



Some perspectives on South Kitsap School District history.

SKSD had not been able to pass bond or levy measures for many years. Now they passed a Capital Levy. Past periods of back-to-back M&O levy failures resulted in program cuts, staff position reduction, and sports program terminations at the middle schools. This was the norm until through hard work the state constitution was changed lowering the levy passage rate for schools to 50% plus one. SK has enjoyed success with these measures since the change. SKSD, as a charter member of the Mac Cleary lawsuit, spent thousands of dollars to support the state funding of education. The promise to the citizens was to lower local taxes and ensure the state did its Paramount Duty. Now with the lawsuit passage SKSD claims they need for more monies from the local tax payers once again.

SKSD Today.

SKSD uses a form of governance that has failed grossly for 2 of the first 3 superintendents using it. These failures resulted in staffing reductions, program reductions, and the lowering of the Boards safety net reserve fund and borrowing from it. Critical positions not filled include Athletic Director, Music and Arts Director. These 2 positions are the exact ones needed to manage the Enrichment Levy that is in place. Contracts for teachers are grossly out of line from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction recommendations. This has a cascading downward effect on all bargaining units demanding higher pay. This

then creates a funding shortfall and a demand for more levy dollars like the 1.5% to 2.5% decision. SKSD is now the poster child for the highest local and state taxes levied upon its citizens in Kitsap County.

SKSD's Future Path.

SKSD appears to be on a 'fast track' to repeat the past when levies failed back to back and bonds did not have a chance. North Mason for example just failed an enrichment levy and this now is a good possibility in SKSD. The recent poorly managed Capital Facilities Levy has resulted once again in the Board's emergency reserve fund being reduced. Considering 3 out of four Board members have less than 2 years experience, one has less than 3 and your governance model gives excessive power to a superintendent with less than a year at SKSD you are in dire situation.

SKSD needs immediate and long-term corrective actions.

- Request WSSDA give the Board and Superintendent training
- Establish the CBAT (citizens budget advisory team)
- Abandon Policy Governance model or determine why it has failed for the last 2 out of 3 superintendents and take corrective policy action.
- Get all bargaining unit contracts under fiscal control.
- Reduce Enrichment Levy to 1.5% next year.
- If the state is not fulfilling their duty for education funding address this with the legislature, not by overtaxing your community. Please note the Supreme Court ruled the state was funding education. With that said there will be a need for local Capital levies and Bond measures along with the 1.5% enrichment levy. Capital levies and bonds must clearly line item by line item identify costs. These measures should be prioritized and executed in priority order. If true cost overruns occur lesser priority items may have to wait until such time they can be funded. Enrichment Levy is designed for extras determined by each of the 295 school districts. Determine SKSD enrichments by asking the students and taxpayers. This is not for funding the basic education package that you are doing because of failed management.
- As a Board understand there will never be enough MONEY for some. You must live within yours and the communities means.

- Lastly, always ask the tough questions and demand answers. Admit errors and make immediate corrective action.

(advice offered from a community member of South Kitsap)