

# Aberdeen Schools

Keeping you informed about our schools -- Feb. 9, 2024



*Jerry Salstrom, center, is flanked at left by Superintendent Jeff Thake and Directors Jessica Jurasin and Jeremy Wright, and at right by Directors Annica Mizin, Suzy Ritter and Jennifer Durney.*

## **Goldberg Award presented to Jerry Salstrom**

The Aberdeen School Board presented the Jane F. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award to Jerry Salstrom at its meeting on Tuesday to recognize his years of dedication to the children of Aberdeen and the community as a whole.

Mr. Salstrom's service in the Aberdeen School District dates to 1969 when he was hired to teach math. He was the principal at Miller Junior High School from 1989 to 1999. In his retirement, he has

continued to work and volunteer in various roles. He currently is the math tutor in the GEAR UP program at Aberdeen High School.

Most recently, Mr. Salstrom spearheaded the Miller Junior High Centennial Celebration, which became a community-wide event that packed the gymnasium on Jan. 28.

Mr. Salstrom had been asked to attend the School Board meeting to report on the celebration. In his report, he focused on the student and community partnerships that were forged in the months leading up to the event. He recapped the work of the students, teachers and the community members, and he also shared photos from the event. The goal was not just to hold an event. "We wanted it to be an experience – and a lasting experience," he said. "And most importantly a connection with our entire community. ... It truly was a community effort."

**Thank you, Mr. Salstrom!**

[Read the full story...](#)

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### **One for the record books**

*Wearaing their t-shirts commemorating 1924 to 2024, the entire student body and staff at Miller Junior High School gathered for a group photo the morning after the Centennial Celebration. Mr. Salstrom teamed up with the PTO to make sure every student received a shirt.*

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**SCHOOLBOARD**



# Hopkins Preschool



2023-2024

Annual Report presented to the School Board on Feb. 6, 2024

## Summary of the Feb. 6 School Board meeting

[Agenda](#) (pdf)

President Jennifer Durney convened the regular meeting of the Aberdeen School District Board of Directors at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 16, 2024, in the Community Room at Aberdeen High School. In attendance were Jessica Jurasin, Annica Mizin, Suzy Ritter and Jeremy Wright, along with Superintendent Jeffrey Thake and 18 patrons and staff.

The meeting began with the flag salute.

### Consent Agenda

The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included:

- The minutes from the regular meeting on January 16, 2024;
- Annual letter from the Marian Weatherwax Endowment Fund at the Grays Harbor Community Foundation reporting an annual distribution in the amount of \$62,000.00 in support of local programs;
- Gift from the Marian Weatherwax Scholarship Fund at the Grays Harbor Community Foundation in the amount of \$4,000.00 for valedictorian and salutatorian prizes at Aberdeen High School, and
- Gift from Emily Jones of Aberdeen, a 2009 Kia Rio valued at \$2,240.00 for use in the automotive program at Aberdeen High School.

## **Comments from the Board**

The Board welcomed student representatives Harnoor Jandu of Aberdeen High School and Mikyla Gunter of Harbor High School.

Director Jurasin reported on her attendance at the annual WSSDA Legislative Conference and shared ideas for greater engagement in the process.

## **Presentations**

### **Miller Centennial Report / Goldberg Award**

Retired Principal Jerry Salstrom gave a report on the successful centennial celebration that took place at Miller Junior High School on Jan. 28.

Following Mr. Salstrom's report, the Board announced it was presenting him with the Jane F. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award in gratitude for his many years of support for the District's schools and programs, which was exemplified most recently by his tireless efforts leading up to the Miller Centennial Celebration.

### **Hopkins Preschool Annual Report**

Principal Darby Carroll presented Hopkins Preschool's annual report and school improvement plan. The Board expressed appreciation at the breadth of services offered to preschool students and families.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **Levy Update**

Superintendent Jeff Thake provided an update on the 2024 enrichment and operations levy and the capital projects levy. Ballots are due before 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13. He noted that he is hosting one more informational meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, in the Community Room at Aberdeen High School.

## **New Business**

### **Policy 2401 Financial Education Mastery**

Following a presentation by CTE Director Lynn Green, the Board accepted for first reading a new policy, 2401 Financial Education Mastery.

### **Policy 2413 Equivalency Credit Opportunities**

Following a presentation by CTE Director Lynn Green, the Board accepted for first reading a new policy, 2413 Equivalency Credit Opportunities.

### **School's Out Washington Contract**

Following a presentation by CTE Director Lynn Green, the Board approved a contract with School's Out Washington to provide required observations and data collection as part of the 21st Century After School grant.

## **Surplus Equipment**



The Board approved a recommendation to declare as surplus an obsolete car lift in the automotive program at Aberdeen High School and an inventory of other items provided by the Business Office.

### **Personnel Report**

Following an executive session, the Board approved the Personnel Report.

### **AEA Co-Curricular Schedule**

The Board approved an agreement with the Aberdeen Education Association to add a stipend for Honor Society to the co-curricular schedule.

### **Next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 20**

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, in the Community Room at Aberdeen High School.

Those who attend regular meetings are welcome to sign up at the meeting to provide public comment on agenda items. Written public comment for the record can also be submitted up to noon the day of the meeting by writing to [schoolboard@asd5.org](mailto:schoolboard@asd5.org). Comments or concerns not on the agenda can be brought to the attention of the district by contacting the Superintendent's Office or by contacting individual board members.



### **City of Aberdeen announces scholarship nominee**

The City of Aberdeen announced this week that Cristal Ramirez Garcia, a senior at Aberdeen High School, is the city's nominee for one of three Association of Washington Cities' Center for Quality Communities scholarships.

Ms. Ramirez Garcia would like to earn a bachelor's degree in elementary education. City Administrator Ruth Clemens said that Cristal shared with the selection committee that she is inspired to teach because of the "wondershul experience she had in Aberdeen schools as a young child where teachers and staff went above and beyond to help her succeed."

Each AWC member city can nominate one student to compete for a \$3,000 scholarship, Clemens said, adding that AHS provided the committee with a pool of very qualified candidates. The recipients will be announced in March.

Cristal's parents are Imelda Garcia Herrera and Carmelo Ramirez Garcia.

[Read the full story...](#)

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### **Ballots for special election due Tuesday**



Voters in the Aberdeen School District have two special levies on the ballot. Voters have until Tuesday, Feb. 13, to drop off or mail their ballots. Mailed ballots must be postmarked on or before Feb. 13 to be counted.



*Superintendent Jeff Thake shares information about the proposed Education Programs & Operations Levy and the Capital Projects Levy during a community meeting at Aberdeen High School on Thursday.*

The two measures the community will decide are:

1. Renewal of the **Education Programs & Operations Levy**, (aka the EP&O levy). This levy funds local programs and activities that are not funded by the state, especially athletics, music, other extra-curricular activities and maintenance. Voters approved this levy four years ago at a rate not to exceed \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The renewal request is for the same tax rate.
2. A **Capital Projects Levy**. This is new. The bonds for the high school have been paid off and the School Board is requesting a \$1 per \$1,000 four-year levy for investment in our aging facilities. Capital funds are for projects that improve, upgrade or modernize buildings, which is different than the day-to-day maintenance funded by the regular levy.



## How much will it cost?

The estimated combined tax rate of \$3.50 per \$1,000 assessed value for both levies is less than the current rate of \$3.82 per \$1,000 of assessed value. It is estimated the combined rate will decrease to \$3.32 per \$1,000 by the fourth year.

### Levy Q & A February 13, 2024

Voters in the Aberdeen School District will decide two levies during the Feb. 13, 2024 special election:

- An Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy for **programs**
- A Capital Projects Levy for **projects**



#### What will the levies pay for?

The EP&O Levy is a renewal of the existing levy, which is expiring. It will continue the community's support for programs such as athletics, music, drama, school counselors, nurses/health assistants, curriculum, technology, building maintenance, and other programs that are either not funded or are underfunded by the state.

The Capital Levy is new and will fund modern upgrades to our aging buildings and technology infrastructure. The bonds for J.M. Weatherwax High School are now paid off. The \$1 per \$1,000 being proposed for building upgrades is less than the annual tax rate was for the high school.

#### Where do public schools get their money?

About 72% comes from the state, about 18% from the federal government, about 9% from local taxes, and 1% from other sources such as grants or fees.

#### Why is the District asking for more money?

The current EP&O levy approved four years ago was for \$5,200,000 in each of the four years. This replacement request is for \$5,950,000 per year for the next four years and reflects increased program costs.

Due to the high school bond being paid off, the combined tax rate of both the EP&O Levy and the Capital Projects Levy will not result in a rate increase.

EP&O Levy		
Collection Year	Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$2.50	\$5,950,000
2026	\$2.50	\$5,950,000
2027	\$2.42	\$5,950,000
2028	\$2.32	\$5,950,000
Capital Projects Levy		
2025	\$1.00	\$2,188,984
2026	\$1.00	\$2,276,544
2027	\$1.00	\$2,367,606
2028	\$1.00	\$2,462,310

#### How much will the combined levy cost property owners?

Collection Year	Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value	Cost for \$250,000 Home
2025 (est)	\$3.50	\$875.00
2026	\$3.50	\$875.00
2027	\$3.42	\$855.00
2028	\$3.32	\$830.00

More Information is available at [www.asd5.org](http://www.asd5.org)

**How do schools get "local" dollars?**

Through voter-approved property taxes such as the two being proposed.

Property owners pay a set amount for each \$1,000 of their property's value (called Assessed Valuation or AV). These levies cannot be increased once approved. Below is the estimated rate per \$1,000 of assessed value for both levies.

**Why ask for a Capital Levy and not a Bond?**

As you may recall, a bond initiative that was proposed to replace one of our elementary schools at the last election cycle failed by one (1) vote. Bond planning for a new school can take several years. Meantime, we have current facility needs that should be addressed before the next bond initiative for a new school is placed before voters.

**When is the vote?**

Ballots will be mailed in late January, with all ballots due on or before February 13, 2024.

**Do all school districts receive equal state funding?**

The state recognizes that some communities have higher property values and can more easily raise funds to support their schools. That is not the case in Aberdeen. For this reason, the state will provide a "match" to districts like ours if the levy passes. In the previous calendar year, the Aberdeen School District received an additional \$2.4 million from the state because voters supported the levy.

This match to our schools is over 3.67% of the total budget and is not available unless the levy is approved.

**What programs does the EP&O Levy fund?**

All extra-curricular, co-curricular, PE, music, and drama programs are funded with local levy dollars. The elementary swimming program and Outdoor School are supported with levy dollars. In addition, the levy helps fund salaries for staff to improve student learning and other professional development; para-educator support in the classroom and on the playground; improve and maintain technology in our classrooms; support the services and supplies needed to clean and maintain our buildings and grounds. The levy will also augment school counselor staffing above the state funding model so that services remain available. The capital levy will be used for construction/facility upgrades to continue investing in our existing facilities.

**Aren't these items funded by the state under basic education funding?**

No. Basic education funds from the state and federal government provide about 90% of the cost of basic education. The funds requested through this levy represent about 9% of the proposed budget for the next four (4) years. When the incentive funds from the state are factored in, the impact on the budget is 12%.

**What are co-curricular or extracurricular programs?**

These include drama, musicals, the swim program, athletic programs and competitions, performing arts and marching bands, choir, orchestra and other after school activities. These funds also supplement the staff funded by the state to support academic and social emotional support for all students. The levy funds make it possible to provide these opportunities to all students regardless of income.

*More Information is available at [www.asd5.org](http://www.asd5.org)*



# February 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat / Sun	
			1  Elementary Winter Concert Auditorium 6:30 pm	2  All Elementary Band Concert, Auditorium 6:30 pm	3  AHS Vocal Solo & Ensemble @ Timberline H.S.	4
5  Central Park Orchestra Clinic 6:30 pm	6  Robert Gray Ketchup Club McDermoth Orchestra Clinic 6:30 pm School Board 6 pm	7  Collaboration Day Early Release  Stevens Orchestra Clinic 6:30 pm	8  Robert Gray Ketchup Club AJ West Orchestra Clinic 6:30 pm Stevens K-2 Music Concert Cafeteria 6:30 pm	9  Stevens Gr. 3-5 Music Concert Cafeteria 6:30 pm	10  ACT Testing	11
12  CMEA Jazz Band Festival, Black Hills H.S. Robert Gray PTO Robert Gray Orchestra Clinic 6:30 pm AJ West Missoula	13  Music Boosters 7 pm Bobcat Boosters 7 pm AJ West Missoula	14  AJ West Missoula	15  All State Music Educators Conference AJ West Missoula	16  All State Music Educators Conference AJ West Missoula	17  All State Music Educators Conference	18  All State Music Educators Conference
19  Presidents Day Holiday	20  Professional Development No School  School Board 6 pm	21	22  AHS Bobcat's Choice Awards	23  Central Park Assembly Robert Gray Smooth Sailing	24  AHS Mr. Irresistible 7pm	25
26  Spring Sports Begin	27	28	29  AJ West Assembly Robert Gray PTO Bingo Stevens Assembly	Check school calendars for dates and times of Elementary Concerts this month.		

# **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2024**

**FOR UNDERGRADUATE  
AND VOCATIONAL  
STUDIES**

**APPLY IF YOU:**

- Are graduating from a Grays Harbor high school, have graduated previously, or currently reside here
- Plan to go to a college or university, vocational program or community college throughout the United States

**FOR MORE INFO**

 (360) 532-1600; [jessica@gh-cf.org](mailto:jessica@gh-cf.org)

 [www.gh-cf.org](http://www.gh-cf.org)

Scholarships range from  
\$2,000 - \$20,000 per year and are  
renewable for three additional years.



 SCAN ME



**Applications are due before 5 p.m. on March 1**

*Scholarships are open to any student who has graduated from a high school on Grays Harbor or who currently resides on Grays Harbor. There are no age restrictions and you can attend programs, colleges or trade schools throughout the United States. Scholarships are available for up to four years.*





# Harbor Youth Soccer Spring Soccer Registration NOW OPEN



**U9 (born 2016) and up: \$40**

Spring Season games for U9 and up begin April 13 and end by June 15th

**Academy (born 2017, 2018 or 2019): \$25**

Just like in Fall, Academy takes place on Tuesdays & Thursdays, beginning April 16 and ending May 23rd

**Registration closes February 18th!**

Teams are formed by late-February with practices beginning by mid-March

**More info and Registration online [harborsoccer.com](http://harborsoccer.com)**

This event/activity is not sponsored by Aberdeen School District. The District assumes no responsibility for the conduct of, or safety of, the event/activity. In consideration for the privilege of distributing these materials, the School District shall be held harmless from any cause of action, claim, or petition filed in any court or administrative tribunal arising out of the distribution of these materials, including all cost, attorney's fee, judgements or awards.



WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL

## Apply now: Simpler, more generous 2024-25 financial aid applications now available

**A family of four making up to \$120,500 may be eligible for aid.**

[Financial aid applications](#) for this year's graduating seniors are now available, although students and families should expect some technical issues for the time being. And it will take longer than usual for colleges to get and process applications and respond with financial aid awards.

Applications were delayed this year as [updates were made to improve the FAFSA and WASFA forms and increase aid eligibility](#). In Washington, there are two ways to apply for financial aid. You should only complete one application—the FAFSA or the WASFA:

### Stay in touch

- Superintendent Jeffrey Thake, [jthake@asd5.org](mailto:jthake@asd5.org)
- Business Office, Elyssa Louderback, [elouderback@asd5.org](mailto:elouderback@asd5.org)
- Human Resources, Christi Sayres, [csayres@asd5.org](mailto:csayres@asd5.org)
- Special Education, Rick Bates, [rbates@asd5.org](mailto:rbates@asd5.org)
- Career & Technical Education, Lynn Green, [lgreen@asd5.org](mailto:lgreen@asd5.org)
- Teaching, Learning & Technology, Traci Sandstrom, [tsandstrom@asd5.org](mailto:tsandstrom@asd5.org)
- Food Services, Jaime Matisons, [jmatisons@asd5.org](mailto:jmatisons@asd5.org)

**School Office Hours**

**A.J. West Elementary School**

- Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- (360) 538-2130 / Principal Nani Villarreal

**Central Park Elementary School**

- Office Hours: 8:15 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- (360) 538-2170 / Principal Ruth Erwin-Svoboda

**McDermoth Elementary School**

- Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- (360) 538-2120 / Principal Mindi Hammill

**Robert Gray Elementary School**

- Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- (360) 538-2140 / Principal Sherri Northington

**Stevens Elementary School**

- Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- (360) 538-2150 / Principal Jamie Stotler

**Harbor Learning Center**

- Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- (360) 538-2180 / Principal Lisa Griebel

**Hopkins Preschool**

- Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- (360) 538-2190 / Principal Darby Carroll

**Miller Junior High School**

- Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- (360) 538-2100 / Principal John Meers

**Aberdeen High School**

- Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- (360) 538-2040 General / Principal Aaron Roiko
- (360) 538-2060 Attendance Line

## 2023-2024 Aberdeen School District Calendar

August 2023										February 2024				
M	T	W	TH	F						M	T	W	TH	F
	1*	2	3	4									1	2
7	8	9	10	11						5	6*	7√	8	9
14	15*	16	17	18						12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25						19	20*	21	22	23
28	29	30	31							26	27	28	29	
02/180										113/180				
September 2023										March 2024				
M	T	W	TH	F						M	T	W	TH	F
				1										1
4	5*	6	7	8						4	5*	6√	7	8
11	12	13	14	15						11	12	13	14	15
18	19*	20	21	22						18	19*	20	21	22
25	26	27√	28	29						25	26	27	28	29
22/180										133/180				
October 2023										April 2024				
M	T	W	TH	F						M	T	W	TH	F
2	3*	4	5	6						1	2	3	4	5
9	10	11	12	13						8	9	10√	11	12
16	17*	18	19	20						15	16*	17	18	19
23	24	25√	26	27						22	23	24	25	26
30	31									29	30			
44/180										150/180				
November 2023										May 2024				
M	T	W	TH	F						M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3									1	2
6	7	8	9	10						6	7*	8	9	10
13	14*	15	16	17						13	14	15√	16	17
20	21	22	23	24						20	21*	22	23	24
27	28	29	30							27	28	29	30	31
62/180										171/180				
December 2023										June 2024				
M	T	W	TH	F						M	T	W	TH	F
				1						3	4*	5	6	7
4	5	6√	7	8						10	11	12	13	14
11	12*	13	14	15						17	18*	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22						24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29						180/180				
73/180					July 2024					M	T	W	TH	F
January 2024										1	2*	3	4	5
M	T	W	TH	F						8	9	10	11	12
1	2	3	4	5						15	16*	17	18	19
8	9	10√	11	12						22	23	24	25	26
15	16*	17	18	19						29	30	31		
22	23	24	25	26										
29	30	31												
94/180														

**August 2023**  
 28 Professional Development  
 29 Professional Development  
 30 First Day of School

**September 2023**  
 04 Labor Day--No School

**October 2023**

**November 2023**  
 10 Veterans Day Observed - No School  
 22-24 Thanksgiving Holiday

**December 2023**  
 15 Early Release  
 18-29 Winter Break

**January 2024**  
 01 Winter Break continues  
 15 Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday--No School

**February 2024**  
 19 Presidents Day Holiday -No School  
 20 Professional Development--No School

**March 2024**  
 15 Weather Makeup Day, If Needed

**April 2024**  
 1-5 Spring Break

**May 2024**  
 24 Weather Makeup Day, If Needed  
 27 Memorial Day Holiday

**June 2024**  
 13 Last Day of School / Early Release  
 19 Juneteenth

\* Denotes Board meeting  
 √ Collaboration Days:  
 09/27 10/25  
 12/6 01/10  
 02/07 03/06  
 04/10 05/15

School Board 02/21/23 Updated 09/19 School Board mtgs

## Office of the Education Ombuds

The Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO) was created to help families navigate the education system.

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The Aberdeen School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Christi Sayres, Title IX Coordinator and Civil rights Compliance Coordinator, 216 North G St., Aberdeen, WA 98520; (360) 538-2222; [csayres@asd5.org](mailto:csayres@asd5.org); Dr. Richard Bates, Section 504/ADA Coordinator, 216 North G St., Aberdeen, WA 98520; (360) 538-2017; [rbates@asd5.org](mailto:rbates@asd5.org).



**Aberdeen  
School District**



**ASD5 News**



