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Troubling budget outlook for South Kitsap schools

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The South Kitsap school board passed a policy forbidding directors from debating or asking questions concerning SKSD bills and payments. How is that an open, transparent, or deliberative process when a board member, let alone the voter — you can't ask?

SKSD may ask for a \$271-million bond this November. One of three bonds being planned. Three bonds that could add up to \$960 million spread over the next 60 years. The district "hopes" to be as clear and transparent as possible, stating voter mentalities must be changed and claiming we judge schools by the outside, not what happens inside. Do such comments engender trust, confidence or respect?

We passed a capital levy a few years back. We were promised many capital projects would be completed but they are now deferred due to lack of funds. SKSD pool project has eaten up \$10.9 million to date, only 60% completed. SKSD used \$2.8 million in Covid recovery funds for the pool. Those funds were supposed to help students recover from lost learning due to Covid. Where are SKSD priorities?

The district now has 403 more employees than the state funds. Levy dollars slotted for education enrichment are used to pay salaries, pay raises, and health care for these "unfunded employees." Who takes on ongoing expenses using temporary funds? We do.

The district needs \$2.8 million to replace Chrome Books due to limited life span. How about laptops that don't age out?

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