



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

South Kitsap is a district in need of leadership change

Jeff Daily, Port Orchard Kitsap Sun

Published 2:16 p.m. PT Oct. 13, 2023



The November election contains several issues that folks need to consider. Your informed vote is important.

There is no lack of controversial issues within our community. The November ballot will have school board elections within our community and also a bond issue to consider.

The SKSD has three director seats up for election. Generally, school boards come in two flavors. One is where all board members get along, think the same way, vote the same way, and just rubberstamp the district desires. Why was there little progress for over 30 years in academic excellence and providing a better product? Group think doesn't work.

The second is a board where all folks don't think alike but work to agree on the direction and the performance of the district. Dissenting opinions are a counter to group think versus a liability.

Three candidates to consider are Rhonda Edwards, John Schmel, and Jamie Cross. All are local business people experienced in our community and longtime residents. Each have individual opinions and solutions on how to approach the district with a business type attitude and solve problems. Each can work with others to solve why only 30% of the third-graders are able to meet reading and math standards along with district financial issues.

As for the bond, building 4 schools given the looming code/ecology issues and declining enrollments will be difficult. Are they worth \$459 Million (\$271 + 188M interest)? What about cheaper alternatives given the needs of the entire district?

Jeff Daily, Port Orchard

