



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Lorrie McKay, Intergovernmental Relations Manager

Date: November 19, 2010

Subject: Resolution Supporting Lake Washington School District 414 Ballot Measure

RECOMMENDATION:

City Council holds a public hearing and considers the attached Resolution expressing support for Lake Washington School District's Capital Projects Levy.

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Chip Kimball, the Superintendent of the Lake Washington School District is requesting the Kirkland City Council consider adopting a resolution in support of the proposed Capital Projects Levy ballot measure, scheduled for special election on February 8, 2011. The proposal is for a levy of \$65.4 million to pay for classroom space that will address immediate overcrowding by building permanent classroom space.

The measure would pay for additions to house 250 students each at Eastlake and Redmond High Schools. It would also pay for a new school serving 675 students in grades 6-12 that would focus on Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics, or STEM. This proposal will relieve immediate overcrowding at the high school level, as well as anticipated overcrowding at the middle school level in the near future. See fact sheet (Attachment 1) provided by Lake Washington School District.

The measure would initially cost \$.31 per \$1000 of assessed valuation, or approximately \$155 per year for a \$500,000 home. The levy would last for six years before it expires and the levy rate will likely drop slightly each year depending on overall valuations. (See 2011 Proposition 1 box below.)

In January 2010, the City Council held public hearings on Lake Washington School District 414's three ballot measures included in the February 9, 2010 special election. Following the public hearings, the City Council adopted respective resolutions in support of all three ballot measures.

- Resolution R-4794, supporting Prop. No. 1: Replacement of Existing Education Programs and Operations Levy
- Resolution R-4795, supporting Prop. No. 2: Replacement of Existing Capital Projects Levies
- Resolution R-4796, supporting Prop. No. 3: General Obligation Bonds – \$234,000,000

In the February 9, 2010 special election, district voters passed both Proposition 1 (61.63% of the vote) and Proposition 2 (59.11% of the vote) which needed only a simple majority. District voters rejected Proposition 3 (55.67% of the vote) a bond measure which required a 60% supermajority and a minimum voter turn-out. In addition to the supermajority requirement, voter participation on each of these propositions dropped as they went down the ballot (Prop. 1 received a total of 34,021 votes, while Props 2 and 3 received 32,150 and 31,942 respectively).

The 2011 levy will address some of the District's needs that were included in Proposition 3 in 2010. Below is a comparison of the two ballot titles as well as a reflection of what has changed.

(2010) Proposition No. 3, General Obligation Bonds - \$234,000,000. Board of Directors of Lake Washington School District No. 414 approved Resolution No. 2046 concerning this proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to modernize Juanita High School, make additions to Redmond High School and Eastlake High School, construct and equip two new elementary schools and an Environmental and Adventure School, and make other capital improvements; to issue \$234,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum term of 20 years; and to levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution No. 2046.

(2011) Proposition No. 1, Capital Projects Levy. The Board of Directors of Lake Washington School District No. 414 adopted Resolution No. 2069 authorizing the levy for facility expansion and construction. This levy funds the construction and equipping of expanded school facilities at Redmond High School and Eastlake High School, and the constructing and equipping of a new secondary school for students from across the District, and authorizes the following excess levy on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2012	\$0.31	\$10,900,000
2013	\$0.30	\$10,900,000
2014	\$0.29	\$10,900,000
2015	\$0.28	\$10,900,000
2016	\$0.27	\$10,900,000
2017	\$0.26	\$10,900,000

According to the district, the sizing of the levy was in response to community expectations that the district be fiscally conservative at this time. The 2011 proposed measure is \$190 million less than the measure in February 2010. The district narrowed the focus of the 2011 Capital Projects Levy to address the facilities needs at Redmond High School and Eastlake High School, and the constructing and equipping of a new secondary school.

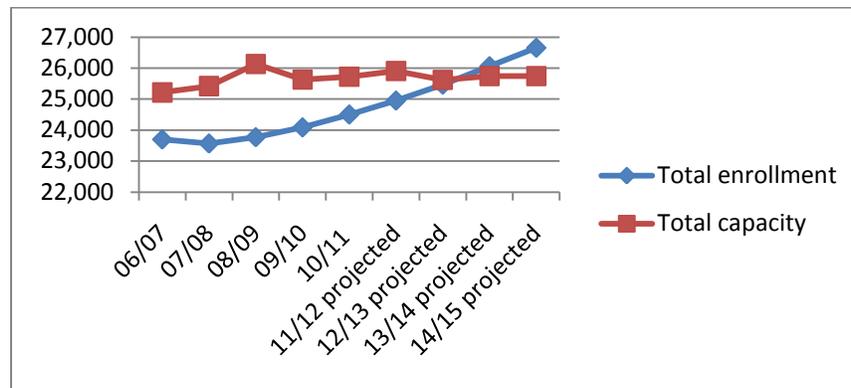
Unlike bond measures, which required a 60% supermajority and a minimum voter turn-out, the district's 2011 proposed Capital Projects Levy only needs a simple majority.

The district is not putting bond measures on the ballot for new elementary school space, nor is it proposing to modernize Juanita High School at this time. The superintendent is suggesting that both the new elementary school and Juanita High School modernization will be included in a bond measure proposal in 2014.

Additional information about the ballot measure can be found on the Lake Washington School District website at: <http://www.lwsd.org/News/2011-Levy/Pages/default.aspx>

The attached resolution corresponds to and expresses the Council's support for the Lake Washington School District ballot measure. Under RCW 42.17.130, the Council may vote on a resolution to support or oppose a ballot proposition "so long as (a) any required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the legislative body or members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of any opposing view;..."

Lake Washington School District – Space Needs and Proposed Levy



Overall enrollment and specific issues

- Lake Washington School District is growing, and is expected to continue to grow by at least 425 students per year for the next five years.
- As of September 7th, the district grew by 614 students this year over last year.
- The district is projected to have the same number of students as classrooms in 12/13. That fall, there will be adequate elementary and junior high school classroom space but not enough space for high school students. In 13/14 and beyond, there will be more students than classrooms available anywhere.
- In the fall of 2012, there will be 500 more students at Redmond High and 340 more at Eastlake High than those schools were designed to accommodate.

Steps to date: more efficient use of space

- The decision to change the grade configuration to K-5, 6-8, 9-12 for academic reasons shifts students out of elementary schools and into the high schools, where more space is available.
- Grade configuration change relieves the need to find classroom space for 1500 elementary students but does create a need for over 800 classroom spaces for high school students by the fall of 2012. That shift reduces the size of the problem but does not eliminate it.
- Feeder pattern changes move population from more crowded schools to those with more space
- In elementary schools, specialized classrooms such as computer labs, science/art rooms and music rooms have been converted to regular classrooms.
- Portable classrooms have been added where needed and where possible.

Community Preferences*

- Add permanent classroom space, not portables.
- Do not double shift if at all possible.
- Keep high school sizes under 2000 students.
- Provide enough classroom space to handle immediate needs and those for the next few years.

Funding measure to address immediate needs:

- \$65.4 million levy for classrooms additions for students at Redmond, Eastlake H.S. and a new secondary school that will draw students from around the district and will focus on science/technology/engineering/ math (known as STEM). Cost: \$.28/1000 assessed value or \$13/month on a \$500,000 house for six years.
- This measure would provide enough permanent classroom spaces that double shifting will not be needed to handle the high school population.
- Redmond and Eastlake High School would remain under 2000 students.
- This measure would provide additional high school and middle school space to meet immediate needs and those for the next few years.

For more information, contact Kathryn Reith, Communications Director, 425-936-1342

*community preferences from surveys completed at district input sessions and online, as well as from a random sample telephone survey.

RESOLUTION R-4854

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND STATING THE CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION NO. 1, THE LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 414 CAPITAL PROJECTS LEVY.

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2011, voters in the City of Kirkland will decide whether to approve Proposition No. 1, the Lake Washington School District No. 414 Capital Projects Levy; and

WHEREAS, the educational facilities of Lake Washington School District No. 414, including Redmond High School and Eastlake High School facilities, are in need of renovation, construction, improvements and expansion to meet the current and future educational programs for its students; and

WHEREAS, the District is also in need of constructing one new secondary school; and

WHEREAS, funds available to the District will be insufficient to enable the District to implement such projects; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide funding for these projects the Board of Directors of Lake Washington School District No. 411 adopted a resolution to propose a capital projects levy of \$65.4 million for the February 8, 2011, ballot; and

WHEREAS, the investment in top-quality education for our children is an important part of the quality of life enjoyed by Kirkland residents; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to State law, RCW 42.17.130, the City Council of Kirkland desires to show its support for Proposition No. 1, the Lake Washington School District No. 414 Capital Projects Levy;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:

Section 1. The City Council hereby supports Proposition No. 1, the Lake Washington School District No. 414 Capital Projects Levy.

Section 2. The City Council hereby urges Kirkland voters to support the Capital Projects Levy measure to ensure continued high quality education to the benefit of our community and quality of life.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this ____ day of _____, 2010.

Signed in authentication thereof this ____ day of _____,
2010.

MAYOR

Attest:

City Clerk