

ESSER funds

Larry Mann <mannlarry95@gmail.com>

Sun 8/22/2021 8:07 PM

To: Gattenby, Eric <gattenbye@skschools.org>; Berg, John <berg@skschools.org>; Winter, Tim <winter@skschools.org>; Daily, Jeff <daily@skschools.org>;

Cc: DAVID NELSON <dnelson@kitsapsun.com>; BOB SMITH <rsmith@portorchardindependent.com>;

South Kitsap School District (SKSD) is attempting to explain their budget to the taxpayers. The explanation is over Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). Farmer of Business and Operations attempts to explain the use of the ESSER funds and fails miserably.

Farmer says SKSD has already spent ESSER I funds totaling \$1,517,377 on "computers"...Why? There has been nobody in the schools for 14 months plus to use them so that fact as justification is bogus. Then "personal protective equipment"...Why? There has been no teachers or students in schools for the last 14 plus months to warrant purchase of the stated equipment so that fact as justification is bogus. Now we come to "other expenses"...What expenses? There has been no teachers or students in schools for the last 14 plus months to warrant expenses so that fact as justification is bogus. What these expenses in fact are for is to fund the average \$150K teacher salary and benefit packages to stay home for the last 14 plus months and do minimal teaching. Be very aware of this fact; SKSD has negotiated retirement plans and health plans etc and the district can't fund them. For that reason taxpayers fund 88% of those premium costs (down from 92% when lawmakers cut that obligation). The remaining part cost of those premiums is funded from levies. Farmer stated there are no stipulations on what ESSER funds had to be used for. That's an open license to steal taxpayer money and we now know what the funds were used for and it certainly was not for students. As usual it is a feeding frenzy for union cash demands and Winter and all board members, except one, will cater to their demands.

Farmer explains in more detail, ESSER I had \$1,517,377 in funds attached to it and "no accountability" for the expenditures of the funds. Farmer says ESSER II is worth \$5,865,513 to the district and again "no accountability" for any expenditures. Farmer explains more and says ESSER III is worth \$13,173,000 and that money can only be spent toward "learning loss" activities. Lordie be whatever that is, perhaps the new name for more \$20K salary and benefits increases. Farmer clearly states that \$5 million dollars is going toward "staff support" e.g. "staff salary and benefit(s) increases," then to "learning support teachers, social workers and paraeducators" which equates to more salary and benefits once again. Look at this ESSER money in this light. SKSD was given \$20,555,890 million dollars to enhance their lifestyle and nothing more.

SKSD created a director of Health Services position with an unstated salary and benefit package. Farmer explains more about the depth of these millions of dollars and calls them infrastructure projects listing HVAC and roofing projects. Very bogus information and lip service from Farmer. Let me enlighten Farmer about her list of Projects; HVAC, roofing projects (total replacements). Farmer's statement about this is bogus and meaningless so don't be fooled by it. To be very specific; SKSD listed seven (7) total roof replacements and only three (3) have been accomplished at a cost for all three of around \$6M, SKSD swimming pool repairs required because of multiple closures by the Health Department (SKSD has spent millions of dollars getting repair estimates on this and done nothing over the last 12 years), elevator maintenance and repairs to accommodate people falling under federal disability law including district administrators who are to grossly overweight to climb a flight of stairs, security system up grades, fire system up grades, heating system upgrades, etc. The preceding is the short list that taxpayers have funded SKSD to accomplish to no avail.

To prove the information given to the news media on 30 July 2021 as reported by Lauren Gallup in the article "SKSD school budget proposal includes federal ESSER monies" is bogus and false. Fact check here: The editor of the Kitsap Sun has called me a liar several times in emails to me because he says he can't take the time and he has nobody to fact check what I write for him to put into print. The good editor is entitled to his opinion, however, the super majority of comment(s) that I write about are straight from documents. I use city, county, state, federal and in the document at hand school district records as my facts. As a further fact the SKSD list I posted above is well documented in several places. As a matter of fact everything on my list has been used by SKSD and promoted by the district's partner, the Kitsap Sun, to secure the passage of every SKSD school levy since 2006. To refresh everyone's memory the taxpayers have been paying SKSD \$25 million dollars a year to finance all the listed repairs. There is an addition to these levies because a second levy has been passed and running for the last four years bringing the SKSD levy collection amount to \$50 million dollars per year. That \$25 million dollars and \$50 million dollars per year should be of great importance to SK taxpayers because SKSD has collected \$500 million of your tax dollars. Is it not apparent now the taxpayers have been funding the same list of repairs for 16 years and the list remains unchanged with nothing accomplished?

Berg asked Farmer how much of the ESSER funds will be dedicated to summer school next year? Why?

First, SKSD just graduated and advanced students that were denied fourteen months of education. That is a violation of the McCleary ruling because SKSD was fully funded to educate every student in SKSD and SKSD did not do it. Summer school is absolutely unjustified because you cannot accomplish fourteen months of indoctrination in three months.

Second, summer school is an absolute waste and abuse of taxpayer funds because it should not be a challenge for any teacher to meet the requirement in the law. For taxpayers and parents who are unaware of the law placed on educators it goes like this. Teachers are required to educate every student to...let this sink in..."a grade proficient level" nothing above that point to produce, "a good controllable global citizen" a (Socialist). To be very clear what every one of your property tax dollars and every one of your levy dollars are funding, it is (documented), 86%

of every dollar is for education salary and benefits which leaves 14% for each student's education. The last part of "grade proficient" is this, "a 3.0 grade point average (GPA)," nothing above that point.

Third, with everything stated in one and two above there is absolutely no way this district or any other district can be justified in spending \$1 million dollars or more of taxpayer funds for student summer school. It clearly documents that educators did not do their required job(s) during the 180 day school year. It also documents who will benefit from summer school and it is not the students. The three months of summer school will benefit nobody except teachers. It is simple to understand, educators are paid by the month year round. That means teachers have already been paid for the three months in summer when schools are closed. So teachers will benefit with summer school because they will be paid their established salary a second time for teaching summer school. Are you grasping what Farmer is doing here? She is spending \$1 million dollars or more of your tax dollars that is unjustified.

On a pleasant note, I want to commend the seven girls and one boy who violated state law and SKSD teaching and indoctrination to attain 4.0 GPA and 3.995 GPA. Those outstanding marks are all your effort and work no credit goes to any of your teachers.

Larry Mann
Port Orchard, Wa.

(360) 876-3482