

25th March Northshore School Board meeting

Once again, it was standing room only at “the Villa”, where well over 400 teachers, students, and parents from all the Woodinville schools, crammed in. Many turned out in life vests- could it be they were calling S.O.S ? Save out Schools? More than 160 people signed up to speak- 17 pages with 9 people per page - each was allowed 3 minutes to speak!!

Tim Brittell (NSEA President) again addressed the board, this time with some shocking and insightful information about the wastage of valuable operating funds -
this speech can be viewed at <http://www.northshoreea.blogspot.com/>.

Dan Vaught presented the new boundary lines with a vague map showing pockets but no definite boundary lines. Numbers of students proposed to be moving here, there and everywhere were laid out, and can be viewed at:
<http://schoolcenter.nsd.org/education/sctemp/c69c2fd2d345eb973bc2f6ef736e6f54/1206677890/FinalSummaryofBoundaryAdjustmentProposal.pdf>, but still there were no definite boundaries presented.

One can also type in your address and see which school your child(ren) will be going to for the 08-09 school year, but there has subsequently been conflicting information regarding website responses and mail responses!

The board agreed to delay voting on 3 agenda/budgetary items until the next Board meeting, and so the public comment period started at 9pm...and ended around 2am.

Many issues were brought up in the following 5 hours, but the overwhelming theme was “**TALK WITH US, LISTEN TO US, and...PLEASE LET US HELP!**”

The school closure, code violations, state and district policy violations, rushed decisions, no other alternative plan being considered, and the lack of response from the NSD board were all major issues that were addressed. Many questions were posed **again**, due to lack of response from the first time they were addressed. Parents from all the schools promised to march on Olympia in huge numbers, and ask for help- 1000 families with one voice! This can be done!!

The nurses stressed how the trust with families in their schools was so important, especially for the life threatening illnesses seen in an increasing numbers in our children. Counseling, assessment, guidance, as well as monitoring safety are ongoing EVERY day, which is **random** EVERY day. Cutting back on their hours means less time with the children in the Northshore School District, more paper work and overload on other staff, who are not trained, and are have so many other responsibilities. A child with increased glucose levels, who needs to test 5 times during the school day, would be a huge load on a parent who is working full time, and has to come in from work to do this. Our nurses are a lifeline for many families- a resource many don't have- they help with dental checkups, vision screening, food banks, mental health problems and so much more!

We hope that the Northshore School Board **LISTENED** to what we were saying- there was much mentioned of what Superintendent Karen Forsy's dream was, and how her dream had emerged in the Woodin Dual Language program, and how the next Superintendent should be able to continue this legacy. It is an incredible program, and has geared itself to the Woodin community, and does not deserve to be moved anywhere else.