# *Superintendent's Report*

February 23rd, 2013

## BOARD UPDATE

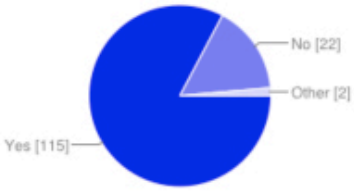
- **Middle School Students Making a Difference** – Our middle school students as part of their Leading LEOs club spent a couple hours after school this week working at the North Clark County Food Bank in Battle Ground organizing food stocks for those in need. Following this experience, they got to go have some pizza for dinner. A huge thanks needs to go to Liz Cerveny who arranged this opportunity for our students. I would also like to thank their Lion advisors Shirley Barnes and Steve Fuller for their terrific leadership and dedication. There were also a couple of parents and staff volunteers (Rhonda Slinkard and Colleen Wing) who helped as well. Thanks to all their hard work in making such a positive difference and representing La Center Middle School so well.

- **Facility Safety Audit** – I am the chair of the Risk Management Executive Council at the ESD (our insurance pool). Over the past six or seven years, I have expressed concerns about the relative lack of services pre-incident that the cooperative has not shown interest in providing member districts, but is very much needed. After trying several ways to "crack the culture", I decided to get involved more intensely at the executive council level. Well I am pleased to announce that with the hard work of many people (particularly thankful to Loy Dale and Dr. Twyla Barnes), this week the Risk Management Cooperative decided to begin providing several new services to the membership. The one that I am most excited about is a comprehensive Facility Safety Audit for all member schools. This is a very expensive and time intensive process that I believe will give us a terrific resource to help us develop a robust and comprehensive plan to enhance our school facilities safety. For our size district, this type of a survey might have cost us between $10,000 and $15,000, but as a member of the cooperative we will get this service free of charge. To say the least I am thrilled on many different levels with this news! Beyond this particular service, I am really pleased with how the ESD staff has tackled this effort on behalf of all the cooperative's members through a significant shift of mind on service opportunities through thinking differently. Kudos to the ESD!
- **Capital Projects Levy Survey** – We have put out a survey through Skyward and other conduits of communication to seek feedback from stakeholders about the recent Capital Projects Levy. Over the first two days that the survey has been out, we have received 139 responses with 83% saying the district should run the levy again. See the following two pages for the specific data on each question and the comments received.

# 139 responses

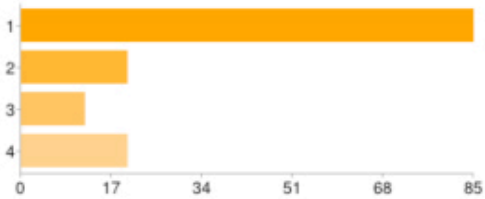
## Summary

**Would you support this initiative if it is re-run in its current form?**



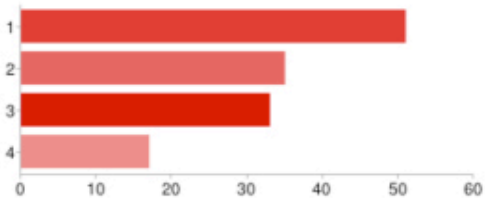

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | **115** | 83% |
| No | **22** | 16% |
| Other | **2** | 1% |

**Below are previously identified projects for this initiative. Please help us identify those of most importance to you. - Covered Bleachers**



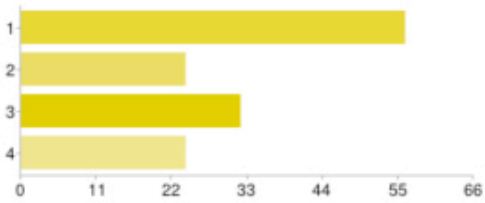

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **85** | 61% |
| 2 | **20** | 14% |
| 3 | **12** | 9% |
| 4 | **20** | 14% |

**Below are previously identified projects for this initiative. Please help us identify those of most importance to you. - Lights & Scoreboards**



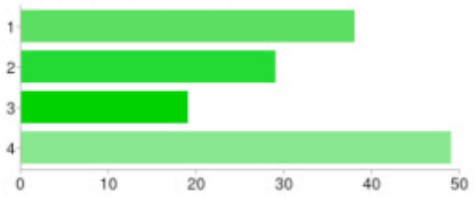

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **51** | 37% |
| 2 | **35** | 25% |
| 3 | **33** | 24% |
| 4 | **17** | 12% |

**Below are previously identified projects for this initiative. Please help us identify those of most importance to you. - All Weather Track**



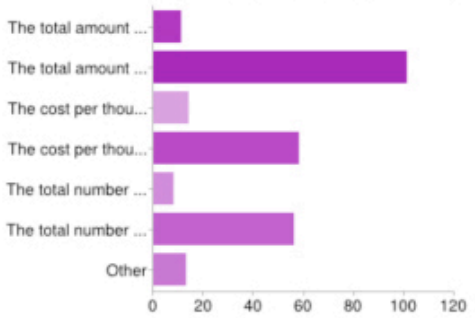

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **56** | 40% |
| 2 | **24** | 17% |
| 3 | **32** | 23% |
| 4 | **24** | 17% |

**Below are previously identified projects for this initiative. Please help us identify those of most importance to you. - Permanent Restrooms & Concession Stand**




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **38** | 27% |
| 2 | **29** | 21% |
| 3 | **19** | 14% |
| 4 | **49** | 35% |

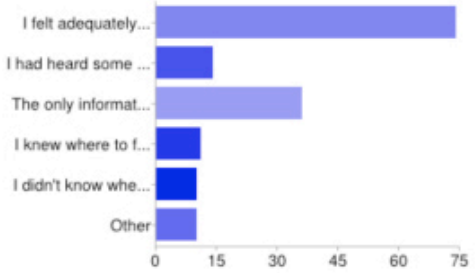
**The Capital Projects Levy as it was proposed would have collected $200,000 each year for six years at a rate of $0.29 per thousand of assessed value per year ($29 per year of each $100,000 AV).**




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The total amount proposed is too high | **11** | 8% |
| The total amount proposed is reasonable | **101** | 77% |
| The cost per thousand is too high | **14** | 11% |
| The cost per thousand is reasonable | **58** | 44% |
| The total number of years is too high | **8** | 6% |
| The total number of years is reasonable | **56** | 42% |
| Other | **13** | 10% |

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

**Prior to the current February 12th election.....**




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| I felt adequately informed to make a decision | **74** | **57%** |
| I had heard some talk about the initiative but had questions | **14** | **11%** |
| The only information I had prior to the election was the description on the ballot | **36** | **28%** |
| I knew where to find more information but didn't have time | **11** | **8%** |
| I didn't know where to go for more information on this initiative | **10** | **8%** |
| Other | **10** | **8%** |

People may select more than one checkbox, so percentages may add up to more thai 100%.

**Please give the School Board any and all feedback you have concerning this initiative to help them make their decision whether to put a measure back on the ballot in April..**

If it goes back on the ballot in April, there needs to be a more organized, focused effort to get the information out to people. Signs, banners, people at school events, able to answer questions. I would be more than happy to help get the word out. Six of the seven households on my street have no children in La Center schools so they need to be educated on the importance of healthy schools and a healthy town. It is too easy for people(retired folks on my street) to have the opinion that since they don't have kids in the school district they don't need to support the schools. Maybe they don' ...

**Number of daily responses**

- **KWRL Transportation Cooperative Agreement** – As you know, there was a difference of perspective that had developed between a couple of the Ridgefield Board members and the Woodland Board relative to the wording in the newly proposed agreement. The Board presidents and superintendents from both districts met last week and have worked through their concerns. It was decided that the agreement will remain as written and will gain full support of both Boards. We are marching forward!
- **Update New KWRL Transportation Facilities** – The planning and more complicated preplanning studies are now in full swing. Further ground stability studies have shown the Woodland site is less susceptible to liquefaction than previously thought. Therefore, it appears at this juncture that less building retrofitting will be needed than we had originally planned for. This means that more of the budget can be put toward square footage rather than into pilings in the ground to strengthen the building to meet earthquake standards. We have also received word from OSPI that the requested need for funds across the state for school construction matching funds is way down (as we were planning on – thus the hurry to get it in this cycle). This is great news, as they will only fund projects on the qualifying list until the money runs out. With transportation cooperatives always going to the bottom of the list, this bodes well for us to receive state matching funds for the Woodland site. We will know for sure if we will be funded by July, but so far so good. The timeline for the renovation (if funding is approved) is currently the late spring or early summer in 2014. The work planning for the La Center Junction site is also moving forward. With a top end budget of $1.6 million for this project, our share will be around $320,000 (or $0.20 on the dollar) in order to have this site constructed. What a great value for our taxpayers to get our buses off the K-8 site at pennies on the dollar. The timeline for this site to be constructed is currently early fall. Therefore it appears as though we will need to start off the school year with our buses still being on the K-8.
- **KWRL Transportation Director** – We have been working to prepare an updated job description for the soon to be open KWRL Transportation Director position as part of the process to transition to new leadership. The KWRL superintendents met again with Chuck this week to discuss our expectations. We also had a further conversation about the particulars of him signing a consultant's contract to help us oversee the facility improvements we have planned at both Woodland and La Center Junction sites through completion in 2014.

I think that is all for now. Please give me a call if you have any questions. Talk with you later.

Mark