

Port Townsend School District No. 50

Learning Through a Sense of Place



Superintendent Polm's Newsletter – Vol. 19-20, No. 11, February 21, 2020

Board Meeting Summary from February 20, 2020

The Board of Directors met on Thursday, February 20 for a regular business meeting. The recognition at the evening meeting was thanking and honoring Dana Sullivan for his generosity and talents he shared with the school district. Dana is an author and illustrator with several children's books to his credit. He offered Salish Coast an assembly and also offered drawing activities after school. He lives and works right here in Port Townsend. Joy Wentzel shared how appreciative we are of his contributions, and shared a moment together with the Board (in celebratory capes!),



The big news is that the board unanimously approved a motion to offer the superintendent position to Sandy Gessner for the 20-21 school year. We have a very smart school board with good judgment. Please let them know how much you appreciate their leadership when you see them. And, please send a congratulations message to Sandy if you get a chance.

The Board passed revised high school graduation requirements in policy 2410, and also reviewed policies on waivers, student fees, and students experiencing homelessness. Also passed were student fees for 20-21.

The Board approved a request to combine boys soccer with Chimacum this year. Chimacum had low turnouts, so it was possible to work out a plan that allows them to participate with PT students. Practices will be in Chimacum, which is very positive in terms of some field repair that we have wanted to take care of in PT. We can let our fields rest and our staff can spend time improving the safety and health of the turf.

The Board also passed a resolution titled "Staffing and Program Reductions". This resolution tasks the superintendent to review opportunities for restructuring and reorganizing in a manner that makes efficient use of public funds and resources, while also preserving and improving the student classroom experience. More information on the budget is in the next section of the newsletter.

The Board normally meets on the first and third Thursday of each month for their regularly scheduled study sessions and business meetings. Further, the Board at times holds special meetings on particular topics. For more information, please see: http://ptschools.org/board_supt. Also, the Board uses BoardDocs for meeting management. The website is: <https://go.boarddocs.com/wa/ptsd/Board.nsf/Public>.

Budgeting for 20-21

We have completed initial enrollment projections for 20-21, which are based on this year's enrollment through February 1.

Enrollment planning consists of analyzing the past several years of enrollment in each grade in the regular schools and our ALE program OCEAN. The trend the past few years has been stable with some small growth or decline in particular grades. Based on these trends, and in the absence of any significant change in local economic conditions, housing projects, or private school offerings, we roll each cohort up and adjust slightly based on the best information we have on hand. Principals review the projections beginning in January, and then the final projections are made after February 1 enrollment count.

The most difficult to predict is our kindergarten. A generation ago, we may have relied on records of live births from four and five years prior. However, this is not reliable in our area since many families do not use the local hospital for services. Our recent strategy is to ask parents and guardians of incoming kindergarten students to contact the elementary school now. Principal Condran has created a link to a contact form we are asking prospective kindergarten families to complete:

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/SCK20-21](https://tinyurl.com/sck20-21). We appreciate assistance with this preliminary information gathering effort.

Most employees and many in the community are aware that the change in school funding through HB2242 (McCleary) resulted in a reduction in local levy authority (less local dollars). The local levy has supported staffing and programs above what we are funded by the state. Our four year budget outlook reveals a deficit, which is not sustainable. Therefore, the Board approved a resolution calling for strategic reductions for 20-21, which means we work to find savings and reductions, but also strive to align our dollars with our priorities and values and strive for minimal impact to student programs. The specific reductions are not determined at this time. In fact, staff and community should not expect comprehensive work to be completed soon. There will be incremental steps taken as decisions are made over the next couple of months.

The Board has provided direction through the following parameters:

Budget Parameters

1. Support place-based and maritime experiential learning
2. Maintain a 5% unrestricted ending fund balance
3. Preserve classroom staff if possible
4. Seek efficiencies in administrative and support positions
5. Seek opportunities for cost savings through collaborations with other districts and/or entities

The budget is based on the following student enrollment information:

	19-20 Average	19-20 Budget		20-21 Projection
K	72.83	72.00		72.00
1	76.83	73.00		72.00
2	76.33	74.00		76.00
3	82.67	88.00		76.00
4	95.83	94.00		82.00
5	84.83	82.00		96.00

TOTAL-ELEM				475.00
6	94.83	92.00		85.00
7	87.35	86.00		95.00
8	96.67	94.00		87.00
TOTAL- MS				267.00
9	132.18	125.00		96.000
10	90.36	90.00		132.00
11	66.90	82.00		85.00
12	55.50	55.00		57.00
TOTAL - HS				370.00
ALE K-6	21.67	16.00		21.00
ALE 7-8	5.29	12.00		5.00
ALE 9-12	28.23	27.00		29.00
TOTAL - ALE				55.00
TOTAL FTE				1,174.00
*No RS or CTE in this calculation				

Our work will be made easier as soon as we are sure what staff members intend to return to the district. If you are not planning to return, please notify Laurie McGinnis as soon as possible. There is an incentive for written notification by March 2, 2020.

Celebrate Public School's Week!

From **Public Schools Proud**, "Nine out of 10 students in America attend public schools. Public Schools Week is a national celebration to highlight the great things happening in our nation's public schools as well as bring attention to the critical issues facing our schools, students and educators. This initiative shows the strength and potential of public schools in a democratic society. Public Schools Week 2020 will be held February 24-28, 2020." See the video from Leaders for Learning First Alliance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKWOMitM354>

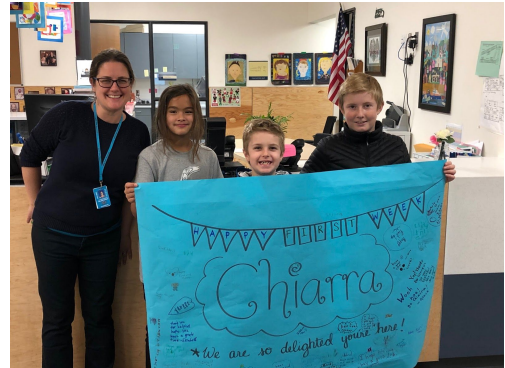


Salish Coast Elementary School ~ Lisa Condran



The salmon are back! (picture on the left) If you visit, please come see us in the 1st/2nd grade hallway!

Salish Coast Elementary is so excited to welcome Chiarra Klontz (at right) as our new secretary, joining LaTrecia Arthur.



Salish Coast Office Staff have started a new fashion trend with their be kind t-shirts. Other staff are now buying these shirts as well.

High School ~ Carrie Ehrhardt

The high school is sending seven wrestlers to the state tournament this weekend. Congratulations to Logan Massie (145), Ian Linn-Glasgow (152), Robby Collier (170), Dylan Tracer (182), Kyle Caldwell (195), Odin Smith (152-alternate), and Wes Blue (182-alternate). Tacoma Dome here we come!

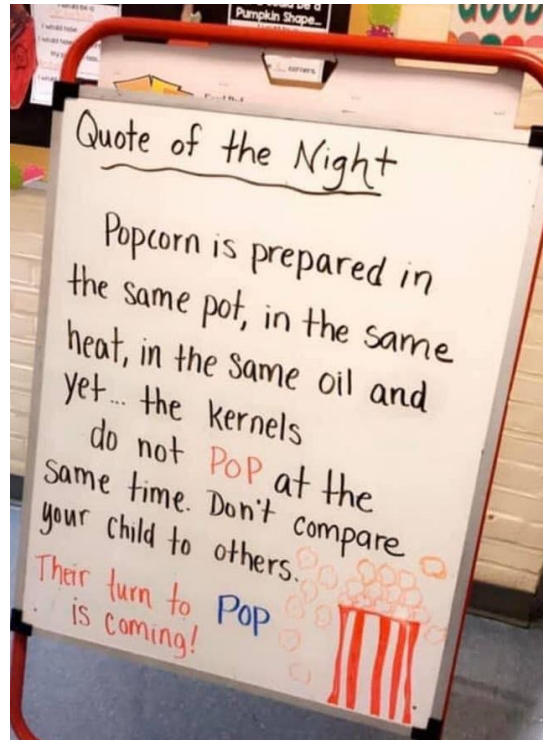
Thanks to a grant received by Olycap, homeless support services are now available for teens through age 21. The program, called Youth Solutions, works with unstably housed youth, and those looking for other needed support, including resource referrals and community services. A youth coordinator (Rebecca Ramsey - PTHS Class of 2014) will be available at PTHS each week to meet with students.

The Port Townsend High School Symphony Orchestra will be performing on Sunday, February 23 at 2:00 pm in the Chimacum High School auditorium. This will be a joint performance with the Port Townsend Symphony Orchestra and is in preparation for their upcoming trip to Los Angeles in April. Admission is free, please come support our high school musicians!



A Quote....

I saw this quote online and decided to share. I do not want to compare children to popcorn, but I do think the quote provides a thought for consideration.



Port Townsend School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, immigration status, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The district provides 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. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Laurie McGinnis, Title IX

Shelby MacMeekin, 504 Coordinator & ADA Compliance

Amy Khile, Civil Rights Compliance