

[OPINION](#)

An alternative to a new South Kitsap high school

Brad Gardner, Port Orchard Published 11:31 a.m. PT Feb. 3, 2019

In February, the South Kitsap School District Board will be going to Olympia to convince Legislators to change the supermajority bond requirement from 60 percent to a simple majority of 50 percent plus one. The concept of a super majority within a Republic is to gain trust and support of the community.

For good reason the SKSD has neither the trust nor the support of many in this community. As an example, did you know that SKSD was offered state matching funds to modernize and expand our existing high school? In addition, our state School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) could provide up to \$12 million to help offset the costs of overcrowding within the existing high school? Yet, the board again decided to run a bond for a second high school costing the community over \$184 million with state matching funds of only \$12 million. The Board insists we need a new high school and ignores and disrespects those of us in the community who speak up at meetings and believe remodeling is not only possible but is the best use of the taxpayer's money.

Time is of the essence, if you want to stop this legislation write your state legislators: Rep. Michelle Caldier, Michelle.Caldier@leg.WA.gov and Rep. Jesse Young, Jesse.Young@leg.wa.gov.

I think we all agree that the students are important. One way we can support them with the least amount of financial impact is to expand and modernize the existing high school.

Brad Gardner, Port Orchard