

CONNECTION

Serving Enumclaw and Black Diamond

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Superintendent's Message



The Washington Supreme Court ruled January 5th that the state isn't meeting its constitutional obligation to amply pay for basic public education. The judicial branch of the government will closely "watch" the legislative branch to insure they fully implement education reforms by 2018.

Our state legislature will begin began their short session (60-day) on January 9th with the task of dealing with a large budget shortfall.

The Supreme Court made a point of saying any future cuts to education must be done for educational reasons, not because there is a fiscal crisis.

The following summary of the decision was released by Kristen Fraser, Counsel for the House Ways and Means Committee.

Key points regarding funding inadequacy:

No correlation between funding formulas and education. The state Supreme Court agreed with the trial court that the state's previous basic education funding formulas constituted a mere "tautology," causing funding for basic education to fall below the mark.

Underfunding/reliance on local levies. The state Supreme Court determined that the legislature had underfunded several elements of the basic education program: NERCs (now called MSOCs), transportation, and salaries. This forced districts to rely on local levies to fund the program of basic education, in violation of School Funding I (1977).

Remedy. The trial court had ordered the legislature to determine the actual cost of providing the program of basic education. The state Supreme Court rejected this remedy, reasoning that another cost study is not necessary and that it would repeat the efforts that went into the reforms enacted in 2009-10. The state Supreme Court explained that it would not simply wait for the legislature to fund the reforms initiated by ESHB 2261 and SHB 2276, and it noted that in the 2011-13 budget the legislature had made only minimal progress toward its goal of full implementation by 2017-18. Stating that it "cannot stand idly by as the legislature makes unfulfilled promises for reform," the court declared that it would retain jurisdiction over the case:

"We defer to the legislature's chosen means of discharging its Article IX, section 1 duty, but the judiciary will retain jurisdiction over the case to ensure progress in the state's plan to fully implement education reforms by 2018." (Two justices dissented on this point, contending that retention of jurisdiction infringes on the legislature's role.) The court asked the parties for additional briefing on the preferred method for retaining jurisdiction.

Cathy Dahlquist, 31st District Representative, in a press release states, "Today's ruling makes it clear that budget writers can no longer put education on the 'buy back' list of government services. It is a welcome ruling and one that resonates with my work in the Legislature. This year, I introduced legislation that would ensure education was prioritized in the budget by funding it first. As we grapple with the large spending gap, the court's directive should serve as our guide to crafting a budget that prioritizes education funding before state agencies and government programs. I also believe the court's candor about follow through on education reforms passed by the Legislature, most notably House Bill 2776, will reinforce the fact that budget writers must be held accountable for the decisions they make and how education is treated in every spending plan moving forward."

I will continue to keep you informed over the course of the next 60 days.

In Partnership with you, *Mike*

State of Enumclaw School District Address

Mark Your Calendar **January 26, 2012 • 7:00 PM**
Enumclaw High School Auditorium



Please join Superintendent Mike Nelson as he delivers his fifth annual State of Enumclaw School District Address. After an introduction and message from the Enumclaw School District School Board President, Mr. Nelson will share celebrations of the past year, discuss current projects and set a vision for the next year.

Following the time in the auditorium, dessert and coffee will be served in the Enumclaw High School Library.

Mark January 26th at 7:00 PM on your calendar! It will be an enjoyable evening celebrating the work in our public schools!

Contact Us

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January Work Study Meets at Enumclaw High School



The board of directors met for their January 3rd work study at Enumclaw High School. Principal Jill Burnes took the board and audience on a tour of the new lobby the 1000 building art gallery and the art classrooms where beautiful student glass-work was on display.

Mr. Murphy's AP Human Geography students Mackenzie Bull, Meagan Johnson, Courtney Kinniburgh, Katja Barnhart, and Austin Schuver shared how this new freshman course has impacted their thinking and learning



Mrs. Jackson's DECA students Alicia Cassell and Courtney Bone shared information regarding their community service project. They have been investigating ways to sustain the Rachel's Challenge concepts on the high school campus through



the possible implementation of the Link Crew Program.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the work study meetings. It is a wonderful opportunity to hear and see what is happening in our buildings.

<i>The schedule for the remainder of the school year is as follows:</i>	February 6th	Kibler Elementary
	March 5th	Westwood Elementary
	April	No work study
	May 8th	Southwood Elementary
	June 4th	Black Diamond Elementary

Considering a Scholarship?

NOW IS THE TIME!

Monthly scholarship lists are available in the Counseling Center or on-line by visiting the EHS Career & Counseling Center SWIFT page (<http://swift.enumclaw.wednet.edu/ehs/ccenter/index.php>). Once there, click on 'Documents' and choose the 'January Scholarship/College info list' in the Scholarship and Financial Aid category.

This list is updated every month and has websites to sign up for free scholarship searches, college planning, testing, practice tests and much more. Career planning information can also be found on the swift website using **WOIS** or **Career Bridges**. Seniors should be almost done applying to colleges, filling out their **FAFSA**, and working on scholarship applications.

Please check college websites for their special scholarships available to incoming freshmen. Local scholarship applications for seniors will be ready in March. Jr. Achievement Applications are in the Counseling Center for Juniors with a 3.5 GPA or better, involved in community service and school activities. Juniors planning on attending a 4-year college should sign up to take the SAT and/or ACT this spring.

Please don't hesitate to contact your counselor if you have any questions. Career Center hours this year are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during Choice (9:45-10:15).

New Board Members



Tina McGann

Tina was recently elected to represent District 4

Tina and her husband Jack both grew up in Templeton, Massachusetts. They moved to Black Diamond 10 years ago and started their own electrical contracting company. They have 3 children, Garrett 9, Carter 7, and Brady 7. All 3 attend Black Diamond Elementary. Tina has been involved with Black Diamond's PTA for the last 5 years. She has served on the PTA board as the President and Secretary. She has also worked on levy elections, co-chaired the Enumclaw Schools Foundation Full Day Kindergarten Auction, and volunteers in the classroom weekly. Tina is very excited to join the team and to continue the great things that are happening in our schools!

April Schroeder

April Schroeder was recently elected to represent District 2.



April served on the Sunrise PTA Board for 7 years, holding the positions of PTA secretary and two years as president. She currently holds the position of treasurer on the Enumclaw Middle School PTSO, as well as sitting on the Enumclaw Schools Foundation Board. For the past two years, she has successfully chaired fundraising for the Sixth Grade Outdoor Education Camp. April owns and operates a daycare in Enumclaw. She has lived in Enumclaw for the past 11 years with her husband Scott and three beautiful children Daughter Nikole attends Enumclaw Middle School, and twins Trinston and Keely attend Sunrise Elementary School.

April was elected by the board to be their legislative representative this year. "I am excited to be part of the Enumclaw School Board. I would like to make a difference in our kids' educational experience and help them feel like these years are the best years of their lives."

Upcoming Events January & February

<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
January 19	Pacific Science Center Rock and Roll Van at Sunrise
January 20	Staff Collaboration – Early Release
January 20-21	EMS Shows
January 26	Former and current board member dinner at 5:30 pm State of Education Address at 7 pm
January 27	Staff Collaboration – Early Release Sunrise Family Bunco Night at 6:30 pm
February 1	TMMS PTSO at 6:00 pm
February 2	Enumclaw Special Olympics Basketball – "Pack the Gym Night" at Thunder Mt. at 6:30 pm
February 3	Staff Collaboration – Early Release
February 6	Board work study at Kibler at 6:30 pm
February 9	Magic Strings performance
February 10	Staff Collaboration – Early Release
February 17	Staff Collaboration – Early Release
February 20	President's Day – No school & district office closed
February 21-24	Mid-winter break
February 27	Board meeting – 6:30 pm

Calendars for events at each of our buildings can be accessed at the district website: <http://www.enumclaw.wednet.edu>