



# Replacement Levies Supporting UP Students on Feb. 8th Ballot

IMPORTANT LEVY FACTS INSIDE

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- School Board Recognition Month
- Teacher Academy—Educators of the Future
- Job Opportunities in UP Schools
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# Continued Community Support is Essential to Success of Our Schools

*A Message from School Board President Rick Maloney*



As we enter the second half of the 2021-2022 school year, many great things are happening in our schools. Staff and students are adjusting to familiar routines and are benefiting from being back together in person for full days and full weeks. Things are not quite back to normal, but they are getting there.

Staff, students and parents in UPSD are to be commended. They have made tremendous efforts over the last two years to learn and grow in spite of many obstacles. Last year, challenges such as reduced instructional time, social isolation and the limitations of online learning were significant. This year, new challenges have emerged as everyone readjusts to school routines and expectations. We remain committed to providing students the support they need to overcome these challenges.

Nevertheless, we are encouraged by recent accolades received by our schools from multiple sources. UP is ranked 8th in the state (of 295 school districts) by Niche.com and Curtis High School was rated as the best public high school in Pierce County for 2021. In recent *US News and World Report* ratings, all four UPSD primary schools were given a "Best Elementary School" recognition and Drum, Narrows View, and Curtis Junior High all received "Best Middle School" honors in a group of over 1,400 schools.

Continued community support is essential to the success of our schools. The support of parents and citizens has been a source of great strength as the district responded to the pandemic and its effects. As we move forward, support from parents and our community is a vital component in our efforts to return to normal. For this, we are very grateful. With this support, we can continue our tradition of excellence in your schools.

## Make Your Voice Heard and Don't Forget to Vote.

Ballots Mailed to Homes: **January 21, 2022**

Ballot Deadline: Ballots must be received on or before **February 8, 2022**. (No postage is required.) Ballots can be mailed or put in designated drop boxes (by 8 p.m. on election day). University Place's voter drop box is at West Pierce Fire & Rescue, 3631 Drexler Dr. W.

Drop box info: [www.piercountywa.gov/334](http://www.piercountywa.gov/334).

Pierce County Auditor's Office: **(253) 798-8683**

Elections: [www.co.pierce.wa.us/328/elections](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/328/elections)

Voter Registration: <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/6572/Register-to-Vote>





# Happy New Year and Thank You!

*A Message from Superintendent Jeff Chamberlin*



As we begin our journey together through 2022, I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and express my deepest gratitude to the many partners, teammates and supporters who help make UP a special place and our school district such a fine organization.

**First, I want to thank UP citizens and taxpayers for their tremendous financial support through local levies.**

These levies are essential to the health and stability of our budget and the UP community has a long record of supporting schools in this way. Please read more about two important replacement levies (Propositions #1 and #2) in this issue of the *Dialog*.

**Second, I want to thank our School Board members for their service and leadership.** Elected by the citizens of UP, our board of directors gives much of themselves and their time to support students and promote public education. January is School Board Recognition Month and we've included information about all five UPSD board members and how you can reach them on pages 3 & 4.

**Third, I want to thank the amazing staff members in UPSD.** Over the last two years, our teachers, leaders and support staff have demonstrated incredible professionalism, effort, creativity, stamina and resilience as we've changed our learning model over and over again in response to the pandemic. This year, our staff is doing a fabulous job helping students adjust to in-person school again. Learn more about how you can join our team and about how the Teacher Academy at CHS helps prepare students to be teachers later in life on pages 9 and 10.

**Lastly, I want to thank our students, their parents and our wonderful UPSD families.** Education is a collaborative effort that happens at school and at home. We are very proud of the growth students are making this year and we know this is because of the strong partnership we have with families.

I wish you all the best for 2022. Never hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns or suggestions.

*Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. If you have any concerns, questions or suggestions for UPSD, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [jchamberlin@upsd83.org](mailto:jchamberlin@upsd83.org) or call (253) 566-5600.*



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University Place School  
District Website:  
[www.upsd83.org](http://www.upsd83.org)

 @UPSD83

# UPSD Celebrates School Board Recognition Month

## Thank You!

“Our school board members are selfless volunteers who spend long hours working to ensure all our students have the opportunity to learn and grow,” says Superintendent Jeff Chamberlin.

“Celebrating School Board Recognition Month is one way to say thanks for all they do.

Their steady, thoughtful leadership is key to the success of every school in the district.”



January is School Board Recognition Month and UPSD is honored to celebrate its board members for their dedication and commitment to the district's schools and students. School board members are interested in hearing from UP citizens with their questions, concerns or kudos. Below are short bios on the board members including the best way to contact them.



**Dr. Rick Maloney** *President* – Position #5

Email: [rmaloney@upsd83.org](mailto:rmaloney@upsd83.org)

Phone: (253) 566-6918 (Preferred)

Elected to the Board: November 2019

Current Term Expires: 2023

School Board President Rick Maloney has served on the UPSD Board of Directors for 22 years. He served originally from 1995-2015, and now from 2019-present. He retired in 1993 from the US Army as a lieutenant colonel in the Corps of Engineers. He's also a retired educator, with experience as a math and physics teacher and school administrator. He served for nine years on the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) Board of Directors. He currently is a lecturer for UW Tacoma and a trainer for WSSDA. All three of his children graduated from Curtis High School. French Vanilla is his favorite ice cream flavor.



**Ethelda Burke** *Vice President* – Position #1

Email: [eburke@upsd83.org](mailto:eburke@upsd83.org) (Preferred)

Phone: (253) 565-0813

Appointed to the Board: January 2015

Elected to the Board: November 2017

Re-elected to the Board: November 2021

Current Term Expires: 2025

Ethelda Burke has worked in public education for over 40 years as a teacher, principal, and superintendent. She was elected to the School Board in 2017 after being appointed in 2015. Burke previously served as a board member with the Tacoma Youth Symphony and United Way. She has enjoyed being a mentor to teachers seeking their principal's certification and tutoring students. She has two children who are Curtis High School graduates and also likes French Vanilla ice cream.





**Mary Lu Dickinson** – Position #4  
 Email - mdickinson@upsd83.org  
 Phone: (253) 564-6270  
 Elected to the Board: November 1995  
 Current Term Expires: 2023

Longtime board member Mary Lu Dickinson has served on the UPSD Board of Directors for over 25 years. A legal assistant and past Board President, she takes pride in her service to the district. “During my tenure on the board,” she says, “our school district has significantly outperformed the state and nation and shown gains for students in academics, citizenship/service, and health/fitness.” She attended UP schools for all 13 years as did all of her five children. Dedicated to University Place, she has volunteered with Citizens for Incorporation, Viking Junior Wrestling Club, Church Primary, Youth Programs, Cub Scouts, Paint Tacoma/Pierce Beautiful, U.P. Library Campaign, and Playground By the Sound. Her favorite ice cream is Tillamook Mudslide.

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**T'wina Nobles** – Position #3  
 Email. [tnobles@upsd83.org](mailto:tnobles@upsd83.org)  
 Elected to the Board: November 2015  
 Current Term Expires: 2023

T'wina Nobles has served on the UPSD School Board for six years. She is President and CEO of Tacoma Urban League and was elected to the Washington State Senate representing the 28th legislative district in November 2020. As a community leader, she has more than 15 years of experience as an educator, school board member, and PTA activist. Her accomplishments include launching the T'wina Nobles Young Professionals Scholarship at Tacoma Community College, Bates Technical College and Pierce College; serving as Team McChord Honorary Commander, founder of Black Future Co-op Fund, and founder of <https://ladies1storg.com>. Three of her children attend UP schools and one has graduated. Her favorite ice cream flavor is Spumoni.

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**Marisa Peloquin** (*Legislative Representative*) – Position #2  
 Email. [mpeloquin@upsd83.org](mailto:mpeloquin@upsd83.org) (Preferred)  
 Phone: (253) 381-6006  
 Elected to the Board: November 2017  
 Re-elected to the Board: November 2021  
 Current Term Expires: 2025

Marisa Peloquin has been on the UPSD board for four years. She spent 30 years in the U.S. Army (active duty and reserves) serving as a brigade commander and division chief of staff. As a civilian, she served as a senior manager for Verisign. She was elected to the legislative committee for the Washington State School Directors Assn. and has testified before the state legislature. She currently serves as board president for Comprehensive Life Resources, vice chair for the Discovery Regional Science Fair, a squadron commander for Civil Air Patrol, and as a member of the American Assn. of University Women. A CHS graduate, she has one son at school in the district and another who graduated. Baseball Nut (vanilla with raspberry swirl and cashews) is her favorite ice cream flavor.

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# Two Replacement Levies Supporting UP Students on February 8th Ballot

The UPSD Board of Directors unanimously adopted two resolutions to put replacement levies on the ballot for a special election on February 8, 2022. These resolutions will support students in all eight (8) UP schools by providing essential funding used to maintain current programs. If approved by voters, funds from these levies will allow the district to bridge the gap between what the state provides and what UP parents and citizens expect.

## Propositions #1 and #2 are Not New Taxes

Propositions #1 and #2 replace expiring levies and are not new taxes. If UP citizens vote to approve these levies, the district will be able to continue current programming levels for kids in University Place School District for four more years (2023-2026.)

## Schools Rely on Local Levies for Critical Funding

Local, voter-approved levies are basic revenue sources for school operating budgets. School districts in Washington rely on three (3) primary sources of revenue to support operations and educational programs: 1-local levy dollars, 2-state funds, and 3-federal funds. Ninety-eight percent of Washington districts use levies for basic funding. About 15% of the district's revenue comes from these levies.

## Local Levy Funding Expires After Four Years

Once approved, local school levies provide funding for a set period (typically 4 years) and then "expire." To maintain current levels of programming, operation and maintenance, school districts regularly ask citizens to renew or replace the levies one year prior to their expiration. These "replacement" levies provide an ongoing source of revenue and contribute significantly to stable budgets and allow districts to maintain comprehensive programming.

## By the Numbers

**100%**

of kids in UPSD schools benefit from levy funding

**98%**

of school districts in Washington use levies as a key funding source

**15%**

of district funds come from local levies

**4**

years Props. #1 and #2 will provide funding

**740,000 sq. ft.**

of facilities need care & maintenance funded by Prop. #2





# Understand More About University Place School Levies

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**Q** How are public schools funded in University Place?

**A** Nearly all public school districts in Washington are funded by a combination of state, local and federal revenue. The State of Washington will provide about 78.1% of our funding next year. We anticipate that more than 7.5% will come from the federal government. Local levies and fees will provide the remaining 14.4% of our revenue next year and in the following years.



**Q** How will these levies impact property taxes?

**A** Tax rates will remain level. Tax rates for these levies are the same as those approved by voters in 2018. This estimated combined tax rate is \$3.00/\$1,000 of assessed value. (Proposition #1: \$2.50/\$1,000; Proposition #2: \$0.50/ \$1,000).

**Q** How do local levies support students?

**A** Local levy dollars help support programs that are not funded—or are underfunded—by the state. On these pages are examples of ways in which levy funds are used in all eight of our district's schools to help students learn and to improve the quality of schools.

**Q** What is the difference between Propositions #1 and #2?

**A** Proposition #2 is a smaller levy and is used for very specific projects related to school buildings and grounds. Proposition #1 is a larger levy and supports many extracurricular and academic programs for kids. Proposition #2 primarily funds equipment and facilities while Proposition #1 provides revenue for essential staff that the state does not fund.

**Q** How can I learn more about Propositions #1 and #2?

**A** Additional information about these propositions can be found on the district's website at [www.upsd83.org](http://www.upsd83.org). You can also contact the district with questions at (253) 566-5600.

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# Proposition #1

REPLACEMENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS  
AND OPERATIONS LEVY

Supports Lower Class Sizes, Safety, Athletics, Music, Performing Arts, Nurses & Counselors

The current Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy is expiring at the end of 2022. This levy has provided funding for the last 30 years. The proposed tax rates for 2023-2026 are the same rates voters approved in 2018. It would provide funding for four years.

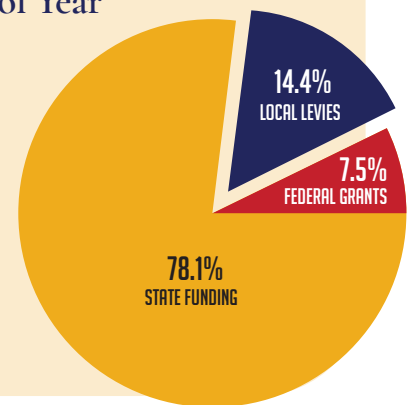
*Proposition #1 would continue funding for the following programs:*

- Teachers to Lower Class Sizes
- Music and Performing Arts
- Athletic Programs in Grades 5-12
- After School and Summer School Programs
- Gifted/ Honors/ Advanced Programs
- Safety & Security Personnel
- Nurses and Counselors

## UPSD Revenue by Source 2021-2022 School Year

14.4% – Local Levy  
78.1% – State Funding  
7.5% – Federal Grants

*\*98% of Washington districts use levies for basic funding.*





# Proposition #2

## REPLACEMENT SAFETY, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS LEVY

### Supports the Replacement, Repair, or Upgrades to School Facilities and Technology

The current Safety, Technology and Capital Improvements Levy is expiring at the end of 2022. This levy has provided funding for many years. The proposed levy rates for 2023-2026 are consistent with the rates that voters approved in 2018. If approved, this levy will provide funding for four more years.

The district maintains millions of dollars in publicly owned facilities and grounds throughout the community. Currently, UPSD maintains more than 740,000 square feet of building space. These facilities need ongoing repair, renovation and improvement to ensure our students have a safe, healthy, high-quality learning experience in our schools. Safety, Technology and Capital Improvements Levy funding is used to purchase, replace or repair equipment and/or facilities.

*Future projects & improvements eligible for funding by this replacement levy include:*

- Improvements to HVAC, safety, electrical & plumbing systems
- Essential repairs to facilities including roofs, siding and floors
- Improvements to grounds, outdoor facilities & athletic fields
- Technology infrastructure, student computers and classroom instructional technology



### Virtual Levy Information Event

Join us for the virtual levy information events on Wednesday, January 26th at noon, or the second opportunity is Thursday, January 27th at 6pm to hear about the two UPSD levies. Bring your questions. All are welcome to attend. The participation links will be posted to the UPSD website.

***Need more information?***

Call: (253) 566-5600 or email: [cydstie@upsd83.org](mailto:cydstie@upsd83.org)

For additional detailed information about the levies, visit the district website by scanning the code below to link directly to the page.



# Teacher Academy: CHS Prepares Students to be Educators

As part of the Teacher Academy program at Curtis High School, senior Eric Casey is an intern teacher for first graders at Evergreen Primary. A highlight of his experience has been “being able to see the look on kids’ faces when they finally understand something or they are able to overcome a challenge,” he says. “The most challenging part of being an intern teacher,” he explains, “is being able to work with many kids who are all on different skill levels.” Yet his experience has solidified his interest in teaching. “I know that I can have an impact on these kids, their future, and what they can become,” he says.

## Curtis High Juniors and Seniors Explore Field of Education

Curtis offers the Teacher Academy class to juniors and seniors who may be interested in a career in education. Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher Shawn Gaspaire teaches and directs the one-semester class. Students spend the first half of the semester in a classroom learning about education as a career. Subjects include the history of education, major legal cases in education, child/adolescent psychology, current practices and more.

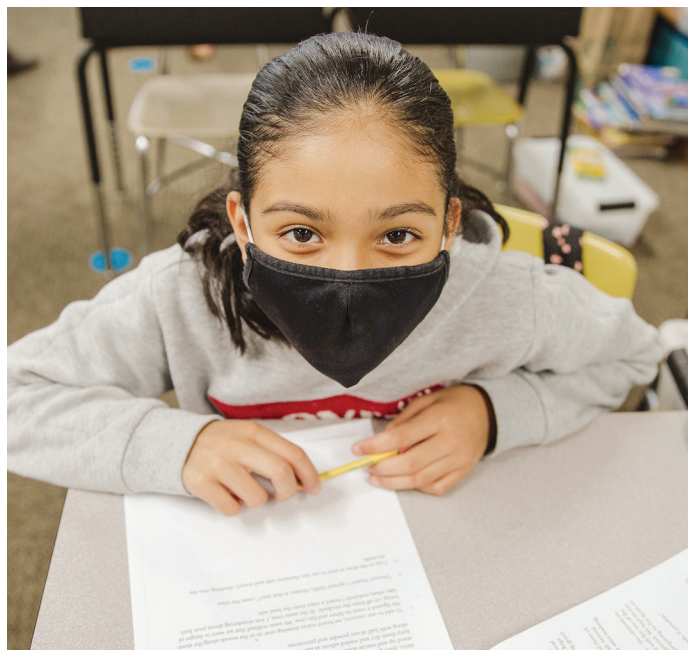


## Positive Outcomes for Older and Younger Students

Gaspaire says the program is important for those interested in the education field. “They can see the positive impact teaching can have on young kids,” he says. Casey agrees. “My experience solidified my interest in teaching because I know that I can have an impact on these kids, their futures, and what they can become,” he says. “I have learned that teaching will never be easy, but all the effort is worth it when you can see the positive impact you have on the students.”

## Students Work with Younger Students as Intern Teachers

Students spend the second half of the semester as interns who explore the field of education by working as a classroom assistant in a UPSD elementary or intermediate classroom (grades K-5). Drum Intermediate fifth grade math/science teacher Heidi Schmidt has had Teacher Academy students as interns in her classrooms. “The Teacher Academy program at Curtis is a way for students to be exposed to a classroom setting and work directly with younger students and seasoned teachers,” she says. Working in the classrooms, the students observe, assist teachers, help kids individually with reading or other subjects, and sometimes create and give lesson plans. They come back to the Teacher Academy classroom once a week and share their experiences with the other students.



(continued)



## How the Younger Students Benefit

Chambers Primary 3rd grade teacher Sarah Oyster has had several Teacher Academy students in her classroom over the years and says her students enjoy that. "My students love having high schoolers work with them, and the high school students provide an excellent example of what my third grade students can look forward to," she says. "It's wonderful for our younger students to have these teen role models in the classroom," adds Schmidt.

## What's the Greatest Advantage for High School Students?

The biggest advantage of the program for the high school students is that it gives them clarity about what they may want to do (or not do) after high school says Gaspaire. "When you have clarity as to what you want to pursue after high school – it's great."



## Career & Technical Education Pathways

Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses are categorized into specific program areas called Pathways. Students must take two CTE classes as part of their graduation requirements.

1. Skilled and Technical Sciences
2. Human Services (Teacher Academy is in this Pathway)
3. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)
4. Business and Marketing
5. Health Services
6. Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources



# Find Out About Job Opportunities in UP Schools

Spring hiring season in UPSD is just around the corner and we hope you will consider joining our team. As the largest employer in the city, we employ more than 700 of the finest educators and support staff anywhere. Our team includes teachers, bus drivers, nurses, custodial and maintenance staff, food service workers, coaches, paraeducators (classroom support staff), occupational and physical therapists, psychologists, administrators, office support staff, computer technicians and counselors.

Interested candidates can apply online at any time using the "Employment" tab on our website ([www.upsd83.org](http://www.upsd83.org)). You can search open positions by interest type (classified, coach, classroom teacher, secretarial-clerical, and administrator). Position details and job descriptions are included. When ready to apply, register for an online application profile and then apply for open positions. If you need assistance, contact Kari Lucey, Administrative Assistant to Human Resources, at [klucey@upsd83.org](mailto:klucey@upsd83.org).

Baseline criteria to be a UPSD teacher, emergency substitute teacher, an instructional paraeducator, school nurse or bus driver is available by scanning the QR code to the right:



We offer competitive salaries and excellent benefits in a great working environment. Most importantly, we do the critical work of keeping kids safe and helping them learn at very high levels. Please call us with questions at (253) 566-5600 or visit us online.





Non-profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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Permit No. 411

Educational Service Center  
3717 Grandview Dr. W.  
University Place, WA 98466

ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

## Upcoming Events

- January 26** Virtual Levy Information Event / 12 Noon
- January 27** Virtual Levy Information Event / 6pm
- January 31** Teacher Planning Day, No School for Students
- February 18-21** Presidents' Day Weekend, No School
- March 13** Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 14-18** Classified School Employees Week
- April 4-8** Spring Break, No School
- May 2-6** Teacher Appreciation Week

For more information on events and the district calendar, please visit our website at [www.upsd83.org](http://www.upsd83.org)

## Upcoming Board Meetings

- February 9** @ Virtually and In-person @ Educational Service Center
- February 23** Board Community Linkage Meeting on Racial Equity
- March 9** @ Virtually and In-person @ Educational Service Center
- April 13** @ Virtually and In-person @ Educational Service Center

### BOARD MEETINGS PUBLIC & VIRTUAL:

All Board Meetings will be held in-person and virtually. More information on the in-person meetings are posted to [www.upsd83.org/school\\_board/meeting\\_schedule](http://www.upsd83.org/school_board/meeting_schedule). The link to access the virtual meetings is posted on the district website.



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[www.upsd83.org](http://www.upsd83.org)

# UpDialog

The Dialog is published periodically by the University Place School District for University Place residents and businesses.

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## Kindergarten Registration Opens March 8th

If your child will turn five on or before August 31, 2022, you can register online anytime after March 8. Early registration is encouraged. Visit [www.upsd83.org](http://www.upsd83.org); registration can be found under the "Family Resources" tab or click the "Student Registration" button in the banner. For best results, use a computer or tablet to register your child. Smartphones are not recommended.

You will need to have the following items nearby: birth certificate, Certificate of Immunization status, proof of residency (utility bill) and ID for the parent/guardian. If you do not have access to a computer, call the district office at (253) 566-5600.

