

OPINION

South Kitsap board avoiding our questions

Dave Kimble, Port Orchard Published 1:02 p.m. PT April 2, 2020

A group I belong to, Citizens Supporting South Kitsap Schools, posed five questions to SKSD board directors on March 23rd.

These were the questions: Do you support requiring SKSD to open union contract meetings to the public from now on? Do you support SKSD using interactive and responsive public participation during all in person and/or online school board director meetings? Do you support the SKSD lowering their levy collection rates we pay in taxes to \$1.50 per \$1,000 property value assessments vs. the current \$2.50 collection rate? Do you support SKSD using state funding and school levy dollars to eliminate the lead in drinking water throughout SKSD (all schools in district) before SKSD gives out more pay raises and salary increases? Do you support SKSD providing the public a concise list of levy funded projects that are prioritized with contracted costs and expected completion dates?

Three board directors responded. Two declined to answer the five questions, indicating they wanted to first check with other board directors. Two board directors did not respond at all. Only one board director answered the questions. His answers were yes to all these questions.

So what is the problem here? Peer pressure? Board dysfunction? The long standing

ineffective board culture? Unfortunately four board members are not responding to the public/constituents. These same four do not answer questions presented by the public at board meetings. This must change!

More surveys and questions to the public and school board are planned.

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