

K I T S A P Daily News



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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\$960 million for SKSD

To the editor:

The South Kitsap school board passed a policy forbidding directors from debating or asking questions concerning district 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 will ask for a \$271 million bond in November, one of three being planned. Three bonds, \$960 million, spread over 60 years. One 20-year bond every five to nine years. The district hopes to be as transparent as possible, stating voter mentalities must be changed, 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. The 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. Where are SKSD priorities?

The district hired 403 extra employees these past years; 403 more 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.

What about Chromebooks? We are told they "age out" and stop working. \$2.8 million is needed to replace them. How about buying laptops with a longer shelf life?

Dave Kimble

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