

Call for SKSD supe's ouster if academics don't improve

BY ELISHA MEYER
Port Orchard Independent

A member of the South Kitsap School District board has had enough of failure to improve academic performance, outlining a plan that could include a motion to remove the superintendent.

The board meeting Aug. 17 included a presentation from assistant superintendent of Teaching and Learning Tom Edwards on things such as student assessment data, summer academy and plans for school years to come. Included in that presentation was data showing drops in student assessment performance for reading and more

significant drops in math. The presentation also included a chart showing that only 68 percent of ninth-graders from the 2021-22 school year finished on track for graduation in credits.

School board member Jeff Daily used the data to express concerns he shared in the previous meeting about academic standards. Daily mentioned just an 18 percent passing rate for grades 10-11 on math assessments.

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"We're all in the education business all day long, but the parents are not, and somebody moving here that sees that the high school — 18 percent of the kids pass — they're going to another high school."

— Jeff Daily, South Kitsap School District board member

high school," he said. Daily then shared that he had a plan of motions to make over the course of the next school year if results don't improve. He said that he would start with moves to a neutral stance on the capital projects and levies at the meeting on Oct. 19, followed by a move to non-support on Feb. 1, 2024.

"In other words, I'm not

going out to the community and telling them we need money to fix your schools if we can't improve academic excellence," he said. "2,000 kids may or may not be prepared for the world, and they don't have a choice."

Daily went even further, saying that he would move to replace all the district leadership on April 19 and, to the shock of those in

attendance, would move to replace superintendent Tim Winter June 7. That announcement caused several minutes of arguing between board members to the point where a recess would eventually be called.

"I'm just being upfront honest folks," Daily said. "I'm not going to the community and telling them that we're going to take another three years to get your things fixed when, for the last six years, we've gone down."

Board member John Berg, who has often clashed with Daily, came to his defense this time on the validity of the comments, saying: "I believe director Daily's comments are

germane to the topic. I don't agree with him, and I don't agree with the approach, but I believe he does have the right to express it."

Berg later said that Daily's comment seemed to be more "empty threats" and would be the equivalent to him "going to hold his breath until he passed out if student achievement did not improve by his target date."

The board also voted 5-1 to approve the annual budget, which totaled \$186 million, \$11 million more than it was in the previous meeting. Daily was the only vote against, citing previous concerns shared in the budget hearing.

Suspect arrested in deaths of married couple

STAFF REPORT

A suspect was arrested Aug. 21 in connection with the killings of a married couple found dead at their home in Olalla Aug. 18.

Shaun D. Rose was arrested Sunday night after a struggle at a residence in Tacoma.

The victims were identified as 51-year-old Steven P. Shulz and 51-year-old Mina Shulz, a Kitsap



Shaun D. Rose

County Sheriff's Office news release says. Rose had been seen earlier Sunday driving a white Buick passenger

car in Mason County. Sheriff's office personnel there pursued him for some time before losing him due to erratic and dangerous driving. He ditched the Buick and stole another vehicle in Pierce County, which he drove to Tacoma. He abandoned that vehicle before making his way to the residence where he was arrested.

Rose was to be transported to Kitsap County to be interviewed by detectives and booked into the county jail on his no-bail felony murder warrant.

On Aug. 18, deputies responded to the 12900 block of Shady Glen Avenue SE in Olalla for suspicious circumstances reported at a residence. The reporting person had checked

on her parents and discovered forced entry and saw blood inside. She was unable to locate either parent. The caller backed away and called 911.

The bodies were turned over to the county coroner's office, which will determine the cause and manner of death. Shady Glen Avenue was closed to all except residents for most of Aug. 19.

Former student sues CKSD for \$6 million over rape

BY ELISHA MEYER
Port Orchard Independent

A \$6 million lawsuit has been filed against the Central Kitsap School District by one of three high school students who were raped in 2019 by a former cheer coach.

The lawsuit comes just six months after former assistant coach Tyson Ebert of Olympic High School in Bremerton was sentenced to six months in

jail after pleading guilty to five counts of first-degree sexual misconduct. He has since been released, due to no previous convictions, and is on probation as a registered sex offender.

Now 19-year-old Issac G. Yates and his mother, Lacey Tapia, have filed suit against the district, saying it failed to act in recognizing the coach's behavior sooner, which led to further damage against

the students affected. Yates is suing the district for \$5 million, while Tapia is suing for \$1 million, for damages caused by the district's alleged neglect.

The lawsuit also says that the district's failure to act caused Ebert to continue to use a position of power as a coach to take advantage of his victims. The lawsuit also claims that Ebert was supplying alcohol to some students

to the point where it was common knowledge among the student body.

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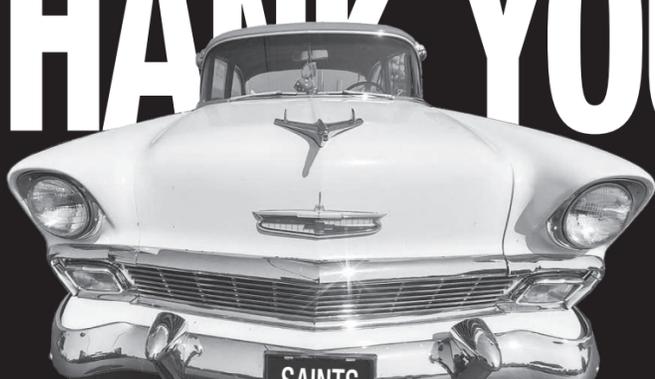
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