Highline Public Schools Board Action Report

DATE: June 9, 2026

FROM: Dr. Ivan Duran, Superintendent

LEAD STAFF: Jackie Bryan, Chief Financial Officer

For Introduction: 06/18/2026 For Action: 07/01/2026

I.TITLE Resolution 12-26 - Educational Technology and Capital Improvements Levy

Select one: ☒ New Item ☐ Renewed Item ☐ Annual Item ☐ Revised Item

II. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

District Policy 6910 authorizes the school board to place before voters during an election a proposition seeking approval to, "levy a special capital improvements property tax."

III. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The current condition and inventory of district technology, equipment, infrastructure, systems, and the promise to ensure all students have equitable access to technology and safe learning environments, necessitates an increased commitment of funds.

Technology supports teaching, learning, safety, communication and daily district operations. State funding does not fully cover these costs, so many Washington school districts rely on local levies to maintain these systems. A technology levy would fill the gap between what funding the state provides and what it costs to fund technology services, programs, and staff. A technology levy would resume funding that has been in place from levy collections in 2021 and 2022.

Capital technology levies are a common way school districts fund student devices, classroom technology, cybersecurity, network systems and other technology needs. Many King County districts already use this type of local funding, including Seattle, Kent, Federal Way, Lake Washington, Northshore, Renton and others.

The projects to be funded by the proposed technology and capital projects levy align with Highline's strategic plan. They support innovative learning and help students graduate future-ready. The projects and improvements include cybersecurity protections and infrastructure, maintenance of reliable internet, school operations and technology systems, teacher and staff training on digital tools and technology, as well as routine capital costs that are not bond-funded, such as major preventative maintenance, painting, facility upgrades, and grounds improvements.

To raise the funding necessary to accomplish these projects, a levy beginning in 2027 would annually collect $12 million for four years, costing a projected average of $0.34 per $1,000 of assessed property value each year.

IV. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the Highline School Board approve Resolution 12-26, which places on the November 3rd, 2026 ballot for voter approval a proposition authorizing an excess property tax of $12 million dollars annually, to be made for four years, commencing in 2026 for collection in the years 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030, in the aggregate total amount of $48 million dollars, for the district's Capital Projects Fund, to make district wide educational technology improvements and to support the modernization and remodeling of school facilities.

V. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

The fiscal impact of this resolution will be $48 million in expenditures to fully implement the technology and capital plans developed for these projects.

The revenue source for this motion is the collection of $48 million in excess property tax, that by this action, will be placed before voters in an election on November 3, 2026.

Expenditure: ☒ One-time ☐ Annual

VI. APPLICABLE POLICY(S)

This action is in compliance with the following:
RCW 84.52.053 and Policy 6910 - Construction Financing

VII. ALTERNATIVES

Failure to approve this resolution would prevent Highline from addressing students instructional and safety needs, as well as put at risk other staff support, as shrinking resources would require reductions and a rebalancing of budgets.

VIII. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement Required: ☒ Yes ☐ No

For years the Capital Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC), compromised of Highline community members, has met regularly to examine, discuss, and recommend various district building and facilities projects. Most of that work is focused on school building planning. However, technology upgrades, repairs, and access are an integral part of those projects. CFAC has vocalized and demonstrated a strong commitment to ensuring Highline serves student technology, as well as building and facilities, needs.

Independent pro and con committees will also be formed, and those committees will submit statements for and against the technology and capital projects levy proposition, that will be printed in the November voters' pamphlet.

Additionally, the district has surveyed families and the broader community regarding their priorities. There has been a consistent and strong demand for access to modern, appropriate technology, as well as safe, modern learning environments.

IX. ATTACHMENTS

Highline Resolution No. 12-26 (for approval)
Pro and Con Committee Appointment Form (for reference at Action)

HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON
(HIGHLINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

PROPOSITION NO. 2 – EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS LEVY

RESOLUTION NO. 12-26

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Highline School District No. 401, King County, Washington, providing for the submission to the voters of the District at a special election to be held on November 3, 2026, in conjunction with the State general election to be held on the same date, of a proposition authorizing an excess tax levy to be made annually for four years commencing in 2026 for collection in 2027 of $12,000,000, in 2027 for collection in 2028 of $12,000,000, in 2028 for collection in 2029 of $12,000,000, and in 2029 for collection in 2030 of $12,000,000, for the District's Capital Projects Fund to support the construction, modernization and remodeling of school facilities by making educational technology and capital improvements; designating the District's Chief Financial Officer and special counsel to receive notice of the ballot title from the Director of Elections of King County, Washington; and providing for related matters.

ADOPTED: JULY 1, 2026

This document prepared by:

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HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON
(HIGHLINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

RESOLUTION NO. 12-26

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Highline School District No. 401, King County, Washington, providing for the submission to the voters of the District at a special election to be held on November 3, 2026, in conjunction with the State general election to be held on the same date, of a proposition authorizing an excess tax levy to be made annually for four years commencing in 2026 for collection in 2027 of $12,000,000, in 2027 for collection in 2028 of $12,000,000, in 2028 for collection in 2029 of $12,000,000, and in 2029 for collection in 2030 of $12,000,000, for the District's Capital Projects Fund to support the construction, modernization and remodeling of school facilities by making educational technology and capital improvements; designating the District's Chief Financial Officer and special counsel to receive notice of the ballot title from the Director of Elections of King County, Washington; and providing for related matters.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401, KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON, as follows:

Section 1. Findings and Determinations. The Board of Directors (the "Board") of Highline School District No. 401, King County, Washington (the "District"), takes note of the following facts and makes the following findings and determinations:

(a) The existing condition of educational technology equipment, infrastructure, systems and facilities, aging and educationally outdated school facilities, student and staff safety and security concerns, and the needs of the District's educational programs require the District to support the construction, modernization and remodeling of school facilities by making educational technology and capital improvements to maintain student learning, all as more particularly defined and described in Section 2 herein (collectively the "Projects").

(b) It appears certain that the money in the District's Capital Projects Fund will be insufficient to permit the District to pay costs of the Projects, and that it is necessary that an excess tax levy of $12,000,000 be made in 2026 for collection in 2027, $12,000,000 be made in 2027 for collection in 2028, $12,000,000 be made in 2028 for collection in 2029, and $12,000,000 be made in 2029 for collection in 2030 for the District's Capital Projects Fund to provide the money required to pay those costs.

(c) Pursuant to Article VII, Section 2(a) of the Washington Constitution and Revised Code of Washington ("RCW") 84.52.053, the District may submit to its voters at a special election, for their approval or rejection, a proposition authorizing the District to levy annual excess property taxes to support (*i.e.*, to pay, fund or finance) costs of the Projects.

(d) The best interests of the District's students and other inhabitants require the District to carry out and accomplish the Projects.

Section 2. Description of the Projects. The Projects to be paid for with the excess property taxes authorized herein are more particularly defined and described as follows:

(a) Acquire, construct, install, implement and modernize districtwide technology equipment, infrastructure, systems, facilities, improvements and upgrades, including, but not limited to: (1) districtwide technology and educational technology, programs, staff, computers, personal computing devices, hardware and software; (2) cybersecurity protections, reliable internet, technology operations and infrastructure; (3) student and staff access to technology; (4) student and staff training and support to implement technology improvements; and (5) other technology improvements and upgrades throughout school facilities, all as determined necessary and advisable by the Board. The foregoing districtwide technology equipment, infrastructure, systems, facilities, improvements and upgrades shall be part of the District's integrated technology systems and facilities for operations and instruction.

(b) Make districtwide capital acquisitions and improvements to support the construction, modernization and remodeling of schools and facilities of the District, all as determined necessary and advisable by the Board.

(c) Acquire, construct and install all necessary furniture, equipment, apparatus, accessories, fixtures and appurtenances in or for the foregoing, all as determined necessary and advisable by the Board.

(d) Pay costs associated with: (1) implementing the foregoing technology systems, facilities, projects, equipment and infrastructure, including, but not limited to, upgrading, acquiring, constructing, and installing hardware, licensing software and online applications and training related to the installation of the foregoing; and (2) the application and modernization of technology systems for operations and instruction, including, but not limited to, ongoing fees for online applications, subscriptions, or software licenses, including upgrades and incidental services, and ongoing training related to the installation and integration of these products and services, all as determined necessary and advisable by the Board. Such costs constitute a part of the Projects. The hardware, software or applications shall be an integral part of the District's technology systems, facilities or projects.

(e) Pay incidental costs and other capital costs incurred in connection with carrying out and accomplishing the Projects. Such incidental costs and other capital costs constitute a part of the Projects and include, but are not limited to: (1) payments for fiscal and legal costs; (2) costs of establishing and funding accounts; (3) necessary and related engineering, architectural, planning, consulting, permitting, inspection and testing costs; (4) administrative, managerial, and relocation costs; (5) site acquisition, assessment and improvement costs; (6) demolition costs; (7) costs related to demolition and/or deconstruction of existing school facilities to recycle, reclaim and repurpose all or a portion of such facilities and/or building materials; (8) costs of on and off-site utilities and road improvements; and (9) costs of other similar activities or purposes, all as determined necessary and advisable by the Board.

The Projects, or any portion or portions thereof, may be accomplished insofar as is practicable with available money and in such order of time as may be determined necessary and advisable. The District may determine the application of available money between the various

parts of the Projects so as to accomplish, as near as may be, all of the Projects. The exact order, extent and specifications for the Projects may be more fully described in the plans of the District.

Section 3. Calling of Election. The Director of Elections of King County, Washington, as *ex officio* Supervisor of Elections (the "Auditor"), is requested to call and conduct a special election in the District, in the manner provided by law, to be held on November 3, 2026, in conjunction with the State general election to be held on the same date, for the purpose of submitting to the District's voters, for their approval or rejection, the proposition authorizing a Capital Projects Fund excess property tax levy on all of the taxable property within the District (the assessed value of such representing 100% of true and fair value unless specifically provided otherwise by law) to be made annually for four years commencing in 2026 for collection in 2027 of $12,000,000, the estimated dollar rate of tax levy required to produce such an amount being $0.36 per $1,000 of assessed value, in 2027 for collection in 2028 of $12,000,000, the estimated dollar rate of tax levy required to produce such an amount being $0.35 per $1,000 of assessed value, in 2028 for collection in 2029 of $12,000,000, the estimated dollar rate of tax levy required to produce such an amount being $0.34 per $1,000 of assessed value, and in 2029 for collection in 2030 of $12,000,000, the estimated dollar rate of tax levy required to produce such an amount being $0.32 per $1,000 of assessed value, all in excess of the maximum tax levy allowed by law for school districts without voter approval. The exact tax levy rate may be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the taxable property within the District at the time of the levy.

Section 4. Use of Taxes. If the proposition authorized by this resolution is approved by the requisite number of voters, the District will be authorized to levy the excess property taxes provided in this resolution to pay costs of the Projects, all as may be authorized by law and determined necessary and advisable by the Board. Pending the receipt of those taxes, the District may issue short-term obligations pursuant to chapter 39.50 RCW or contract indebtedness pursuant to RCW 28A.530.080. Upon receipt, the District may use those taxes to repay such short-term obligations or indebtedness, all as may be authorized by law and determined necessary and advisable by the Board.

Section 5. Sufficiency of Taxes. If the excess property taxes authorized herein are more than sufficient to carry out the Projects, or should state or local circumstances require any alteration in the Projects, the District may apply such taxes to other capital purposes, or reduce or eliminate the excess property tax levies authorized herein, all as the Board may determine and as permitted by law.

If it has become impractical to accomplish the Projects or any portion thereof by reason of state or local circumstances, including changed conditions or needs, regulatory considerations, incompatible development or costs substantially in excess of those estimated, or for any other reason, the District will not be required to accomplish such Projects and may apply the excess property taxes authorized herein or any portion thereof to other capital purposes of the District, or reduce or eliminate the excess property taxes authorized herein, all as the Board may determine and as permitted by law. In the event that the excess property taxes, plus any other money of the District legally available therefor, are insufficient to accomplish all of the Projects, the District may use the available money for paying costs of any portions of the Projects.

Notwithstanding anything in this resolution to the contrary, the excess property taxes authorized herein may be used only to support the construction, modernization or remodeling of school facilities or implementation of the District's technology plan.

Section 6. Form of Ballot Title. Pursuant to RCW 29A.36.071, the King County Prosecuting Attorney is requested to prepare the concise description of the aforesaid proposition for the ballot title in substantially the following form:

PROPOSITION NO. 2

HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401
(HIGHLINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS LEVY

The Board of Directors of Highline School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 12-26, concerning educational technology and capital improvements to maintain student learning. This proposition would fund districtwide technology, programs and staff and other capital improvements not funded by the State, including cybersecurity protections, reliable internet, technology operations and infrastructure, and student/staff technology access, and authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2027	$0.36	$12,000,000
2028	$0.35	$12,000,000
2029	$0.34	$12,000,000
2030	$0.32	$12,000,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 12-26. Should this proposition be approved?

LEVY . . . YES ☐ LEVY . . . NO ☐

Section 7. Authorization to Deliver Resolution to Auditor and Perform Other Necessary Duties. The Secretary to the Board (the "Secretary") or the Secretary's designee is authorized and directed to: (a) present a certified copy of this resolution to the Auditor no later than August 4, 2026; and (b) perform such other duties as are necessary or required by law to submit to the District's voters at the aforesaid special election, for their approval or rejection, the proposition authorizing the District to levy annual excess property taxes to pay costs of the Projects.

Section 8. Notices Relating to Ballot Title. For purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the ballot title required by RCW 29A.36.080, the Board hereby designates (a) the District's Chief Financial Officer (Jackie Bryan), telephone: 206.631.3181; email: jackie.bryan@highlineschools.org; and (b) special counsel, Foster Garvey P.C. (Lee Marchisio), telephone: 206.447.6264; email: lee.marchisio@foster.com, as the individuals to whom the Auditor shall provide such notice. The Secretary is authorized to approve changes to the ballot title, if any, determined necessary by the Auditor or the King County Prosecuting Attorney.

Section 9. Execution; General Authorization and Ratification. This resolution may be executed by the Directors being present and voting in favor of the resolution, or only the President of the Board (the "President"), and attested by the Secretary, in tangible medium, manual, facsimile or electronic form under any security procedure or platform, and notwithstanding any other District resolution, rule, policy or procedure, or in any other manner evidencing its adoption. The President, the Secretary, the District's Chief Financial Officer, the District's Controller, other appropriate officials of the District and the District's special counsel, Foster Garvey P.C., are further severally authorized and directed to take such actions and to create, accept, execute, send, use and rely upon such tangible medium, manual, facsimile or electronic documents, records and signatures under any security procedure or platform, and notwithstanding any other District resolution, rule, policy or procedure, as in their judgment may be necessary or desirable to effectuate the provisions of this resolution. All actions taken prior to the effective date of this resolution in furtherance of and not inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution are ratified and confirmed in all respects.

Section 10. Severability. If any provision of this resolution is declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, then such provision shall be null and void and shall be separable from the remaining provisions of this resolution and shall in no way affect the validity of the other provisions of this resolution, or of the levy or collection of excess property taxes authorized herein.

Section 11. Effective Date. This resolution takes effect from and after its adoption.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Highline School District No. 401, King County, Washington, at a regular open public meeting held on July 1, 2026.

HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

_____
President and Director

_____
Vice President and Director

_____
Director

_____
Director

_____
Director

ATTEST:

_____
DR. IVAN DURAN
Secretary to the Board of Directors

CERTIFICATION

I, DR. IVAN DURAN, Secretary to the Board of Directors of Highline School District No. 401, King County, Washington (the "District"), hereby certify as follows:

1. The foregoing Resolution No. 12-26 (the "Resolution") is a full, true and correct copy of the Resolution duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the District (the "Board") held at its regular meeting place on July 1, 2026 (the "Meeting"), as that Resolution appears in the records of the District, and the Resolution is now in full force and effect; and

2. The Meeting was duly convened, held and included an opportunity for public comment, in all respects in accordance with law, a quorum of the members of the Board was present throughout the Meeting, and a sufficient number of members of the Board present voted in the proper manner for the adoption of the Resolution.

Dated: July 1, 2026.

HIGHLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

_____
DR. IVAN DURAN
Secretary to the Board of Directors