Local Support Helps Fill Funding Shortfalls

THE BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT’S (BISD) operating budget receives most of its revenue from state allocations, which have been severely reduced. Over the last two years, BISD has cut its operating budget by 9.6%. Last year, the District Budget Advisory Committee (DBAC), six different subcommittees, and two surveys dealt with a $2.1 million shortfall in the district’s $36.5 million operating budget. The cuts were both broad and deep, resulting in reduced staffing, services and programs. Fee increases also prevented further program reductions.

The economic forecast for 2010-11 indicates that additional challenges lie ahead. Washington State revenues are projected to be $2.5 billion lower than budgeted.

More than ever before, local support for education is helping to fill the gaps created by a state system that falls short of covering all educational program costs. This year, local dollars represent 29% of BISD’s operating budget. In addition to approval of our Capital Bond, we are grateful for community support that comes from the following sources:

Local Educational Programs and Operations Levy
Local levies support school districts across the State. Our local levy provides 21% of the day-to-day operating funds for Bainbridge Island schools. It pays for 10% of our certificated positions (teachers, librarians, counselors) and 46% of our classified staff (school secretaries, paraeducators, custodians). It also helps to pay for instructional materials and supplies, special education programs, transportation, co-curricular activities, and routine maintenance. By law, BISD’s local levy is capped at 24.98% of state and federal allocations. The current three-year Programs and Operations levy will expire, and the School Board will request a renewal of this levy in February.

Local Non-Tax Contributions
Bainbridge Schools Foundation—During 2008-09, the Foundation’s contributions to BISD totaled $529,500. Of that amount, 72% funded staff positions, including $260,000 from the “Save Our Teachers” campaign. This prevented the district from having to lay off more staff. Foundation dollars also support teacher training, classroom enrichment grants, remedial reading, and special education program improvements.

Parent-Teacher Organizations—PTOs also help fill the gap created by budget reductions. They provide funds for school supplies, classroom equipment, and co-curricular activities.

Community Partnerships and Donations—Many other sources of financial and program support benefit BISD in the areas of art, science, literacy, technology, and multicultural education. BISD students and staff also benefit from the many donations and scholarships provided by generous patrons and community organizations. These sources of local support make it possible for BISD to attract highly qualified staff and to continue its tradition of educational excellence and high student achievement, even in these economically challenging times.

State Funds 64%
Local Non-Tax (Foundation, PTOs, other) 8%
Local Ed. Programs & Operations Levy 21%
Federal 7%

BISD Revenue Sources 2009-10 School Year

Sizable Grants Buy Buses and Clean Air

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVED TWO GRANTS to replace two of the district’s oldest school buses. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted $50,000, and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) granted $37,000.

The new buses are equipped with filters and crankcase controls that meet the EPA standards of reducing emissions by 90% or more for particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and non-methane hydrocarbons.

As part of the grant, the district was to purchase two engine pre-heaters as a pilot. Thanks to the efforts of lead mechanic Tom Olson, BISD was able to purchase six pre-heaters. The pre-heaters minimize the amount of idling time necessary for startup, shutdown and heating the bus, reducing both emissions and fuel use. The EPA, estimates we will see a 92% fuel savings during startup and shutdown.

The new buses have arrived and the old buses have been decommissioned. Thank you, EPA and PSCAA, for helping our district further reduce its environmental footprint!

With gratitude,
Mary P. Curtis, President, Board of Directors
Faith A. Chapel, Superintendent
School Events—
Too good to miss!

JANUARY

4  School Resumes
13  Half-Day—Early Dismissal
18  No School—MLK Jr. Birthday
27-29  No School—Grades 5-8, Conferences
          Half-Day—Grades 9-12, Finals

FEBRUARY

3  Kindergarten Orientation, 2010-11
4  Ordway Open House/Ice Cream Social
9  Election Day
12-16  No School—Non-Contract/Presidents’ Day
18  BHS Open House
19-20  BHS One-Act Plays
23  Odyssey 1-8 Program Information Night
26-27  BHS One-Act Plays

**Open and Read About Your Schools**

- Thank You Community for Approving the School Bond
- Community Support Vital in Filling Funding Shortfalls
- Grants Help District Decrease Emissions and Fuel Use

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**Stars in Our Schools**

Eagle Harbor High School Wins *Great Schools* Award

This time, a school is our star! The Center for Educational Effectiveness (CEE), based in Redmond, WA, chose Eagle Harbor High School as a 2009 Great Schools Award winner. This is the second year that EHHS has received this recognition. Schools are chosen based on “exemplary improvement in student achievement as measured by the WASL.”

The award noted that EHHS is one of the 5% highest improving high schools. The school was recognized and celebrated by CEE and Phi Delta Kappa Washington State at the Great Schools & Exemplary Leaders Institute on September 26. Way to go, EHHS!

(Top) Eagle Harbor High School Student Body Co-Presidents Kelly Olick and Nikko Jensen and the entire EHHS student body (left) celebrate receipt of the 2009 Great Schools Award at an assembly in October.