

Promised and delivered

Go back about a year and a half. The East Valley School District queried its patrons on their district priorities. After the votes were tallied, two items literally jumped off the list: Safety and security ranked number one. Buildings and facilities were second.

In response, the district asked voters to approve a capital levy last fall addressing the first phase of a multi-year plan to deliver on those two priorities. A year later, significant work already has been completed, additional work is under way, and future work is being planned.

On the security side, the most ambitious project to date has been the installation of deadbolt locks on every classroom in the district – more than 1,000 locks. In the event of a building emergency, the doors can be locked with a simple turn of the thumb, allowing students and staff to shelter in place.

That, however is just one facet of a more comprehensive safety/plan that also involves the transition to single points of entry in every building. Single entry points provide better observation, supervision and control of building ingress than multiple-point entry.

Funneling traffic to a single welcome point reduces the likelihood of an intruder gaining access through an unlocked, unmonitored side door.

The larger security strategy also involves the installation of new networked communications systems integrating

video, intercoms, doors, clocks, alarms and bells in a single, comprehensive package.

“Our goal is to provide multiple layers of protection for our students and staff,” says Superintendent Kelly Shea. “It’s a little like buying insurance; you hope you never need it. But if an emergency does arise, we need the tools to respond quickly and effectively.”

On the building and facilities front, the district also has completed construction of a new parking lot at Trentwood Elementary. There, the challenge was not just one of restricted off-street parking.

“We also faced congested drop-off points and difficult access on and off of Wellesley Avenue,” said Shea. “We eliminated the traffic choke points by separating cars and buses and creating separate entrance and exit points. Morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups are now much safer and more efficient.”

The parking lot also has produced ancillary benefits for students and neighbors alike. Students have enjoyed new playground equipment in a realigned recreational area behind the school.

Neighbors, meanwhile, have appreciated fewer cars parked on the street.

The Trentwood improvements are a precursor to what is planned in the next phase at the district’s other schools (see superintendent’s column, page 2).

It’s full steam ahead in East Valley. Thank you, voters, for your support of our students.



Bird's eye view: The new parking lot and playground at Trentwood Elementary.

**Volume 35, Number 1
Winter 2019-20**

East Valley School District No. 361
3830 N. Sullivan, Building 1
Spokane Valley, WA 99216

(509) 924-1830 • www.evsd.org

This newsletter is published
by the East Valley School
District Board of Directors and
superintendent. Comments,
suggestions or questions may be
directed to the superintendent.

Board of Directors

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Superintendent
Kelly Shea

Upcoming Board Meetings

January 14, 2020
EVMS at 6 p.m.

January 28, 2020
Walker Center at 6 p.m.

February 11, 2020
EV Parent Partnership at 6 p.m.

February 25, 2020
Walker Center at 6 p.m.

District Calendar

Winter Break
Dec. 23, 2019-Jan. 3, 2020

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
January 20, 2020

Mid-Winter Break
February 17-21, 2020

Spring Break
April 6-10, 2020

February vote

Replacement levies maintain current tax rate

On February 11, 2020, East Valley voters will be asked to consider two school replacement levies on the ballot.

The first is our Educational Programs and Operations Levy (EP&O), previously known as the Maintenance and Operations Levy (M&O). The EP&O provides local revenue to support a variety of programs for students, additional staff, staff compensation, as well as help cover the costs of operating a school district.

In the past, the EP&O represented nearly one-fourth of the district's revenue. However, due to legislative changes as a result of the McCleary decision, it now accounts for approximately one-sixth of district revenue.

The second is a Capital Levy, which will provide local funding to continue the improvement of district schools. In November 2018, East Valley voters approved a two-year Capital Levy with the priority of making safety and security improvements across the district.

The Capital Levy will continue its focus on safety and security improvements primarily through the renovation and modernization of our elementary school parking lots, similar to the parking lot improvements at Trentwood Elementary this past fall.

Our district's current EP&O and Capital levies both expire in December 2020. If the new levies are approved, they will take effect in January 2021 and simply replace the two that are expiring.

As superintendent, I am very conscious of the financial impact school levies have on our community. When we ran the current Capital Levy in 2018, we were committed to establishing a consistent tax rate based on what voters have supported in the past.

With approval of the two replacement levies, the estimated tax rate for East Valley property owners will be \$6.22 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This estimated tax rate includes both levies as well as the state school tax. The \$6.22 assessment is the same estimated tax rate voters approved last November.

There is a great deal more information regarding the February levies, so I encourage you to visit the district website, www.evsd.org, attend one of four information meetings coming soon, or give me a call at (509) 924-1830.

Kelly Shea
Superintendent

EVSD: Above the state; above the nation

When the East Valley School District was notified this fall that 20 percent of its teachers had earned National Board Certification, it was a source of pride across the district.

National certification is one of the highest honors in the teaching profession. It is a distinction only awarded upon demonstration of content knowledge and teaching effectiveness. It's not for the faint of heart. Certification is hard work and it takes a long time; typically 2-3 years. Only the most determined and dedicated even take on the task.

So, to grasp the significance of the district's achievement, it is helpful to compare. Washington is second-ranked nationally in its percentage of board-certified teachers at 18.74%, but below East Valley.

Across all the states, only 3 percent of teachers hold national certification. Forty-six states do not reach double digits; 11 do not even total 1%.

If East Valley were a state, it would be second only to North Carolina, which is first in the nation at 22.13%. Tar Heels beware. The Knights are charging.



East Valley School District: By the numbers

Enrollment – 4,017

Certificated staff – 296

- Teachers – 236
- Principals/central office administrators – 19
- Counselors – 11
- Teachers on special assignment – 9
- Speech language pathologists – 8
- Psychologists – 6
- Occupational therapists – 3
- Nurses – 2
- Physical therapists – 2

Classified Staff – 274

- Paraeducators – 102
- Transportation
(bus drivers, assistants, mechanics) – 47
- Custodians – 27
- Food service – 23
- Secretarial/clerical – 19
- ECEAP – 16
- Central office staff - 11
- Maintenance – 11
- Health services – 9
- Classified directors – 7
- Security – 1
- Printshop – 1

Transportation

- Area served – 100 square miles
- Number of buses – 48
- Annual miles driven – 576,698 (3,200 per day)
- Students transported – 1,670

Nutrition and Food Services

- School-year meals served – 492,488
 - o Breakfasts – 137,515
 - o Lunches – 354,973
- Summer meals served – 10,358

Budget Facts

- Annual budgeted revenue for 2019-2020 – \$61,715,325
 - o Levy – \$5,365,406
 - o Other local – \$646,877
 - o State (General) – \$39,273,843
 - o State (Special) – \$11,832,241
 - o Federal – \$4,596,958
- Annual budgeted expenses for 2019-2020 – \$62,304,544
 - o Basic education – \$32,119,391
 - o Special education – \$8,254,126
 - o CTE – \$2,428,422
 - o LAP/Title/Bilingual – \$4,216,312
 - o Other instructional – \$577,106
 - o Community services (ECEAP) – \$1,122,258
 - o Support services – \$12,964,929
 - o Debt payment – \$622,000

We thank our dedicated staff

Congratulations to the follow staff members reaching milestone work anniversaries with the district in 2019.

10 Years of service: John Conley, Chris Croyle, Teddi Johnson, Lisa Lawrence, Mark Schuller, Jennifer Sealey, Lorri Smith, Misty Snyder, Casey Whallon.

20 Years of service: Sharon Aldritt, Cheryl Denney, Denita Donnelly, Adam Fisher, Sally Gray, Jeremy Hedrick, Lynn Manchester, Haley Ochse, Jennifer Schweda,

Stephanie Stewart, Shannon Stookey-Flahavin, Dalene Szember, Glenda Jo Thies, Lori Veloski, Cheryl Wallace, Shelly Weiland.

30 Years of service: Darlene Lacey.

One of the hallmarks of a stable district is its ability to retain its most experienced employees. In the teaching ranks, East Valley's average years of experience is 15.9 years – a full three years above the state average.

Kudos to all for your dedication, commitment and loyalty to our students.

ECRWSS Postal Customer

School to career: Ties that bind

Sometimes the world is just around the corner. Or, for three East Valley High School students enrolled in a life-changing summer internship, it was just over a mile away.

EV students Jackson Pratt, Brennen Lilya and Brenden Smith were among 20 area high schoolers selected last summer for a four-week Production and Manufacturing Academy hosted by Wagstaff, Inc.

Wagstaff, an engineering and manufacturing leader in the aluminum industry, created the program to offer students hands-on experience in engineering, computer-aided design, 3D printing, technology, welding, machining, carpentry, production, budgeting, marketing and management.

For four weeks, students explored a variety of manufacturing and design functions and took field trips to local manufacturing firms. Business partners included Greater Spokane, Inc., Spokane Workforce Council, Kaiser Aluminum, Hotstart, Quest Integration, Mackay Manufacturing, Altek, Unicep and Pyrotek.

In a simulation of the workplace, students were required to put in a 40-hour week, work in collaborative teams, complete construction tasks, meet deadlines and fulfill quotas.



EVHS seniors Brenden Smith and Jackson Pratt see a world of career possibilities following their Wagstaff internship. Not pictured: EVHS student Brennen Lilya, who also participated in the program.

Oh yes, then there were the periodic tests of resilience and creativity when assigned tasks were amended with a last-minute change orders. Professional design engineers offered consultation.

East Valley's participation was facilitated by Amy Tellinghusen, the district's director of career and technical education, and Wade Larson, Wagstaff's

director of human resources, who saw a similar confluence of needs.

The district wanted additional school-to-career connections, while the business partners saw an opportunity to recruit future talent. Local manufacturers face an ongoing shortage of skilled workers in the trades.

"A 20-year-old leaving the community college with a two-year degree can walk away with little to no student debt and directly into a job paying \$40,000 a year, plus overtime and benefits," says Larson.

Yet even with starting wages as high as \$21 per hour, many jobs go unfilled for lack of applicants. Future opportunities are enormous, as the average age of workers in many skilled trades is in the 50s and 60s.

For students interested in science and construction, the Academy offered a perfect opportunity to test the workplace waters; to see the real-world connection between school and the workplace and be exposed to good-paying jobs in their own backyard.

Some, like Pratt, entered the program with a specific interest (in his case, carpentry), but no firm plan on what to do with it or what additional training might be required.

Now he knows. Following graduation, he will enroll at Spokane Community College, studying production and manufacturing, on a full-ride scholarship from the Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Smith says the experience left him with two predominant takeaways. The first: Teamwork is vital to workplace success. The second: Trial and error is an essential and acceptable component of problem-solving; often, the right answer is often found by eliminating the wrong ones.

The lessons learned have translated into stronger performance in the classroom, says East Valley CTE instructor Bill Close. The discipline and focus of his Wagstaff "graduates" sets a professional example for all to emulate.

Yes, the opportunity of a lifetime was close to campus, just over a mile away on Flora Road. But don't confuse the distance with the benefit. While the journey was insignificant, the benefits may be priceless. Thank you, Wagstaff.