

150 years of Bainbridge Island Schools!

“No part of a community’s history is more revealing than the development of its schools.” Jon Quitslund



Left: Bainbridge High School, constructed 1927.

Above: BHS Study Hall, 1930s.

Below: Olympic High School circa 1912.



One revealing element in our celebration of 150 years of schools on Bainbridge Island was the drawn-out process of consolidating the ten school districts that had formed from 1860 through the early 1900s into the single district #303 that serves us today. The decision took well over ten years.

Jon Quitslund noted in his article for the BI Historical Museum News, “Why did citizens in the disparate communities across the island take so many years to agree on the formation of a single school district and the building of BHS? History reminds us, if recent experience isn’t convincing enough, that here on Bainbridge we usually do things the hard way.”

1915—Consolidation Efforts Begin

By 1915, there were two high schools—Olympic Union High School at the north end of the island and Winslow High School in the central part. However, only Winslow HS was accredited, an important difference for some parents and students. Discussions about unifying all schools into one district increased with the accreditation issue. Financial challenges facing many districts and improved roadways contributed to these discussions.

Later in 1915, the first petition for consolidation went to the county superintendent. Although representatives of Port Madison, Manzanita, Seabold, and McDonald districts expressed opposition to the proposal, the remaining districts had a majority with 92 votes. Therefore, the superintendent designated the whole of Bainbridge Island as District #301.

Unfortunately, this settled nothing. A second petition persuaded county commissioners to reverse the superintendent’s decision, and another election was held. This time the vote was 246 against consolidation and 151 in favor. Consolidation would have to wait.

1920s—The Turning Point

From 1920–1923 the total population of the island doubled, but the high school population increased

tenfold. By 1921, support for consolidation increased, although doubts remained if a district appeared to have more to lose than gain. In 1922, six districts in the central and southern portions of the island placed the matter before voters again, and consolidation was approved. The county superintendent assigned the island as School District #303 of Kitsap County.

School District #303

In the fall of 1922, the board of the newly consolidated district renewed its efforts to persuade the three dissenting districts to join and move forward with plans to build a single high school. Later that year, Olympic Union High School District was dissolved, and the 3 remaining districts became part of School District #303.

During the next 3 years, a \$60,000 bond failed several times, and students continued to attend the two high schools. The 1926 Winslow High School yearbook opened with, “Hear Our Plea,”

March 25, 1927, an election to support a \$75,000 bond for a new high school carried by an overwhelming majority.

a direct appeal for a new high school to address “the crowded situation and impure air students are breathing.” Finally in 1927, with a 20-acre site on the north side of High School Road selected, the bond passed.

In the 1927 Winslow yearbook, the students expressed, “We look forward to uniting our forces with those of Olympic High. It means the attainment of a high school equal to the best in the state.”

On January 9, 1928, the consolidated high school opened its doors to 200 people.

BI Historical Museum, Hank Helm, *BIHM Museum News*, Jon Quitslund, *Bainbridge Island in Battened Buildings and Dipper Days*, Zoe M. Beal, and *Bainbridge Through Bifocals*, Elsie Frankland Marriott.

BHS 1928:

- **Ground floor: 6 classrooms, cafeteria, shower and girls/boys locker rooms, domestic science and manual training departments.**
- **First floor: 5 classrooms, library, administrative offices, and gymnasium.**
- **Second floor: 4 classrooms and large study hall.**

thank you community

Resources for Teaching & Learning

On behalf of all those associated with the school district, we express our heartfelt appreciation to the BI community for your support last November of the Supplemental Educational Programs & Operations Levy and the Technology Levy.

The Supplemental EP & O Levy offsets a portion of the statewide funding cuts and supports essential programs and services. It prevents many more cuts that would affect students and staff.

BISD also is grateful for the community’s recognition that technology is an integral part of learning, and that it powers successful teaching methods. The district’s technology plan supports all educational objectives with specific tools. It includes the development of technology skills for students and staff.

Late 1922—At the time of consolidation, district #303 was the only consolidated school district—outside of cities—in the State of Washington.

Budget Corner

UNPRECEDENTED STATE CUTS TO CURRENT AND FUTURE K-12 FUNDING

Last November, the state’s Chief Economist notified state leaders that they faced a two-fold problem: a \$1.1 billion budget gap for the current year, and an anticipated gap of \$4.6 billion for the next biennium (2011-13).

The Current Year

To address the gaping hole in this year’s budget, state leaders made unprecedented retroactive and mid-year cuts to education funding. “Early Action” decisions of the Legislature in December and February resulted in the loss of \$1.1 million for BISD. The K-4 staffing allocation was cut by 83%, and the state “redirected” \$811,000 of federal “Education Jobs” funds to backfill a portion of the state’s Basic Education allocation to the district.

The Next Biennium

Challenges continue with a projected deficit of \$4.6 billion for the 2011-13 biennial budget. On December 15, 2010, the Governor proposed reductions of \$2.2 billion in state funding for K-12 education. Although the House of Representatives and Senate have not yet presented their proposals, the following cuts are examples of actions that are being considered:

- Elimination of the K-4 staffing allocation
- Elimination of Highly Capable grant funds
- Changes in transportation funding

- Salary freeze for certificated staff experience steps
- Continued suspension of I-728 student achievement funds for class size.

The BISD administrative team and school board have anticipated many of these reductions, but recent decisions at the state level will require the district to revise its assumptions.

While the state financial picture is bleak, our district is better positioned than many to confront the challenges. We acknowledge how fortunate BISD is to have:

- a healthy fund balance from 2009-10
- higher than anticipated enrollment
- Supplemental EP&O Levy and Technology Levy funds approved by voters, and
- amazing support from the Bainbridge Schools Foundation, PTOs, and our community.

Without these financial resources, the district would be facing even greater potential hardships. We invite you to read about “Budget Considerations and Updates” on our district website—www.bainbridge.wednet.edu.



www.bainbridge.wednet.edu
For more about budget modifications.

Building Our Schools

ENERGY CONSERVATION SAVES GENERAL FUND DOLLARS

With completion of the projects identified in the 2006 bond, there was an \$800,000 surplus, which the school district is returning to taxpayers this year. In addition, the Capital Projects staff continues to support taxpayer investments with their Small Works construction and improvement projects focused in the area of resource conservation and operating cost reductions.

Phase I projects include lighting, mechanical, and plumbing replacements. The outcomes of these projects are improved lighting in the educational environments with reduced energy consumption, and reduced water consumption in selected restrooms.

Upgrades to BHS heating and ventilation and the installation of highly efficient heat pumps at Commodore are reducing electric and propane usage at these two sites.

Through careful coordination with vendors and Puget Sound Energy (PSE), the school district has received \$158,661, to date, from PSE to assist in these conservation projects.

These rebates will allow Capital Projects to complete additional conservation construction projects to relieve the burden on the General Fund of escalating utility bills.

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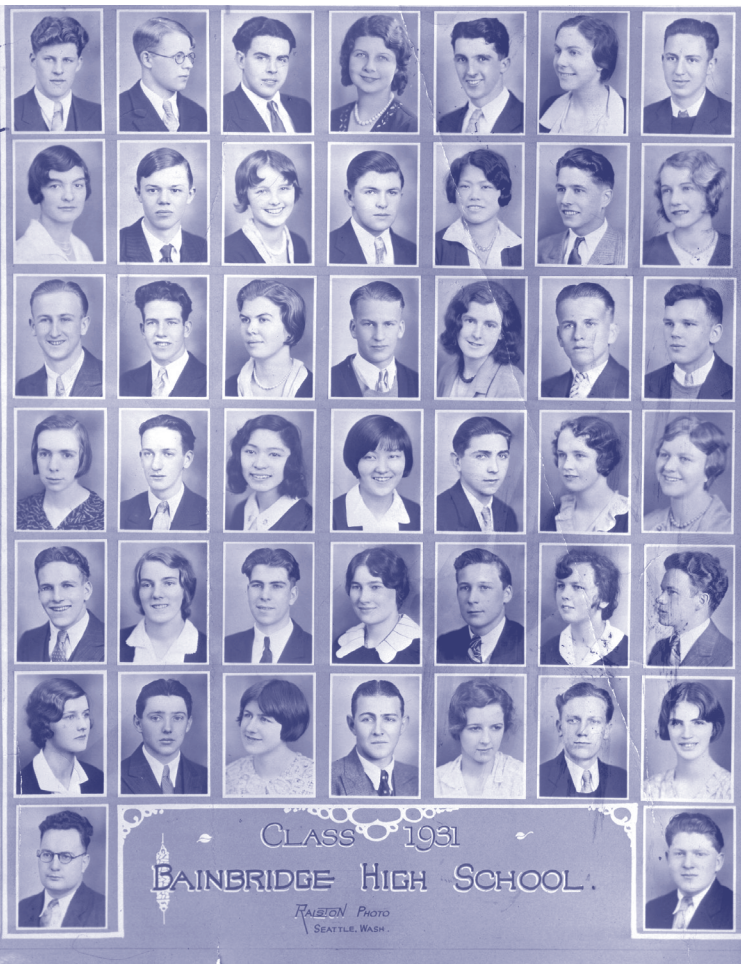
Open and Read About Your Schools

- Celebrating 150 Years of Education
- Resources for Teaching and Learning
- Energy Conservation Saves General Fund Dollars



Boys Basketball Team 1923

OpenBook is a publication by the Bainbridge Island School District to connect with and bring timely information to our community.



150 years of Bainbridge Schools

- Resources for Teaching and Learning
- Energy Conservation Saves General Fund Dollars
- Unprecedented State Cuts to Current and Future K-12 Funding

SPRING 2011

Bainbridge Island School District No. 303



Where Our Schools and Our Community Connect