

Bellingham Public Schools  
Bellingham, Washington

**2007-08 Citizens' Levy Advisory Committee**  
**November 9, 2007**  
**Minutes**

Mike Oswald opened the meeting and asked members to review the minutes from the November 7 meeting. The minutes were approved. Mike asked if there were any unanswered questions from the previous meeting and there were none.

Ron Cowan gave a presentation on levy basics—how a levy works and how levy funds are used. He discussed levy definitions and procedures, factors that influence cost (tax rate), levy statistics, and the history of M & O levies since 1980. The Bellingham School District has the second lowest M & O levy tax rate among Whatcom County school districts. The last date to get the ballot resolution to the County Auditor is January 18 for the March election. The goal is to get the committee's recommendations to the Board for their December 13 Board meeting.

Susan Zoller gave a presentation on how levy funds impact the district. These funds help maintain the current instructional programs (reduced class size, additional classified support, instructional materials), pay for enhanced learning opportunities (Special Education, Highly Capable Learners; English Language Learners, Advanced Placement and Honors courses, extra-curricular activities), school bus transportation, operation of the district (utilities, insurance, etc.), and safety and support (School Resource Officer, Americans with Disabilities Act, nurses, drug and alcohol prevention, etc.).

Because of time constraints, the presentation on the Technology Levy was tabled until the November 14 meeting.

Dr. Vedra asked for an indication on whether the committee was ready to hear a proposal on the Maintenance and Operations Levy. Based on committee's response, this proposal will be brought to the November 14 meeting. The meeting was then adjourned.

Next Meeting:

November 14  
12:30 p.m.  
Board Room