

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.

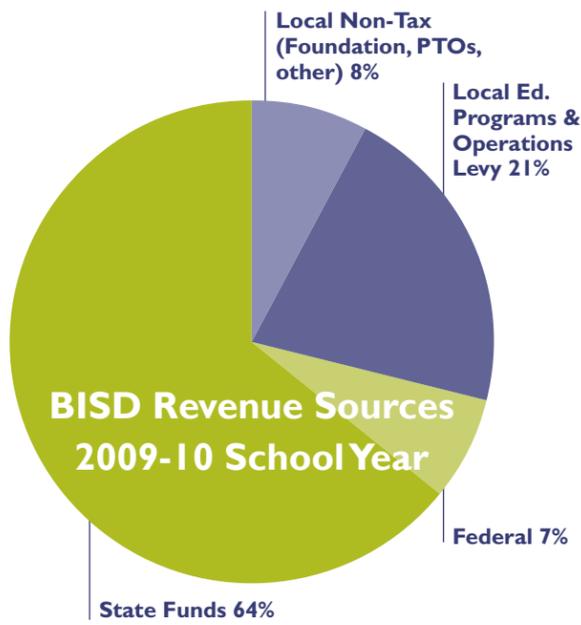
More than ever before, local support for education is helping to fill the gaps created by a state system that falls short of covering all educational program costs. This year, local dollars represent 29% of BISD's operating budget. In addition to approval of our Capital Bond, we are grateful for community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

thank you community

On behalf of all those associated with the school district, we express our heartfelt appreciation to the citizens of Bainbridge Island.

Approval of the recent school bond enables the School District to fulfill many promises: the promise to exercise wise stewardship over the precious tax dollars entrusted to us; the promise to provide learning environments that stimulate students and energize teachers; the promise to create facilities that are durable, cost efficient, and gentle on the environment; the promise to engage in open dialogue with the community as bond funds are spent; the promise to continue our long-term commitment for stable, predictable, sustainable taxes as the first priority in District funding strategies.

Voters demonstrated their trust in the School District to deliver on these promises toward our shared community value of quality education. We are grateful for our neighbors' trust and incredible generosity, particularly in these worrisome economic times.

Rebuilding Wilkes and completing essential repairs at other buildings will keep our schools healthy and strong. Funding these projects from our capital budget will go a long way towards saving dollars in our general budget, savings that are especially meaningful given the third round of severe cuts projected for next year's state budget for education.

With gratitude,

Mary P. Curtis, *President, Board of Directors*

Faith A. Chapel, *Superintendent*

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 grant funds two of the oldest school buses were replaced, supporting the district's goal of reducing both emissions and fuel use.



www.bainbridge.wednet.edu
For more district news and information

- Sizeable Grants Buy Buses and Clean Air
- Local Support Helps Fill the Shortfalls in Education Funding



OpenBook

Bainbridge Island School District No. 303

WINTER 2010

Where Our Schools and Our Community Connect

Bainbridge Island School District No. 303
8489 Madison Avenue N.E.
Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110



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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

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

School Events— Too good to miss!

JANUARY

- 4 School Resumes
- 13 Half-Day—Early Dismissal
BHS Choir Winter Gala
- 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 I-8 Program Information Night
- 26-27 BHS One-Act Plays



Remember to use your
60+ Gold Pass!



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 Oslick and Nikko Jensen and the entire EHHS student body (left) celebrate receipt of the 2009 Great Schools Award at an assembly in October