



Schools Are the Centerpiece of University Place

A Message from School Board President Mary Lu Dickinson



It is an honor to be the new president of the University Place School District Board of Directors. This is a place I have always called home. During my years at Sunset Elementary, and all through my years in school leading up to graduation from Curtis Senior High, I received an outstanding education. I continue to benefit from these experiences as an adult and as a parent. My husband and I will watch our fifth UPSD graduate cross the stage this coming June. Each one of our children has been well-served by our excellent

public school system.

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Thank you, UPSD Board Members

January is School Board Recognition Month. University Place staff and students appreciate the commitment and service of each of our board members.



Pictured at a recent board meeting above, from left, are new board member Marisa Peloquin, T'wina Franklin, Annie Fitzsimmons, Board President Mary Lu Dickinson, Vice President Ethelda Burke, and Superintendent Jeff Chamberlin.

WHY WE STILL NEED LOCAL LEVIES

A Message from Superintendent Jeff Chamberlin



Big changes are taking place in the way schools are funded in Washington and more

changes may be on the way. For now, the state has decided to collect more money from citizens to pay for schools. Because the state will collect more, local school districts like UPSD will collect much less. However, local financial support of schools is still needed. Here's why:

High Quality Programs

Some of the programs that levies fund are optional programs that our community wants and expects. In UP, our strong athletics, music, and performing arts programs are examples. Lower class sizes are another example—the levy pays for additional teachers to reduce the number of students in each classroom. Levies also help pay school security personnel, counselors, nurses, and librarians.

Underfunded and Unfunded Requirements

State and federal laws require many things from school districts without providing funds to cover actual costs. Special education is an example of an underfunded program. Laws guarantee services for

students, but funding is insufficient. Local funds subsidize these programs. Transportation for homeless students is an example of an unfunded program. Federal law protects homeless students from changing schools when they move, but provides no funding for the required transportation. Our local levy closes the gap between what is provided and what is needed for these important, mandatory programs.

Access to Additional State Funding

The state provides Local Effort Assistance funding for some school districts. UPSD qualifies for these funds, but only if citizens pass a local levy. Local Effort Assistance provides approximately \$3 million each year. This state money is lost without a levy.

Maintenance of Facilities and Technology

The state provides no funding for capital improvements like roofs and HVAC systems, and only limited funding for technology. Local capital levies are needed to adequately fund both.

The new school funding plan created by the legislature has specific provisions for levies because lawmakers know that local funds are still

needed. For now, levy collections are capped at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This is a dramatic reduction for districts like ours and will provide our citizens with much-needed tax relief; however, the legislature may change the rules for levy collections again in the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions you might have about school funding and local levies. I can be reached at jchamberlin@upsd83.org or 253-566-5600.



Levy Information Night

Join us in the Curtis Junior High School library from 6-7 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, to hear about the UPSD levies.

Bring your questions! All are invited.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

I am grateful for our outstanding schools and for the ongoing support from UP citizens that makes it all possible. University Place residents have established an impressive legacy of support for public schools since the very beginning.

Early settlers were focused on education when they named our school district University Place in anticipation of the University of Puget Sound's arrival here. The college never materialized, but the education-first attitude of our citizens has remained.

Our public schools continue to be the centerpiece of the UP community. Strong schools lead to increased student achievement, decreased crime rate, increased property values, and increased attractiveness to businesses. Our well-maintained facilities, sports programs, music con-

certs, and other events also provide recreational and cultural opportunities for all—see the calendar of upcoming events on the back cover. Everybody in UP benefits from our collective commitment to

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education.

Just as the early settlers of University Place were important in establishing education as a community priority, you play an important role today in laying the groundwork that will allow this tradition

to continue into the future.

In February, you will have the opportunity to consider the renewal of two ballot measures that will provide funding to maintain our current programs and facilities. Both of these measures replace levies approved by voters in 2014 that will expire in 2018. I urge you to participate in this election and cast your vote by February 13, 2018.

The Board continues to look for ways to improve and is interested in linking with the community to listen to your thoughts. Please contact Board members if there are any school issues you would be interested in hearing more about. We look forward to working with you to develop competent, contributing citizens and to create the best schools possible. We thank you for all of your support.



**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD
and
DON'T FORGET TO
VOTE!**

**ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION
DEADLINE
JANUARY 15**

**IN-PERSON VOTER
REGISTRATION DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 5**

**BALLOTS SUBMITTED
FEBRUARY 13**

**Pierce County Auditor's office:
www.co.pierce.wa.us/328/elections**



RECOGNITION FOR UPP AND DRUM

University Place Primary was named a 2017 School of Distinction for continuous improvement over the past five years in both English Language Arts and mathematics.

Drum Intermediate has been named a National Title I, Part A, Distinguished School and will be nationally recognized for exceptional student achievement in 2017. Drum staff will be honored at a national event in February.

MARISA PELOQUIN JOINS UPSD BOARD

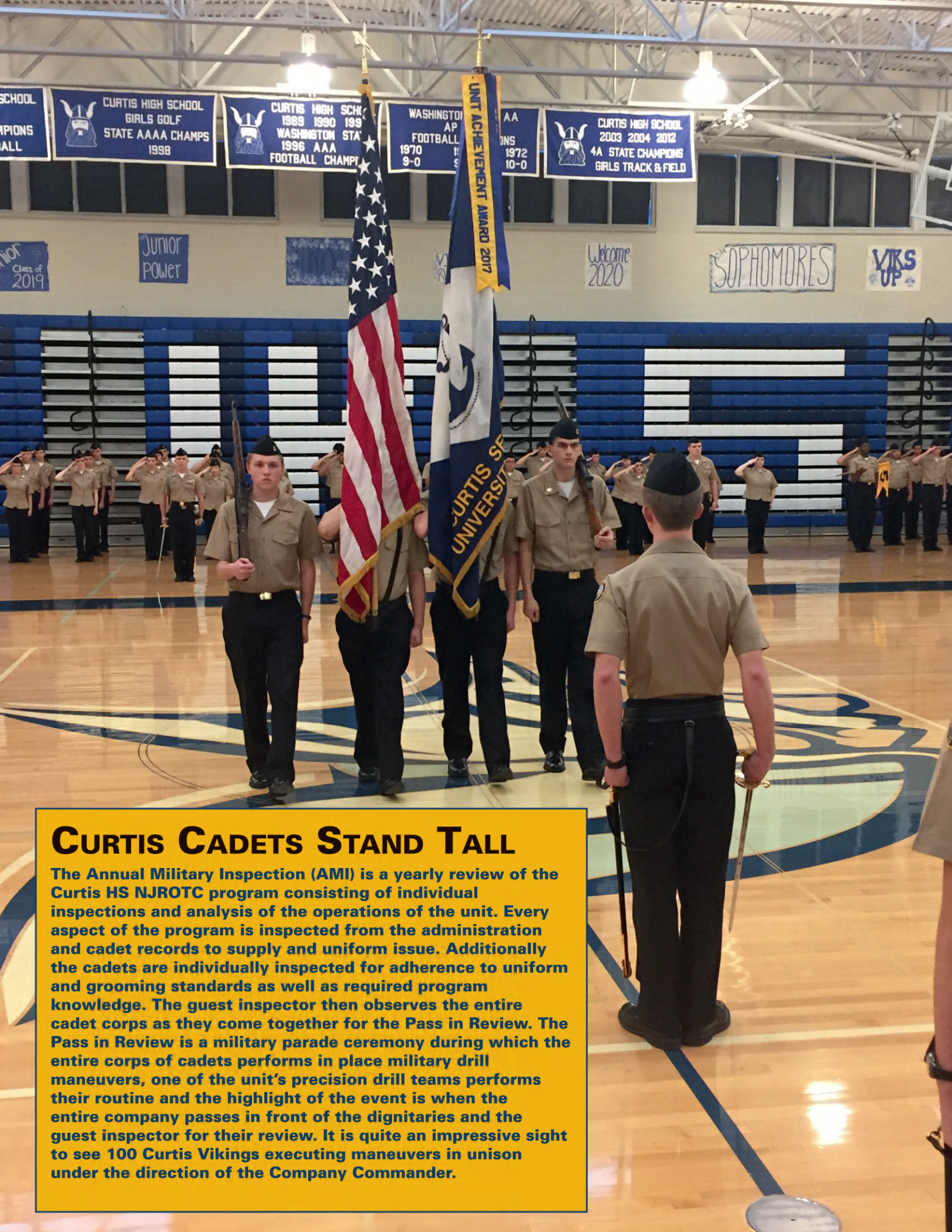
Marisa Peloquin knows the value of hard work—as the daughter of parents who never graduated high school, she worked her way to an ROTC college scholarship. She earned a bachelor’s degree and an MBA during her 29-year career in the U.S. Army, where she still serves as a colonel in the reserves. She credits her family’s move to UP with giving her the tools to continue her education, and she returned here to raise her two sons after her active-duty service. Extremely involved in the community and the

schools, Peloquin served on the state board of directors for the PTA, started the Watch-DOGS program in the district, and promotes education in many other ways.

Her focus on the school board is on preparing students for life after graduation, whether that’s college, trade school, or entering the work force. “Students need an understanding of viable options open to them. Career and Technical Services is the key to that understanding,” said Peloquin, a member of the CTE Advisory Board. “Everyone should leave with a plan.”



Marisa Peloquin is the newest member of the Board of Directors. A graduate of Curtis High School, she is a successful businesswoman and a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves.



CURTIS CADETS STAND TALL

The Annual Military Inspection (AMI) is a yearly review of the Curtis HS NJROTC program consisting of individual inspections and analysis of the operations of the unit. Every aspect of the program is inspected from the administration and cadet records to supply and uniform issue. Additionally the cadets are individually inspected for adherence to uniform and grooming standards as well as required program knowledge. The guest inspector then observes the entire cadet corps as they come together for the Pass in Review. The Pass in Review is a military parade ceremony during which the entire corps of cadets performs in place military drill maneuvers, one of the unit's precision drill teams performs their routine and the highlight of the event is when the entire company passes in front of the dignitaries and the guest inspector for their review. It is quite an impressive sight to see 100 Curtis Vikings executing maneuvers in unison under the direction of the Company Commander.

LOCAL LEVIES

FAQ FOR CITIZENS

The UPSD Board of Directors recently approved two resolutions placing renewal of the expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy and the expiring Safety and Technology Levy on the ballot for February 13, 2018. If approved by voters, these levies will bridge the gap between what the state provides for schools and what UP parents and citizens expect. Both are four-year levies and require a “simple majority” (50% or greater) to pass. We hope these answers to frequently asked questions about our funding and levies will be helpful to our citizens. The following four pages explain in more detail what each levy would be used for if approved.

Are these new taxes on UP residents?

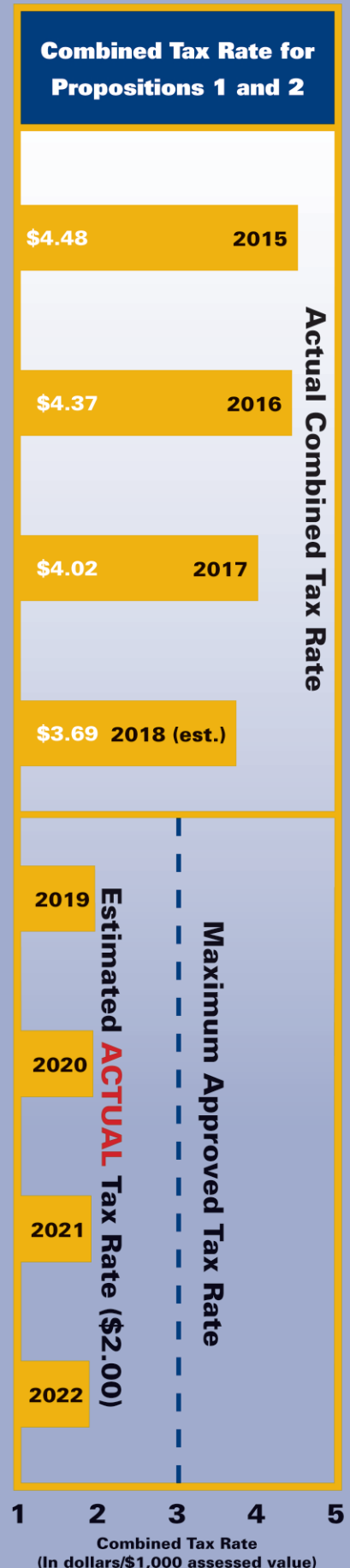
No. Both the Educational Programs and Operations Levy and the Safety, Technology, and Capital Improvements Levy replace existing levies and are not new taxes. Both levies were approved by voters in 2014 and expire in 2018. UP voters have supported the Educational Programs Levy for more than 30 years and the Technology Levy since 1994.

How will property taxes be impacted by these levies?

Taxes will decrease. Because the state is providing more funding to the district, the combined tax rate and tax collections on these levies will go down by approximately \$1.60/\$1,000 of assessed value. The owner of a median-priced home in UPSD (\$370,000) would see a reduction of about \$550 annually in local school taxes if both levies pass.

How are public schools funded in University Place? Where does the money come from?

All public school districts in Washington are funded by a combination of state, local and federal revenue. The State of Washington will provide about 76% of our funding next year. We anticipate that 8% will come from the federal government. Local fees will account for about 3%. Local levies will provide about 13% of our revenue in the coming years. A portion of these “local” funds will be Local Effort Assistance money from the state that is available ONLY if we pass a local Educational Programs levy. These State LEA funds will account for approximately \$3,000,000 to University Place schools annually for the duration of the levy.





1 PROPOSITION

EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS LEVY

WHAT DOES IT PAY FOR?

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 maintain the high standards our citizens have come to expect in University Place.

More information on both levies is available online at: www.upsd.wednet.edu/Page/6515.



The district's **ATHLETICS** programs in grades 8-12

MUSIC and **PERFORMING ARTS** programs, including orchestra, band, choir, and theater

Additional **TEACHERS** to lower class size in grades 4-12

TRAINING for teachers and other staff



Additional **SECURITY** personnel to provide for student safety

CLASSROOM MATERIALS such as books, textbooks, supplies, equipment, and technology

COMMUNITY USE of the swimming pool, athletic fields, and other facilities

Programs to provide more **LEARNING OPTIONS** for kids with different needs and interests

COUNSELORS and **NURSES** to assist students with health, safety, wellness, and post-graduation options

TRANSPORTATION and **SPECIAL EDUCATION** costs not covered by the state

After-school **PROGRAMS**, extracurricular **ACTIVITIES**, and summer school



LOCAL LEVY COLLECTIONS WILL **DECREASE**

\$13,000,000
2017

\$8,000,000
2019 (est.)

Actual (2017) and estimated (2019) yearly local levy collections of combined Propositions 1 and 2, Educational Programs and Capital Improvement levies.





PROPOSITION 2

SAFETY, TECHNOLOGY, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS LEVY

How is PROPOSITION 2 DIFFERENT FROM PROPOSITION 1?

This levy is smaller and pays for very specific items. The Educational Programs Levy can be used for a wide variety of purposes to support the district's programs. The Safety, Technology, and Capital Improvements Levy can only be used for equipment, infrastructure and major repairs/renovations of district facilities and grounds including structures, HVAC systems, roofs, parking lots, grounds, etc.



Repair or replacement of **HVAC** systems in several schools

Repair or replacement of **ROOFS** at various facilities across the district

Repair, sealing, and/or resurfacing of **PARKING LOTS** and **PLAYGROUNDS**



WHY DOES THE DISTRICT NEED ADDITIONAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING?

There are two reasons for the proposed increase—about \$.30/\$1,000 of assessed value—in tax collections for this levy. First, we will need to make significant upgrades to several of the district's HVAC systems that have already outlived their lifespan. These systems are costly to replace and very important to our students and staff. Second, reductions to the Educational Programs levy will require that we find local funds from other sources to meet our repair, equipment replacement, and renovation needs across the district.

Maintenance and expansion of classroom **TECHNOLOGY** for students

Improvement of the district's technology **INFRASTRUCTURE, SOFTWARE, and DATA SYSTEMS**

Expanded and improved **SAFETY AND SECURITY** technology



HOW MUCH WILL BE COLLECTED WITH THIS LEVY?

Voter approval of the Safety, Technology and Capital Improvements Levy will authorize the district to collect between \$1,900,000 and \$2,400,000 per year for the next four years. For detailed information about the district's plan to utilize these funds, go to www.upsd.wednet.edu/Page/6572.



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Dialog

The *Dialog* is published periodically by the University Place School District for University Place residents and businesses. UPSD complies with all federal and state laws, rules, and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin (including language), sex, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, creed, religion, age, veteran or military status, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in student education programs, co-curricular activities, and employment practices. The district is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer encouraging application of qualified minorities, women, and disabled persons for employment and other opportunities. University Place School District is committed to providing access to all district programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. For elevator access at school sites, contact the principal's office. The University Place School District is a drug-free/smoke-free work place and educational setting. Direct inquiries regarding compliance, grievance, or appeal procedures, or concerns involving students, should be made to the District Affirmative Action Officer/Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator/ Title IX Officer/HIB Compliance Officer, Executive Director of Secondary Education Lainey Mathews, mathews@upsd83.org or Section 504/FAPE/ADA concerns should be made to Director of Special Services, Maria Hetland, mhetland@upsd83.org. Both can be contacted at (253) 566-5600, 3717 Grandview Drive West, University Place, WA 98466.

Board of Directors

Mary Lu Dickinson, *President*
Ethelda Burke, *Vice President*
Annie Fitzsimmons
T'wina Franklin
Marisa Peloquin

Jeff Chamberlin, *Superintendent*

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| January 26 | Ballots Mailed for Special Election |
| February 8 | District Orchestra Festival |
| February 13 | District Choir Festival |
| February 13 | Special Election, Ballots Due |
| February 19-23 | Mid-Winter Break |
| March 6 | Kindergarten Registration Opens for 2018 |
| March 8-10 | Curtis High School's Dance Blast |
| March 20 | District Band Festival |
| March 23-24 | Curtis Junior High School Musical |
| March 29-31 | Curtis High School's Production of <i>Almost, Maine</i> |
| March 31 | Mother-daughter social |

Regular Board Meetings

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| January 24 | Education Service Center (ESC)
E2 Academic Achievement Report |
| February 14 | Curtis High School |
| February 28 | Narrows View Intermediate |
| March 14 | ESC Community Service Linkage |
| March 28 | ESC E3 Contributing Citizens
Report |

Members of the public are encouraged to attend these meetings of the UPSD Board of Directors.

Board of Directors Contact Information

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