



## Lake Washington School District #414 2019 Legislative Platform Priorities

**Four Learning Communities    One District    For All Kids**

### **Mission**

Each student will graduate prepared to lead a rewarding responsible life as a contributing member of our community and greater society.

### **Vision**

Every Student Future Ready: *Prepared for college, Prepared for the global workplace, Prepared for personal success.*

### **Ensure Academic Success for Every Student**

**Provide Support for all Students.** We believe the legislature should support every student in receiving a quality public education, regardless of background, race, ability, or status.

We believe the following areas must be prioritized for full funding to provide a comprehensive array of services that are research-based and proven to have long-term impacts on student achievement:

- 1) **Special education programs and services** – reduce reliance on local funding sources and ensure that resources are aligned with actual costs related to appropriate services
- 2) **High-quality early childhood education for all children** – prioritize funding for early childhood programs and facilities
- 3) **Social emotional learning** – allocate adequate funding to support increased training and appropriate staffing at all levels
- 4) **Differentiated supports for all students** – increase funding to program supports for English Language Learners (ELL) and highly capable programs and training opportunities.

### **Maintain Flexibility to Meet Local Community Needs and Priorities**

**Protect Community Voice in Education.** We believe the legislature should ensure that local school communities maintain maximum flexibility to fund enrichment beyond Basic Education in an equitable, consistent manner. We believe that local schools districts should maintain the authority to collect local dollars to fund local needs and priorities of students, above and beyond what the legislature has deemed Basic Education.

Other local funds, including grants and donations should be exempt from limitations and retain full flexibility for district use.

### **Provide Safe and Innovative Learning Environments**

**To meet the academic needs of all students and provide safe and secure schools, school districts must have the ability to adequately fund resources, including: learning supports, specialized staffing, facilities, educational programs and services. To ensure resources are available, we believe the following areas must be prioritized:**

**Allow for Simple Majority Passage of all School Finance Issues.** We believe the legislature should propose a constitutional amendment that would provide for the approval of school district finance measures by simple majority and would eliminate the supermajority approval requirements based on voter turnout in the previous elections. School districts must have greater ability to fund new construction solutions that may be necessary to accommodate rapid growth and safety-related facility improvements.

**Update the State Formula for School Construction Funding Assistance from Pre-1979-Standards.** We believe the legislature should increase the state's funding formulas for school construction to ensure funding more closely aligns with actual construction costs and educational needs. In addition, we believe school districts should be exempted from state sale tax on capital construction costs, just as state ferry construction and stadium parking are exempt.

### **Recruit, Hire, and Retain Highly Effective Personnel**

**Fully Fund the True Costs of Public School Employee Compensation.** We believe the legislature should continue to work toward an adequate compensation model for all public-school employees needed to operate schools and support students. We believe regionalization must be maintained and implemented in an equitable manner that appropriately addresses actual cost of living differences between districts. We believe the legislature should provide adequate funding to school districts for the costs of the State Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) and consider delayed implementation until operational and funding requirement issues have been adequately addressed and resolved.

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**Lake Washington Board of Directors:** Siri Bliesner, President; Mark Stuart, Vice President; Chris Carlson, Director; Eric Laliberte, Director; and Cassandra Sage, Director.

**Superintendent:** Dr. Jane Stavem