

Connection

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER WINTER 2016 



Bond measure to replace school facilities placed on April 26 ballot

The Marysville School Board has voted to place a bond measure on the April 26 special election ballot to replace four existing school buildings and construct a new middle school in the Marysville School District. This vote follows a recommendation from the community-led Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) who began meeting last April to discuss facility needs for the district's schools.

The board members voted unanimously to support an option that includes replacement of Cascade Elementary, Liberty Elementary, Marysville Middle School, and the modernization/replacement of Marysville-Pilchuck High School. In addition, a fifth middle school would be constructed on land in the northern portion of the district.

The Board's decision follows the 10-month study of facility needs by the CAC who toured schools and studied facility needs, and an online community Thoughtexchange process, where nearly 1,100 parents, community members, and staff participated. Both the committee and the Thoughtexchange participants were strongly in favor of new facilities. The survey results were shared with the committee and are posted at msvl.thoughtexchange.com.

"This proposal is truly visionary, not just for replacement buildings. We would be building for future generations of Marysville School District students and their families," said Marysville School District Superintendent Becky Berg.

Totem Middle School was built in 1950, Liberty Elementary in 1951, Cascade Elementary in 1955, Marysville Middle School in 1960 and Marysville-Pilchuck High School in 1970. All five of these buildings are considered in need of replacement and no longer adequate learning spaces for students. These schools use 23 portables for classroom use.

Classrooms would be replaced at Marysville-Pilchuck, while the existing auditorium, gymnasium and pool would be modernized. The school's cafeteria will be replaced in the coming year with construction beginning later this spring. Funding for the

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- Follow us on Twitter: @msd 25
- On the Web: msd25.org

Superintendent's Message:

Bond issue proposed after months of study, input

Dear Marysville School District community:

This month marks the beginning of the second half of the 2015-16 school year—it has gone by so fast! In this issue of *Connection* we are excited to inform you about our plans for the replacement of several of our oldest buildings.

For the past year a committee of nearly 40 community members have studied our facilities before making a united recommendation that Cascade and Liberty Elementary, Marysville Middle School, Totem Middle School and Marysville-Pilchuck High School be replaced. We are so grateful to these citizens for literally devoting 10 months to this process.



In October and November we invited our school communities to share their thoughts about our facilities through an online ThoughtExchange. We then asked our community to review and prioritize the thoughts of others.

Our goal was to get a sense of shared values and priorities from our schools and community, and you spoke clearly that these buildings are in need of replacement. Thank you to the close to 1,100 stakeholders who shared their perspectives. The results are available online at msvl.thoughtexchange.com/

Finally, our School Board reviewed the recommendations of the Citizens Advisory Committee and the ThoughtExchange before voting to place a bond measure on the April 26 special election ballot. Bonds are the way school districts fund facility modernization and

construction projects.

We know that this is a significant request of our Marysville and Tulalip communities. But the reality is that these five buildings have reached the end of their useful lives and are no longer optimal learning spaces for our students and staff.

Ballots will be mailed to District voters on April 8. If you are not registered to vote, please go to vote.wa.gov and register today. Thank you for your continuing support of our District.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky".

Dr. Becky J. Berg
Superintendent

BioMed Academy honored again as School of Distinction

BioMed Academy on the Marysville Getchell campus is a repeat winner of the 2015 School of Distinction (SOD) award for outstanding improvement in reading and math sustained over a five-year period.

"We are incredibly proud of BioMed Academy receiving this award again," said Marysville School District Superintendent Becky Berg. "This award recognizes the exceptional work all of our schools, including BioMed, continue to do every day."

BioMed Academy has 426 students in grades 9 to 12. The principal is Angela Delgado. The school's mission is to prepare students to think and question critically through rigorous study of the sciences, numeracy, and literacy--building a solid foundation for success during and beyond high school.

The Center for Educational Effectiveness (CEE), in partnership with a number of educational leadership organizations, have recognized schools in the top 5 percent of improvement for their levels.

The 2015 School of Distinction awards are the ninth annual, and honors 92 schools across Washington State. These awards are not intended as a replacement for the state and federal accountability measures of school performance, but rather as a supplemental measure to recognize and celebrate school staff, students, and leaders who improve performance for all students over a sustained period of time in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.

BioMed Academy students use their new Chromebooks to study human body systems in a science class.



Bond issue would replace aging school buildings

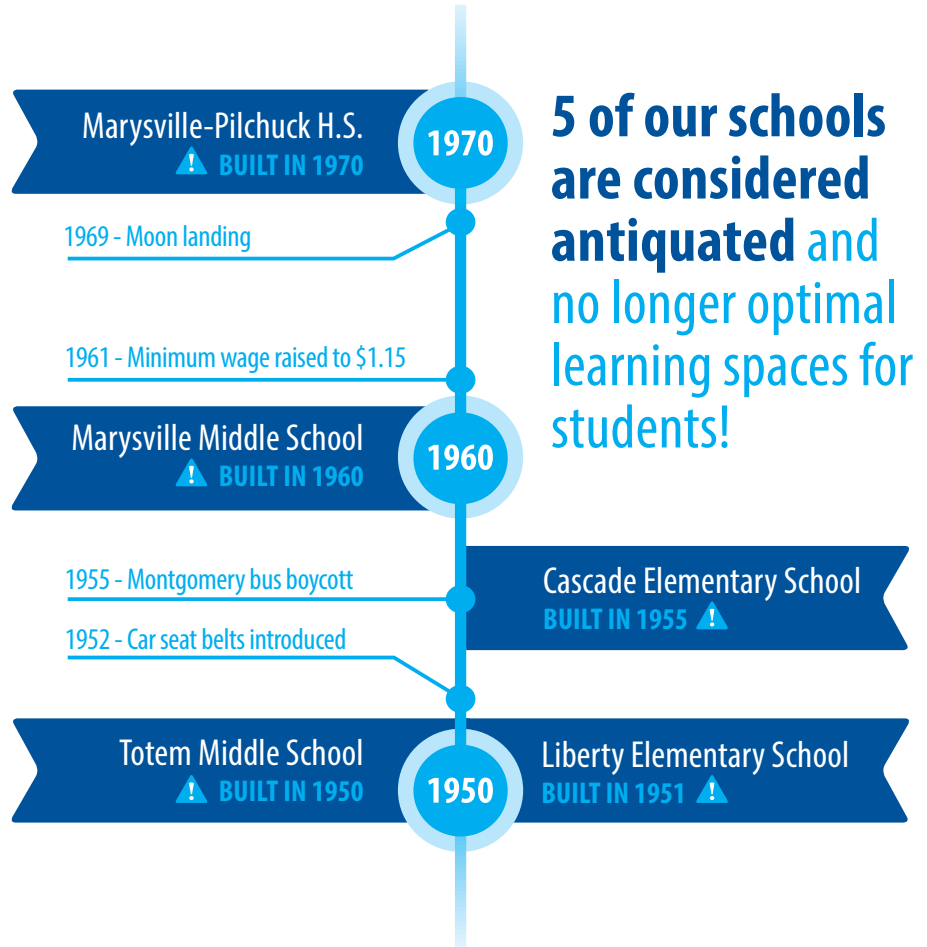
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project is being provided by a special appropriation from the state.

The Board's approved option aligns with and supports the committee's guidelines to keep the cost to local taxpayers below \$1.29 per thousand of assessed value, keep all projects recommended, and to have a set aside for major projects. The estimated cost to taxpayers would be an additional \$1.25 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The owner of a home valued at \$210,000 would pay an additional \$263 per year.

The CAC, made up of nearly 40 members from throughout the community, met regularly with an outside facilitator. They were unanimous in their praise of the open, transparent process that led to their decision.

The bond measure as approved by the Board would be \$230 million, with the district expected to receive an additional \$62.4 million in state construction assistance matching funds if approved by voters. Ballots will be mailed to voters April 8. To register to vote online, visit vote.wa.gov.



Join our student chefs for lunch at the School House Cafe

The School House Café, located on the edge of the Totem Middle School campus on 7th Street, is operated by high school students in the Culinary Arts Career and Technical Education program under the supervision of teacher-chef Jeff Delmo. The cafe is open from 12:20 to 1:45 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday except for school holidays. Come enjoy the weekly specials and a variety of sandwiches, burgers and salads.



High School culinary arts students use their skills to create delicious daily specials at the School House Cafe located on the edge of the Totem Middle School campus.

Alumni Profile:

Morning anchor Colleen O'Brien of KIRO-FM credits TV3 at M-P with giving her a head start in journalism

At 4 a.m., while most of us are still sleeping, Colleen O'Brien is already at work, preparing for her job as co-anchor of Seattle's Morning News weekdays on KIRO-FM.

"It's truly a dream job for me," said O'Brien, a 2003 graduate of Marysville-Pilchuck High School.

From 5 to 9 a.m. she is paired with Dave Ross, a Seattle broadcasting legend with nearly four decades at the station. "I have learned so much working alongside him," O'Brien said. "To learn from the best is an incredible opportunity."

Then Colleen Horne, she got her start in broadcasting as a five-year member of the TV3 crew, first at Marysville Junior High and then at M-P, producing, directing and reading the daily announcements and as station manager for the channel.

"TV3 really equipped me with so many of the skills I have used in my career," O'Brien said.

She credits retired teacher Dick Walsh, her video teacher at M-P, with giving her important life skills as a self-starter.

"His motto was, 'If it's to be, it's up to me,'" and that had a profound effect on me," she said. "He empowered us to run the show at TV3."

Having that experience with TV3 helped her earn an internship at KOMO Newsradio in Seattle while a student at Bellevue College. That later turned into a regular on-air position after graduating from the University of Washington.

After her stint at KOMO, O'Brien moved into television as a reporter at KXLY, the ABC affiliate in Spokane. She and her husband, Kris, also an M-P alum, moved back to the Seattle area two years ago and have a 2-1/2 year-old daughter. Both their families still live in Marysville.

"It was a wonderful community to grow up in," she said. "I'll always feel a part of Marysville."



M-P alumnus Colleen O'Brien, seated left center, gained valuable skills as a member of the TV3 crew.

Announcements



Marysville School District kindergarten registration fair set for Saturday, February 27 at Grove Elementary

Marysville School District's annual Kindergarten Registration Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, February 27, at Grove Elementary School, 6510 Grove St., Marysville.



Families may take this opportunity to register their students for kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year. Spanish and Russian interpreters, as well as school staff, will be available to assist families in completing the registration forms and answer any questions.

Kids will have a chance to meet the transportation mascot, Rudy the Raccoon, and explore a district school bus that will be on site. Several Marysville community partnership groups will also be on hand to provide information about their programming and resources.

Contact your neighborhood school for more information or call 360-965-0016. Please join us for a fun filled morning and register your kindergartener early!

Connection is published by the Marysville School District No. 25, 4220 80th St. N.E., Marysville, WA 98270., phone 360-965-0000.

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Marysville School District will provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, or mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The district will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the Executive Director of Human Resources, Title IX RCW 28.A.640; the Athletics Director, Affirmative Action Officer; or the Director of Categorical Programs, Section 504 Coordinator; and the Executive Director of Special Education, ADA Coordinator. **Marysville School District is a drug- and tobacco-free workplace.**