

Kris Cappel

From: daily@skschools.org
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2021 8:50 PM
To: dbraun01@msn.com
Subject: Re: LEVY

Mr Braun-

Thank you for the note. I am a little slow at getting through my email so please excuse the delay. Some answers to your questions.

If you look at Bainbridge (on the same levy schedule) they are about \$1 for levy and \$.25 for technology levy. To me, that is the smart way to do it. As you know, I proposed a compromise (\$1.50 levy and \$.50 for capital projects) which was immediately dismissed. I thought it was a win for everyone.

As you know, the state sends us \$127M for education. By the district's own slides, the payroll is \$133M. So, they are \$5M in the hole which they take from federal money and grants. The McCleary money that the district got a few years ago was a "one time" shot and all districts were told to find a way to sustain it. Some stretched the money out but others, like us, just gave teachers the 20%+ raises. To be "fair" the district gave administrators and classified 13% raises. This is what sent things out of wack and why we have no money for kids. I left the district making \$65K in 2015 but had I stayed, I would be making over \$93K plus a better benefits package (about \$23K). Not bad huh!!

The district admits that they have over 180 extra employees that they pay for out of levy funds. So, this adds about \$10M more to the payroll that has to come out of the levy.

So, the district has no choice but to go for the max amount as it is mainly payroll money needed to keep all those people. My frustration is that if we had less people, then the state money would cover the "sports, band, etc" that they say the levy has to cover. So, holding the taxpayer hostage to the things some parents care about. I question if young kids need a counselor, a psych, a social/emotional counselor, etc. These are high dollar occupations that the levy is paying for.

My only hope is that the levy fails and the district has to wake up to reality. Even if it does pass, without more state money or higher levy amounts, the district will soon fail. You cannot get 1.6% pay raises from the state and pay \$3% raises and stay afloat. I just don't get why this concept is so hard to understand for most folks.

The new administration has promised billions for education. What we will get is a guess but even if it does come, it will be a one time shot. The unions have in their contracts that when the levy passes or we get more money from the state/feds, they can go in and request "new bargaining". Gee, I wonder what that means???

We shall see what happens Monday night. The unions have been sending pictures of the MS's and HS of "protocol" violations to L & I. So, my guess is that the district will fold and want to remain on line. Perhaps that will upset more parents and cause the levy to fail.

Hope this helps.

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**D. B.**

Port Orchard, WA • 4 hr ago



SK School District Levy. Below is an email I received from Jeff Daily, who I consider to be the only responsible school board director.

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Note: The SK School Board elected to set our levy at \$2.50 - double that of Bainbridge Island.

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