Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

Mead + Community Partners = Enhanced STEM Learning Opportunities for Students

It started four years ago during a brainstorming session between CTE Director Doug Edmonson and Northwood science teacher Dave Cannon. The conversation quickly moved from the theoretical to, “Let’s do it...Let’s reach out and partner with higher education and local industries and build engaging, meaningful learning opportunities for Mead students around STEM.” That’s the short story of how our STEM Forward events, now entering their fourth year, were born.

STEM Forward, at its core, provides real world opportunities for students. Each event is designed to tap into a student’s curiosity and engage his or her desire to “figure it out.” Our community partners have helped us expand STEM pathways for students.

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Mead School District
Board of Directors

Board of Directors Letter to the Community

In matters of days the Mead community will have the opportunity to vote on a two-year Supplemental Levy. This ballot measure is, in our opinion, very important to the continuing success of the Mead School District.

Our purpose in writing is to explain WHAT the levy will pay for and WHY we unanimously voted to bring this ballot measure to voters.

WHAT...

In addition to adding safety & security personnel as recommended by the Safety Task Force, MAINTAINING nurses to care for medically fragile students, BRINGING BACK building supervision para-educators lost in recent budget cuts and EXPANDING learning opportunities for non-traditional students, supplemental levy dollars will help cover:

- OTHER PROGRAM COSTS: There are many other programs the district offers where staffing levels exceed that provided by the state in their prototypical school funding model. Examples include our English Language Learner program, special education, course offices and summer school.
- NEW SCHOOL NON-TEACHER COSTS: Opening two new schools and a stadium at the Fall of 2020, and a potential third school in the Fall of 2021, includes costs not covered by the state. Examples are school administration, office staff, custodians, cooks, school maintenance, utilities, insurance, etc.

WHY...

Starting in the 2018/19 school year Washington instituted a new funding model for public schools to comply with the Supreme Court “McCleary” decision that requires the state to “fully fund” education. For Mead this model increased the amount of money received from the state, while at the same time substantially decreasing the permissible local levy tax rate (from $4.01 to $1.50) and, therefore, the amount of local levy money available (approximately $11 million less).

During the 2019 legislative session law makers realized restricting levy rates to $1.50, coupled with OSPF publicly stating new state monies were for salaries, had the unintended consequence of contributing to budget shortfalls for many school districts. To remedy this situation they raised the local levy rate voters can approve to $2.50. They also provided “hold harmless” funds for many school districts. Spokane received $5.1 million, Central Valley $686,000, East Valley $4 million and West Valley $1.2 million. The Mead School District received NO hold harmless funds.

With this new legislation in place in July we approved placing a two-year Supplemental Levy on the November 5th ballot. This levy will cost the average homeowner $20/month ($240,000 assessed value) and raise $7.1 million in 2020 and $7.5 million in 2021.

Considering the community’s long-standing support of Mead Schools, we believe patrons should be given the opportunity to vote on providing additional enrichment services for students.

INVESTMENT RETURN...

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE: We are each long-time residents of the Mead School District. Our children have graduated or will graduate from Mead Schools. We know firsthand the outstanding learning opportunities Mead provides for all students. This is possible because of strong community support. Thank you for your ongoing investment in the education of Mead School District students. We collectively believe a vibrant school district pays key short-term and long-term dividends for the entire community.
Behind the Scenes
Working Together to Equip Students, Inspire Problem Solvers & Create Leaders

Behind the scenes in the Mead School District you will find a number of folks whose work is essential to helping make our school district a great place for kids to learn and grow. Our nurses, who are all licensed professionals, fall into that category. Together they handle all things health related for a student population of nearly 10,760 students. We talked with Ruth Erb (lead secondary nurse) and Carrie Dotwood (lead elementary nurse) and asked them a few questions about the Mead School District Nursing Services Department.

To honor Bob Olson for his 34 years (and counting) of service on the Mead School Board, we named a street after him. Our Facilities Department requested, and Spokane County agreed, to name the access road to Highland Middle School on Five Mile Prairie NORTH BOB OLSON LANE.

Cat Scramble 2019

Thanks to all who participated in this year’s Cat Scramble Golf Tournament & Silent Auction. This community fundraiser brought in an impressive $70,000 that will be divided equally between the Mt. Spokane and Mead High Athlete Booster Clubs. A list of all Cat Scramble sponsors is posted on the Mead School District homepage.

November 14-16 & 20-23 Mead HS Theatre 7 pm $12 adults - $10 students

November 14-16 & 21-23 Mt. Spokane HS Theatre 7 pm $8 adults - $5 students/seniors

Open Invitation
A Message from Superintendent Shawn Woodward

In my new role as Mead superintendent I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and interacting with staff, students, parents and community members. Another favorite part of my job is visiting schools. It allows me to understand better the challenges and opportunities in front of us as we work together toward ensuring high levels of learning for all students. If you have an interest in touring any of our schools please reach out! I am confident after visiting you will find yourself hopeful and optimistic for the future.

On November 5th you will have the opportunity to vote on a Supplemental Levy ballot measure for the Mead School District. I invite you to read the Letter to the Community from the Board of Directors, located on page 2 of this publication, as well as the Voter’s Guide insert. Additional information on the proposed Supplemental Levy is also available on our homepage (mead354.org) and includes a Levy Overview, as well as answers to our most Frequently Asked Questions regarding this ballot measure.

There will also be two upcoming Community Information Nights regarding the Supplemental Levy – October 23rd at Northwood Middle School (6:30 pm) and October 24th at Mountainside Middle School (6:30 pm). If you are unable to attend, but have questions, please give my office a call (509-465-6014) to schedule a time to meet with me personally.

I want to thank the community for its long-standing support of the Mead School District and personally encourage you to vote in the upcoming November 5, 2019, election.

Shiloh Hills Dedication Ceremony

Shiloh Hills 6th grader Ari Nash helping School Board President Cameron Green with the official Ribbon Cutting at the August 27th Shiloh Hills Dedication Ceremony.
YOUR Voter Pull-Out Guide

Supplemental Levy

November 5, 2019

Mead School District

Safety Security Wellness

Your Ballot Arrives October 16

Vote By November 5

Your ballot arrives October 16!

Vote By November 5

Supplemental Levy

Community Information Meetings

- October 23, 6:30 pm
  Northwood Middle School, 12908 N. Pittsburg
- October 24, 6:30 pm
  Mountainside Middle School, 4717 E. Day Mt. Spokane Rd.

Mead School District

2323 E. Farwell Rd.
Mead, WA 99021

509.465.6014

Superintendent
Shawn Woodward

For Additional Information Visit:
www.mead354.org

Spokane Schools 2019 = 35%
Supplemental Levy

The proposed two-year Supplemental Levy will generate $7.1 million in 2020 and $7.5 million in 2021. Average homeowner cost = $20/month ($240,000 assessed value).

Safety, Security & Wellness

**ADD**

**Safety & Security Personnel**

Based on recommendations from the Safety & Security Task Force, hire a Safety Director, a Threat Assessment Coordinator and up to five School Security Officers.

**MAINTAIN**

**Nurses for Medically Fragile Students**

Mead spends 10 times more money on nurses than what the state provides. This additional nursing staff allows medically fragile students to remain at their home schools.

**BRING BACK**

**Building Supervision Para Educators**

Reinstate supervision para educators reduced in recent budget cuts. The state’s prototypical funding model provides only 8 hours per day of para support for each elementary school.

**EXPAND**

**Non-Traditional Student Learning Opportunities**

Convene a Task Force to make recommendations on how best to allocate a portion of Supplemental Levy funds to meet the learning and social-emotional needs of non-traditional students.

**Levy, Bond & State School Taxes**

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If the Supplemental Levy is approved, the combined total of school taxes paid by Mead patrons (Levy, Bond & State) will be essentially the same as in 2017 prior to the state’s “McCleary Fix” legislation.

**Mead Levy & Bond Historical Rates**

The proposed combined Mead School District levy & bond tax rate ($4.43) is $1.08 LESS than the district’s 15-year historical average ($5.51).