



**ACTION TO PROCEED WITH PROPOSAL  
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT**

**BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 403  
NEW BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT**

**Description  
of Proposal:**

In February of 2019, the voters of Bethel School District overwhelmingly approved a Capital Bond, to include among other projects, the construction of New Bethel High School to replace the existing Bethel High School in a location (7718 224th Street East, Graham, Washington) that supports the student body and the community as recommended by the District's Long Range Facilities Task Force. The existing Bethel High School site is functionally obsolete and is not adequate to serve the needs of its students and as such, Bethel School District Bond Resolutions and Board Resolutions identified the site for the new high school as District-owned property located near the intersection of 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and 224<sup>th</sup> Street East in the East Graham area of unincorporated Pierce County. The Board of Directors found and determined that a replacement high school could not be accommodated on the existing Bethel High School site.

The proposed New Bethel High School consists of a 281,723-square foot, two-story high school that would house approximately 1,800 students upon occupancy with capacity for four future portables for an additional 200 students and up to 145 staff and one future portable for a student-based health clinic. The Project includes traditional athletic high school facilities with six tennis courts, a baseball field with synthetic turf installed to the baseline, a softball field with synthetic turf installed to the baseline, and a synthetic track with a synthetic turf, lighted Multi-Purpose Field, and an adjacent grass practice field with use for discus and javelin. Primary access to the New Bethel High School would be from the intersection of 77th Avenue E and 224th Street E where a new traffic signal with public right-of-way improvements would be installed as a component of the project. This access serves as the primary access for students, staff and visitor parking along with the student drop-off/pick-up loop. An access driveway from 70th Avenue East with associated public right-of-way improvements to the School site is planned as restricted access for school buses only and will service only the bus drop off area. On-site parking would be provided in three separate lots with a total of 478 parking stalls.

**Project Location:**

Location of Proposal: The proposed New Bethel High School is located at 7718 224<sup>th</sup> Street East and consists of four parcels located southerly, southeasterly, and southwesterly of the 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and 224<sup>th</sup> Street intersection in the Graham area of unincorporated Pierce County. Signage for the Proposal will be located at the northeast corner of 224<sup>th</sup> Street East and 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue East.

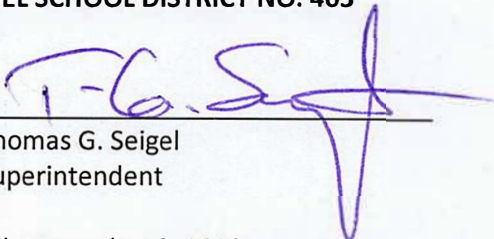
(The new High School will be located on Parcel Nos. 0418172009, 0418172010, 0418172019, and 0418172021; signage will be located on Parcel No. 0418172022)

**Action Taken:** A public comment was submitted on the Environmental Checklist by Mr. George Wearn, but was not included in the Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS) that was issued on September 22, 2023. An Addendum to the MDNS was issued to address the comment email (Comment Letter) received from Mr. Wearn.

Upon review of the documents on file, the SEPA Checklist, and the MDNS, as modified by the Addendum, the Responsible Official for the Bethel School District, as Lead Agency for the Proposal, concluded and determined that the Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance, issued on September 22, 2023, would be retained. An Addendum to the MDNS was issued on November 8, 2023 and there is no comment period on the Addendum consistent with RCW ch. 43.21C and WAC 197-11-600, 197-11-625, and 197-11-706.

Accordingly, the Superintendent, as authorized by Board authorization associated with the New Bethel High School Project, hereby takes action to proceed with the Proposal, consistent with the MDNS, as modified by the Addendum to the MDNS, and directs the Director of Construction and Planning for the Project, to continue to proceed to obtain the necessary and required permits and approvals for the Proposal associated with the New Bethel High School Project.

**BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 403**

By:   
Thomas G. Seigel  
Superintendent

Dated: November 9, 2023