



LETTERS | **Opinion** *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

Do we trust South Kitsap schools with such a big project?

Roger Gay, South Kitsap Kitsap Sun

Published 10:58 a.m. PT Oct. 12, 2023

The South Kitsap School District has a capital bond on the ballot in November. It is a \$271,000,000, 21-year, fiscal obligation for South Kitsap taxpayers. The actual money being spent is \$307,200,000 plus interest gained, including funding from the state.

The main issue I have parts of Resolution 1367. It specifically states the projects to be accomplished, like a new Cedar Heights Middle School, but Section 3 of Resolution 1367 also basically states the board can change the project list by adding or deleting projects and put the funds to other uses they deem more necessary at any time. It includes depositing money into the district's debt service fund to make payments as needed. The SKSD has said the property tax rate will be lower due to a 2018 levy expiring in 2022. A 2021 voter approved enhancement levy expires in 2025. We have seen "enhancement" levies and capital levies, all of which have a lower threshold of 50%+1 to pass vice the 60%+1 the long term capital bond requires. As voters and taxpayers we are giving the SKSD Board a significant fiscal responsibility for multiple decades, an SKSD Board that itself could not reach agreement on the capital bond, one Board member didn't even sign Resolution 1367. Can we trust SKSD Board to be fiscally responsible? Will the SKSD Board involve and include all taxpayers in decisions affecting the half a billion dollar investment we are making? Do you trust the SKSD Board and management team?

Roger Gay, South Kitsap