

The Simon Youth Foundation awarded its Teacher of the Year to Karen Hansen, a teacher at Northgate Middle College High School/Education Resource Center.

Hansen specializes in teaching humanities and social studies at the alternative high school located at the Northgate Mall, a shopping center owned by Simon Property Group.

Hansen received the award during ceremonies in November at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indiana. In Hansen's nomination papers, it said, "Her classroom is ablaze with student artwork, poetry, and papers on the wall. She also has a large box of hats and costumes, often dressing up to fit the historical occasion. Karen writes letters of recommendation for those who are college bound, and her classroom has no boundaries."

Hansen said she was humbled and thankful for the award. "... I receive this award in the name of all of us who teach on behalf of our special students. My five years at Northgate ERC have been the best teaching experience of my career," she said.

Grant enables Chinese language classes to start at Beacon Hill

Students at Beacon Hill Elementary are now learning Chinese, thanks to a three-year Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grant to start the language instruction during school day. All three kindergarten and first-grade sections receive daily half-hour instructions in Mandarin, a Chinese dialect. When the students are comfortable with the language, the lessons will shift focus to math enrichment in Chinese. The math activities will follow the District's curriculum and standards – augmenting the math lessons taught in English.

Another aspect of the grant will address teacher training. A state law requires that world language teachers take an age-appropriate methodology course. The grant sponsors and selects Chinese speakers to take a spring K-8 foreign language methodology course at the University of Washington. In July, teacher candidates will participate in a two-week practicum, consisting of teaching in a K-4 Chinese language camp that will be tuition-free to camp children. Successful teacher candidates will have met requirements for a conditional certificate, which will allow them to begin teaching Chinese or Arabic while working toward full certification. Grant co-directors are Betty Lau and Beth

Roodhouse. Karen Kodama is coordinating international education for the district.

For more information about participating schools, contact [Beth Roodhouse](#). For information on the methodology of class or language camps, contact [Betty Lau](#).

A second recently awarded grant, Startalk, will enable 26 Chinese and Arabic speaking teacher candidates to take seven credits of coursework toward certification this summer. For more information, contact [Betty Lau](#).

Coming Up

Spring and Fall Earth Steward Tours at Tilth Gardens

Teachers are encouraged to sign up for the Spring and Fall Earth Steward Tours at the Seattle Tilth Children's Garden. Seattle Tilth is a non-profit organization that educates residents on how to garden organically, conserve natural resources, and support local food systems in order to cultivate a healthy urban environment and community.

During the tour, children can taste herbs, greens and flowers; touch plants, ranging from the soft to the prickly; forage in the humus to discover its inhabitants; and explore the garden. The children also have an opportunity to learn and practice important garden activities, such as making compost; planting, tending and harvesting crops; collecting seeds, and other seasonal gardening projects.

Tours cost \$4.50 per child and there is a \$75 minimum. To schedule a tour, call 633-0451, Ext. 2 and ask for Lisa or Sam; or e-mail lisataylor@seattletilth.org or samobrien@seattletilth.org

Spring 2007 Earth Steward Tours

10-11:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m.

March 13 – June 8 (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays)

Seattle Tilth Children's Garden

4649 Sunnyside Avenue N.

Fall 2007 Earth Steward Tours

10-11:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m.

Sept. 18 – Nov. 2. (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays)

Seattle Tilth Children's Garden

4649 Sunnyside Avenue N.

2007 WEA Awards – A Teacher to Remember

The Washington Education Association is accepting essays from students in Grades 3-12 who want to highlight a special teacher who positively influenced them. Grand prize winners will each receive a \$150 gift certificate to Amazon.com and a pizza party for their class.

Each honored teacher will receive a beautiful engraved gift. The winners will be notified of the judges' decisions in May and will be honored in their schools. Honorable Mention winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate.

The deadline for WEA's [14th annual "A Teacher to Remember" student essay contest](#) is Wednesday, March 7. Essays received after the deadline will not be considered.

One grand prize winner is selected from each of the combined grade-level categories (Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12 and ESL students), and honorable mentions are also awarded to one writer in each grade level.

The categories are:

- Grades 3-5 – 300 words or less
- Grades 6-8 – 500 words or less
- Grades 9-12 – 500 words or less
- ESL/ELL Students (in any Grade 3-12) – 500 words or less

A Teacher to Remember

Deadline: 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 7
Washington Education Association
32032 Weyerhaeuser Way S.,
Federal Way 98063-9100

Have a Heart for Kids Day

More than 500 people have registered to attend "Have a Heart for Kids Day", Monday, Feb. 19, (President's Day) in Olympia to meet legislators, learn how to advocate for kids, and rally to the Capitol steps.

The day will start off with advocacy trainer Nancy Amidei speaking to people who are new to the state Capitol. There will also be briefings on legislative issues up for consideration this year. Topics such as children's health, foster care, school lunch/anti-hunger programs, and early learning/after-school programs will be discussed in small groups. The march and rally to the Capitol steps begin at 1 p.m.

For online information, click on the Children's Alliance's [legislative priorities](#) and [campaign updates](#) for 2007. For additional information, contact Gabriela Quintana, [Children's Alliance](#), at 324-0340, Ext. 29. or e-mail at gabriela@childrensalliance.org.

Have a Heart for Kids Day

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 19
United Churches
110 11th Ave. S.E., Olympia

Boardwalk

Seattle Public School staff, principals, and physical education teachers are invited to walk, run or play at School Kids Come First [Boardwalk](#) on March 24 – a free, fun and healthy way to support our schools, as well as celebrate family health and fitness.

Some of the festival events include:

- **Boardwalk Walk of Champions** – A free event held before the Boardwalk 5K Walk/Run. Participants will walk, skip or roll one mile on the track at Husky Stadium.
- **Boardwalk 5K Walk/Run** – The second annual fund-raiser to provide P.E. equipment to Seattle Public Schools. This year's goal is \$15,000 and pre-registration is through March 23 at www.schoolkidscomefirst.com.
- **Carnival of Activities** – A new and free event featuring 90 minutes of carnival activities, such as speed-jumping, football-kicking and soccer-dribbling.
- **Boardwalk Awards** – Between two and three students from each elementary and middle school will be honored. Nominees must demonstrate exemplary fitness, sports or citizen attributes.

For registration forms, donation forms, and Boardwalk Awards or information on buses to the event, contact Dick Lee at 252-0476 or rilee@seattleschools.org.

Boardwalk

9:15-11:30 a.m., Saturday, March 24
Husky Stadium, University of Washington
315 Hec Edmundson Pavilion

IslandWood Patsy Collins Award

IslandWood, a 255-acre residential outdoor education center on Bainbridge Island, is seeking nominations for its second annual award to a Puget Sound K-12 teacher who exemplifies the center's mission of providing exceptional learning experiences and inspiring community and environmental stewardship.

The Patsy Collins Award honors an educator with \$5,000 and \$2,500 more to be given to a non-profit organization of her or his choice. Candidates should be Puget Sound K-12 educators in either a public, private, or non-traditional school.

The deadline for nominations is March 15. Teachers will be then asked to submit their resumes and application to the awards committee by April 15. For more information and the nomination form, contact: Kristin Poppo, Head of Graduate and Professional Studies, at 855-4311 or kristinp@islandwood.org.

Patsy Collins Award

Deadline: Thursday, March 15
IslandWood
4450 Blakely Ave.
Bainbridge Island, WA 98370

School and District Events Calendar

If you would like to know about current special school events, fund-raisers or other district events, go online to the [District Events Calendar](#) where you can see what's going on monthly at Seattle Public Schools or search for specific events by date, school and event type.

We Need Your Ideas

The Communications Office is always looking for stories on interesting classroom projects, inspirational people, or events in our schools to share with the greater Seattle community. We often highlight stories submitted by school staff for potential media coverage as well as district and community publications. For examples of stories we have published in the past, please visit this [link](#). We would like to hear from you. If you have a unique story to share, please send your ideas directly to goodnews@seattleschools.org.

In the News

For a sampling of this week's local newspaper stories on Seattle Public Schools, please go to <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/news/index.dxml>

SCHOOL BEAT is an electronic newsletter covering district and school-based news and is published twice a month for the employees of Seattle Public Schools.