



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Strong Minds, Strong Hearts, Strong Community

NEWS

Issue 2

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Legislators learn the time to fund basic education is now



BISD Superintendent Faith Chapel testifies before State Education Committee members.

In 2012, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled in *McCleary v. State of Washington* that the state has unconstitutionally underfunded schools. For failing to show how it will achieve full funding of all elements of basic education by 2018, per the *McCleary* decision, the state is currently in contempt with fines of \$100,000 a day.

This fall, members of the Senate Education Committee conducted a statewide “listening tour” to gain input on how to meet the constitutional mandate. When the tour came to Bremerton, hundreds of teachers, administrators and community members, many from Bainbridge Island, showed up to tell committee members, the time to fully fund basic education is now.

State Senator Christine Rolfe of the 23rd Legislative District co-chaired the meeting. She later told

the *Kitsap Sun* that committee members were consistently hearing about low teacher pay and disparities in educational opportunities. While they agreed the state’s education funding system needs fixing, convincing a majority of legislators to act remains the challenge.

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Legislative Roundtable on Education Dec. 2 at BHS

Add your voice to the discussion on K-12 education and school funding. Attend a Legislative Roundtable on Education with Sen. Christine Rolfe, Rep. Drew Hansen and Rep. Sherry Appleton Wednesday, Dec. 2, 7-8:30 p.m., Bainbridge High School Commons.

Clay Jenkinson will bring history to life for students Nov. 18

American Studies students at Bainbridge High School (BHS) are about to meet Thomas Jefferson—in the form of cultural commentator Clay Jenkinson. The



award-winning radio host will inhabit the third President of the United States for two one-hour presentations primarily for 11th graders from BHS and Eagle Harbor High School Wednesday, Nov. 18 in the BHS Large Group Instruction Room. The event is part of the Bainbridge Schools Foundation-funded high school Arts and Lecture program.

The Bainbridge Island Historical Museum was planning to bring Clay Jenkinson to the island for events on Nov. 17 and offered the district and BSF a chance to partner with the program.

“This is as close as we can come to enabling students to hear from, and ask questions of, one of the central figures in American history. Jenkinson is very knowledgeable and gifted at bringing historical figures to life,” said Larry Holland, who teaches American Studies at BHS.

Jenkinson is an author, humanities scholar and host of the syndicated radio program “The Thomas Jefferson Hour.” He began bringing historical figures to life in 1984 when he portrayed Jefferson for a regional Chautauqua Program.



Link Crew team members get to know each other and their Link Leader with a name-recognition game.

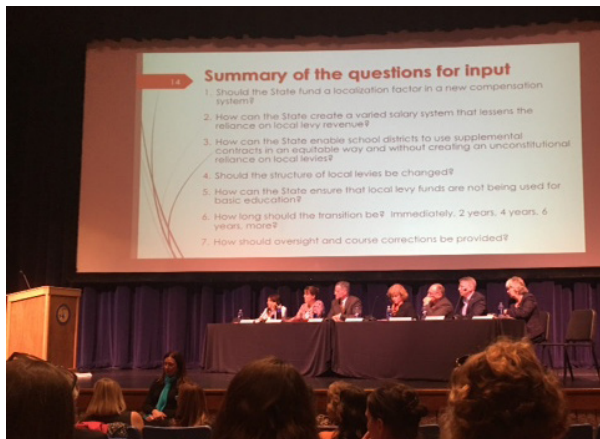
This fall, Bainbridge High School joined more than 3,000 schools nationwide in offering Link Crew teams to support incoming freshmen. The purpose of Link Crew is to help ninth-grade students—including those from Eagle Harbor with classes at BHS—feel welcome and ready to tackle the rigors of high school. In the yearlong program, peer leaders help freshmen on a regular basis with academic and social check-ins.

Learn more about Link Crew, visit www.boomerangproject.com/webinars and register for a webinar on one of the following dates: November 17; December 8, 10, 15, 16, 17.

Also in this edition ...

- Superintendent Faith Chapel to retire
- Budget Basics
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- Foundation pledges \$900,000
- Scenes from *Romeo & Juliet*

Legislative listening tour, continued
 “While you are trying to find a solution, we are trying to do the work,” said South Kitsap Superintendent Michelle Reid, speaking to the legislators as a member of a panel. “It’s a difficult time to be patient. Our children have higher expectations. Rearranging levy revenues is not sufficient to solving the problem ... it’s like rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic.”



“Funding has got to be ample and it has to be equitable,” said Bainbridge Island School District Superintendent Faith Chapel, whose public testimony described how different districts currently have different limits to the amount of funding support they can get from local levies.

During the tour, committee members were seeking input on elements of Senate Bill 6130. Proposed in June by Sens. Rolfes, Bruce Dammeier, Ann Rivers and Jim Hargrove, the bill was part of the ongoing discussion of strategies to comply with the McCleary decision. Among other things, the bill was an attempt to clarify what is and is not basic education, propose a new statewide teacher salary schedule, and ban the use of local levy dollars for basic education. While the bill acknowledged the need for more dollars for education, it did not specify how to raise the revenue.

Questions the senators posed during the listening tour included:

- Should the state teacher compensation system be localized?
- How can the state create a varied salary system that lessens the reliance on local levy revenue?
- How long should it take to transition into a solution?

The audience let legislators know it has already taken too long.

Stephanie McCleary works for the Chimacum School District. Her son, Carter, was a 7-year-old second-grader when she sued the state. He will soon graduate from high school. When the Chimacum superintendent was preparing his remarks for the Bremerton listening tour, he inquired about what she would like him to tell the legislators. She said, “Tell them Carter has three more semesters.”

To learn more about the listening tour, read “Legislators get earful from educators, parents” at http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/legislators-get-earful-from-educators-parents_54829911.

Superintendent Faith Chapel to retire June 30

After a 40-year career in education, Superintendent Faith Chapel has announced her intent to retire from the Bainbridge Island School District at the end of this school year.

In a letter to the board of directors, Chapel stated, “I want to express my gratitude to you and to the Bainbridge Island community for the opportunity to serve as the superintendent of one of the finest public school districts in the nation. It has been an honor to work with you and with a dedicated and talented group of administrators, certificated and classified staff to build upon a longstanding tradition of educational excellence and set the stage for the future.”



Chapel began her teaching career in Laguna Beach, California in 1975. After 11 years as an elementary and middle

school teacher, she spent 14 years as an administrator in Lake Oswego, Oregon. Chapel served as the executive director of secondary schools in the Central Kitsap School District before joining the BISD in 2001 as the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. She became superintendent in July 2008.

Read more at www.bisd303.org.

Budget basics: Understanding the disparity between state funding, district expenses

In response to Washington Supreme Court mandates in the McCleary decision, the state legislature increased biennial funding for K-12 education by \$1.3 billion. The Bainbridge Island School District received 2.4 million additional dollars from the state for 2015-16. However, because basic education is not fully funded by the state, those dollars were almost entirely used to cover increased costs:

- \$1,100,000.00 for increased costs of employee benefits.
- \$750,000 to cover the three percent cost of living (COLA) increase for all employees.
- \$500,000 for increased cost of supplies, equipment, operations and staff extra time/overtime.

Local dollars continue to play a vital role in covering the cost of important programs and services. Examples of local funding include:

- \$400,000 for additional staffing (enrollment changes, intervention-differentiation specialists, etc.). In BISD, 38 certificated full-time equivalent (FTE) (14 percent) and 67 classified FTE (48 percent) are not funded by the state. The Bainbridge Schools Foundation is funding several of these positions.
- \$1,900,000.00 for special education costs. The district covers 30 percent of the \$6.4 million special education budget.
- \$344,000 for transportation costs above state allocations.

The district’s state ranking also contributes to the local funding gap. In 2013-2014 BISD ranked in the bottom 22 percent of Washington state school districts in total per pupil revenue. This means out of 295 districts BISD is 228.

Budget basics: General Fund vs. Capital Fund



Different “pots of money” support different but important student needs. The district’s General Fund is its operating fund. State allocations, the local Educational Program & Operations (EP&O) Levy, donations and some federal dollars contribute to this fund, which pays for teachers, support staff, education programs, curriculum materials and other district operating expenses. There is a “levy lid” that limits how much the district is allowed to ask for in an EP&O levy, and Bainbridge Islanders are providing the maximum support allowed by law. Additional funding for staff comes from donations to the

Bainbridge Schools Foundation.

The Capital Fund contains revenues from voter-approved bond measures and capital/technology levies. The district uses these dollars for new construction, major facility renovations, technology equipment and infrastructure, and capital or technology projects-related salaries. Projects completed with Capital Fund dollars, such as energy efficient buildings, can reduce maintenance expenses, which would come out of the General Fund.

By law, districts cannot use bond dollars to pay for classroom teachers or the day-to-day costs of running schools. But, in the absence of money in the Capital Fund, the district may use General Fund dollars to support facility needs.



Foundation pledges \$900,000

Bainbridge Schools Foundation (BSF) pledged more than \$900,000 to support Bainbridge Island School District schools during the 2015–16 year. BSF is an independent nonprofit working in partnership with the district to help make our schools extraordinary. Key funding areas include filling critical gaps, providing academic support for students, and seeding innovative programs designed to inspire every student.

As a result of BSF’s support, our schools have smaller class sizes, better trained teachers, and new offerings like the Design and Engineering program at all elementary schools. BSF impacts everyone on our verdant island, because quality public education helps keep our community vibrant and strong.

“By supporting BSF, you can have a tremendous influence on the quality of education on Bainbridge Island,” said Mairead Shutt, BSF executive director. “From reading and math support to school gardens and robotics, BSF impacts every student in every classroom.”

Get involved in the future we’ll all share at <http://www.bainbridgeschoolsfoundation.com>.

Your bond money at work: Replacing, preserving, improving facilities for students, community

How did Capital Projects spend your money and their time this past summer? By breathing new life into old spaces and a lot of heavy lifting. Freshly painted portables, once anchored at BHS, are now increasing teaching space at Ordway Elementary School. New HVAC units installed in adjacent portables improve energy efficiency and indoor air quality. Inside Ordway, a new room within a room provides needed quiet space for Special Education.

Cracked, unplayable high school and community tennis courts at the high school are gone. The department replaced four courts in accordance with United States Tennis Association standards. The new courts have US Open green and blue playing surfaces along with new bleachers, paths, drinking fountain and improved drainage. The two adjacent courts received resurfacing and fresh paint. The courts also have new nets, fencing and improved ADA access.

Asset preservation continues at Woodward Middle School. Last year it was a new roof, this year students got a newly painted, updated Commons, and underutilized cabinetry from the library now serves Woodward’s robotics program. Wall repair and paint brightened hallways at Sakai Intermediate School that had been untouched since the school opened in 1999.

The district’s bus drivers used to spend hours between shifts in a space that felt like what it was, an old bus storage shed. With new floors, walls, bathrooms, kitchen, lighting, and a mechan-



Freshly painted portables, once anchored at BHS, are now increasing teaching space at Ordway Elementary School.

ical system where there was none, drivers can now spend time between morning and afternoon bus runs comfortably.

All-in-all, it was a summer well-spent.



Emery Anderson as Juliet.

Scenes from Bainbridge High School's *Romeo & Juliet*



Emery Anderson and Trent Craighead's balcony scene.



From left:
Seb Hagman
and Ben
Greene from
the BHS band
Overcast.



Henry Bacon
played
Mercutio.



Standing (from left): Sean Palmer, Kamden Dungeon, Marissa Chappell, Ella Wiegiers. Kneeling (from left): Erin Melia, Annie Comstock and Alyssa Pazoff.
Photos by Cary Melia and Tanya Howlett



Punks (Capulets) and Grunges (Montagues). Standing (from left): Erin Melia (Punk servant), Kate Crandell (Rosaline), Kamden Dungeon (Punk) and Rory Schulte (Benvolio). Seated (from left): Paige Harbour (Punk), Annie Comstock (Prince's bodyguard), Marissa Chappell (Gregory, a Grunge) and Alyssa Pazoff (bodyguard).



Emery Anderson and Trent Craighead.

