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PT SCHOOLS



Superintendent
Dr. John Polm, 360-379-4501

1610 Blaine Street,
Port Townsend, WA 98368
www.ptschools.org

Nov. 6 ballot Prop. 1 School Board Redistricting

The Port Townsend School District Board of Directors seeks voter guidance Nov. 6 on Proposition 1, about redrawing board director districts. The proposal is a shift from five geographical districts to three geographical districts and two at-large positions that represent the entire school district. The board believes Proposition 1 will open up opportunities for motivated candidates who want to run for school board positions.

Today the school district is made up of five director districts with an equal number of residents per district. District boundaries are drawn by an independent mapping agency and are based on U.S. Census data. Only candidates living within each district may run for that position. All registered voters within the entire district vote for each position.

One of the board's key goals has been to increase community involvement in the schools and school governance. Several times in recent years, citizens interested in serving on the board have been unable to do so based on where they live. There have also been situations when a board seat opens up via resignation, but it has been difficult to find a citizen from that district wishing to serve. Today, only one school board member has served more than one term. Three school board directors were



Salish Coast Elementary doors open, work continues through the Fall

After a one week delay, 431 elementary students grades 1-5 walked through the doors of their new school for the first time on September 11. Teachers, paraeducators, custodians, food service personnel and the administrative office were in full swing to officially welcome students to Salish Coast Elementary School. A week later, 92 preschool and Kindergarten students joined the school's community.

Families, showing both excitement and nervousness on the first day of school and their first day in the new building were met by PTA and OPEPO parents, students and other volunteers to make sure every child found their classroom. The commons area served as the entry point until construction is completed on the main entryway. Noah Isenberg, a fourth-grader marvelled that "the cafeteria is big! And, we actually have a cafeteria now," he said recalling that for the past

two years at Grant Street School kids had to eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms or the hallway.

"I like how the library is like a sky bridge. When you are in there you can see out the windows," Yemaya Rubenstein, another fourth-grader noticed. The design of the new school's library exemplifies modern spaces for learning, and lots of natural light.

By 73 percent voters approved a bond in November, 2015 to design and build a replacement elementary school to house all preschool through fifth grade classes in one building including Head Start and Early Head Start. The vision of an expanded elementary school intended to create a family resource center for the early years and to restore the elementary model lost when Mountain View School closed in 2009.

This year, fourth and fifth grade classes -- about 173 -- students moved from Blue Heron to be part of Salish Coast Elementary.

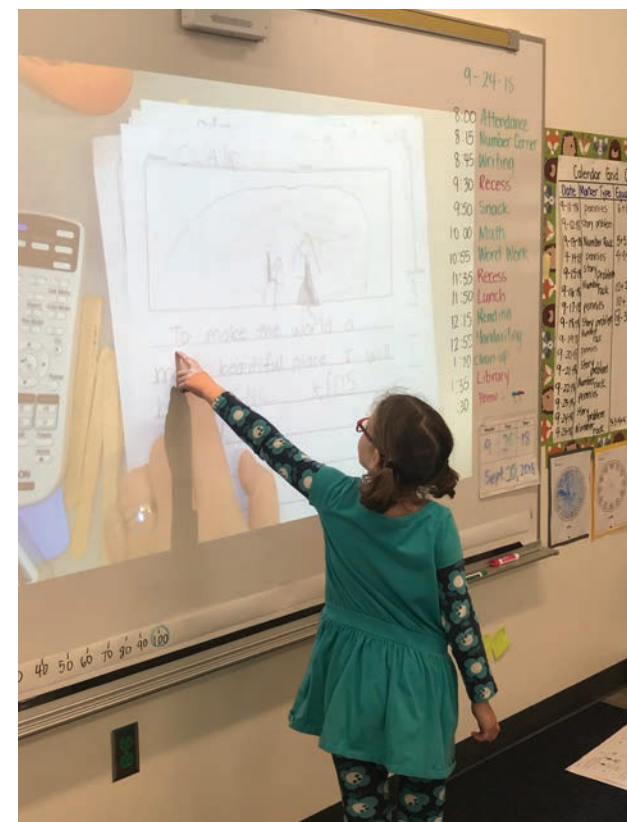
The benefits are both big and small:

"What I love -- coming from Blue Heron -- is having a place for kids to put their coats and backpacks," said Karmen Meier a fourth-grade teacher referring to the cubbies that line the hallways.

Older students in OPEPO, the first-fifth grade multiage classroom with two teachers are immediately noticing the difference at Salish Coast. Because their program had been housed at Grant Street, 4th and 5th graders felt separated from their peers at Blue Heron. Tayla Davis, an OPEPO 5th grader shared what she likes about the new school, "My favorite thing is that there are other 5th graders besides just me."



The new Elementary library features low bookshelves and natural light.



First grader, Claire Harrison, shares her writing with the class using the document camera and projector in her classroom.

Prop. 1 redistricting continued

originally seated by appointment.

The proposed structure would retain district representation (three districts instead of five) while allowing two other positions to be drawn from the community as a whole. The board believes that Proposition 1 would enable more interested citizens to run for school board.

Proposition 1 reads:

The Board of Directors of the Port Townsend School District No. 50, Jefferson County, Washington adopted Resolution No. 18-04 regarding a proposition to dissolve and reapportion its director districts. This proposition would authorize the District to dissolve its five existing director districts and reapportion them into three director districts and two at large director positions in accordance with RCW 28A.343.050 in order to better facilitate citizen participation as board members. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes / No

Timeline:

Should Proposition 1 be approved by simple majority on November 6, 2018:

- March, 2019 the School Board holds a public

hearing before approving the final redistricting plan;

- April 1, 2019 the School District files maps and legal descriptions of the new districts with the Jefferson County Auditor’s office;

- By May 17, 2019 candidates for all five positions need to be filed with the Jefferson County Auditor’s office to run in the General Election.

- November 5, 2019 School Board directors are elected to open positions.

Here is a snapshot of today’s board members and their districts:

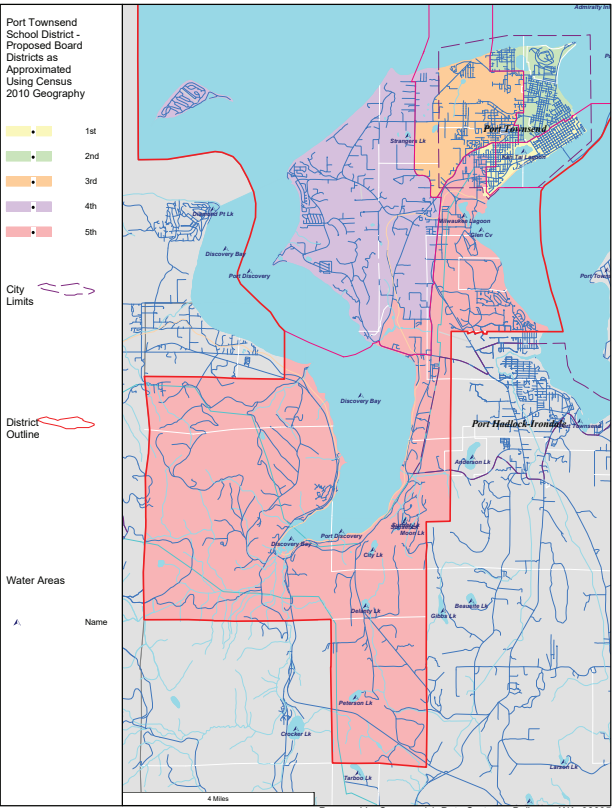
District 1 (Uptown): Connie Welch was appointed to fill a vacancy then elected in 2017. Her term expires in 2021.

District 2 (Uptown): Jennifer James-Wilson was re-elected in 2017 for a third term. Her term expires in 2021.

District 3 (Sheridan): Nathanael O’Hara was appointed to fill a vacancy then was elected in 2014. His term expires in 2019.

District 4 (Middlepoint): Laura Tucker was elected in 2014. Her term expires in 2019.

District 5 (Kala Point): Keith White was first appointed to fill a vacancy and then was elected in 2014. His term expires in 2019.



Prepared by Sammamish Data Systems. Bellevue, WA 98005

Salish Coast Elementary continued

Playground, Gardens and Outdoor Spaces

It appears that one of the most loved features of the new school is the playground, especially the hillside slide. Throughout the day students can be seen running up and down the hill and waiting their turns on the slide.

“The playground is a huge hit,” according to Sarah Grossman, a physical therapist. The modern playground equipment gives kids lots of opportunities for climbing, balancing, sliding and spinning.

A more natural play area with large logs and rocks for students to explore has been developed alongside the playground to bring the value of outdoor learning into the landscape and play design. A dedicated play space appropriate for smaller, preschool students where they can be closely supervised has been installed. The final outdoor play space to be developed is the soccer field along Grant Street. It is scheduled to be laid out this fall, seeded this winter and prepared to open next spring/summer for use.

Because of the school district’s Maritime Discovery School’s initiative, the idea of place-based learning across the curriculum was a core principle integrated into the building design. Central to that idea was creating an interior courtyard to not only expand natural lighting, but to give landscaped green spaces within the school’s walls. Both hardscape and

landscape are due to be completed in November which will allow the school to have a single point entry and also be secured for safety. When the final exterior construction elements are complete there will be a public building dedication event announced.

The heart of the school design was to create a school that allowed for outdoor learning, and provide space for both a teaching and learning garden, as well as a large production garden that will provide produce for the school meals program. The open area at Grant Street and Discovery Road will be developed into the school garden over the next year with the support of community members. The location of the garden was designed to be adjacent to the commons and kitchen. As the Salish Coast Elementary kitchen is designed to serve as the central kitchen for the school district fresh produce will flow directly from the garden to the school meals program. In addition the commons contains the Eagle Studio, which will become a multi-use space that will include space for students to do their own cooking, as part of the curriculum.

Designed to be Green

The building was designed with a large pedestrian entrance. Buses and cars were carefully and deliberately sidelined to encourage more walking and biking. While this has created lots of concern up front, there have also been some early positive outcomes such as the observation by Biorn

Borstrom, 3rd grade OPEPO: “I like that there are more bike racks. I ride my bike to school at least twice a week.”

Updated Technology

Key technology upgrades have been included in each classroom. Projectors with multiple functions include an interactive digital whiteboard which can be projected from a computer or camera. This technology allows students to share work, or for teachers to use digital tools for teaching the whole class. Rooms also have built in speakers which when paired with a portable microphone allows teachers and students to amplify their voices.

“The technology is great. It facilitates learning for all our students. There are microphones to wear around the neck. Teachers can talk in a normal tone and the speakers amplify their voice, so all kids can hear,” says Tyler Burnstein, Salish Coast paraeducator.

Every teacher has a new laptop computer. Chromebook carts and iPads are available for classrooms to use throughout the building. While not 1-to-1, the district has worked strategically over the last few years to increase student access to Chromebooks to be available for classroom use as part of daily lessons. Computers and technology are being used in the context of learning within the regular classroom, along with digital citizenship and responsibility, rather than being a stand-alone lab.

Jamestown S'klallam & Port Townsend Redhawks Continue to Collaborate

For the past four years, Port Townsend High School athletes, the Redhawks, have participated in the canoe landing at Fort Worden as part of the regional Tribal Canoe Journey. At the invitation of Jamestown S'Klallam athletes are on hand in late July to help at this important cultural event. Elder Marlin Holden speaks with students before the canoes arrive to share with them the history of the canoe journey. He also explains to them how to be respectful of the tribes' canoes and their part in the journey as they help pull canoes from the water. Roughly 16 athletes participated this year in welcoming visiting tribes to Fort Worden.

This year, Port Townsend athletes helped to bring all of the 32 visiting canoes out of the water and up onto the beach as representatives of tribes made their way to the final destination in Puyallup.

While Port Townsend's Redhawks are able to provide hands on support and muscle for the canoe landing, the Jamestown S'klallam tribe has

been generous and steady in its support for improvements to the High School gymnasium. After Port Townsend High School adopted the new Redhawks mascot in 2014, the tribe provided support for repainting the gym floor with the new mascot and purchasing new bleachers. Last year, donations from the tribe allowed the high school to purchase and recently install new scoreboard banners with the Redhawks logo at both ends of the gym. With these important improvements the high school has been transformed and renewed.

This collaboration has helped strengthen the connection between the school district and all the neighboring tribes. It is just one of many opportunities for students to learn first hand about Port Townsend's cultural and geographical relationship to the first peoples of the Salish Sea. Throughout the school year students are also learning about tribal history and sovereignty through the curriculum 'Since Time Immemorial' adopted by Washington State.



Athletes from Port Townsend High School help pull canoes during the Tribal Canoe Journey stop in Port Townsend.

Class of 2020 hits 42nd Wooden Boat Festival highlights

For the past five years, Kelley Watson, the Maritime Career and Technical Education teacher has taken high school students to the Wooden Boat Festival in lieu of a traditional day of classes. For the last three years, the outing has been an all day, fun-filled, information-packed, all junior class field trip. This year, Port Townsend High School's Class of 2020 took part in the 42nd annual Wooden Boat Festival on the first Friday back to school.

To start out with, the class was treated to an exclusive talk by Karl Kruger who is world renowned for holding the record -- the one and only person to complete the Race to Alaska Stand Up Paddleboarding from Port Townsend to Ketchikan: 750 miles in 15 days. Kruger told students about the kind of perseverance needed to see a dream through to completion as well as the importance of pushing past one's comfort zone in challenging and positive ways.

After the inspirational presentation, small crews of

students navigated through several stations at the boat festival. Each team had to construct a cardboard boat out of 15 sheets of PT Paper Mill cardboard and two rolls of duct tape, constructed within one hour. While students had to use boatbuilding and math skills, the greatest lessons learned were around building team work.

During their 45 minute 'exploration period,' students toured as many of the beautiful boats as they could, some tried out Stand Up Paddle boards and others learned about jobs in the maritime industry such as being a ship's engineer and earning nearly \$200,000. Every crew had the opportunity to tour Spindrift Rowing's ocean-going rowing shell and meet Atlantic Ocean rowers Caitlin Miller and Sonya Baumstein, two young intrepid adventurers.

Before lunch, students also attended the maritime career panel hosted by Sea School Northwest, a workforce development program aimed at rebuilding and remaking Washington's Maritime

Workforce with young and diverse "underway" workers. During the panel discussion students learned about different pathways into the maritime workforce and got a realistic look at the excitement and sacrifices that maritime careers can entail.

Wooden Boat Festival field day was capped off with the annual cardboard boat race in the Stand Up Paddleboard pool at the end of Point Hudson. Judging was done by PTHS's secretary Jan Boutilier, Buster Ferris of Edensaw and boatbuilder Ernie Baird. "Boats" were judged on two criterion: seaworthiness and style. The event rightfully drew a large and raucous crowd cheering on the seven student teams. Each crew's "captain" had to pilot their boat up and back down the pool using a paddle or their hands. Not a captain stayed dry, but Capt. Yanni Dean successfully piloted his prone (cardboard) paddle board for the highest score and took home the gold medal prize of Edensaw Lumber baseball hats.

After logging a minimum of 3.5 miles on foot, the crew of 70+ volunteers and students, along with seven soggy captains made their way back to the high school and officially completed the first week back to school! Go Class of 2020!

Special thanks to PT Paper Mill for the generous donation of boat making supplies, Edensaw Lumber for prizes and encouragement, the judges, and especially the Northwest Maritime Center's festival coordinator Barb Trailer for making the festival field trip possible.



Seamus Fraser (foreground) and Orion Weinblatt Dey racing their teams' cardboard boats. Photo by Jan Boutilier.

What is the Port Townsend Education Foundation?

The Port Townsend Education Foundation (PTEF) was founded over 10 years ago in response to the financial limitations faced by public schools throughout Washington and in Port Townsend. In an effort to provide enrichment and enhance academic achievement by giving support directly to classroom teachers, PTEF was formed. Since then, PTEF has raised and granted nearly a half million dollars to support curriculum-based learning projects. Projects have ranged from purchasing iPads for math classes to restoring salmon streams to procuring laser equipment for the high school robotics program.

This all-volunteer organization, comprised of dedicated parents, business owners and community members, undertakes a thorough evaluation of proposed projects submitted by teachers each year, and prioritizes and funds as many qualified projects as resources will allow.

Last year 30 grants were awarded by PTEF including:

- PSAT funding for all 11th Graders
- Honors World History Library
- Preschool Motor Development Equipment
- Expanded Science Technology
- Engineering Day Field Trip and Exposition
- Coast Guard Licensing Curriculum
- Writers in the Schools (Seattle Arts & Lectures)
- Tales, Text & Theater (Centrum)
- Maritime Discovery (NW Maritime Center)

2018-2019 Grants

BLUE HERON MIDDLE SCHOOL
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Art
Salish Sea to Olympics Challenge
STEM Inspiration through Living Computers
Blue Heron Middle Years MDS
Culminating Experiences
Positive Behavior Intervention
Support Film
Literature Lab Classroom Library Refresh
Writers in the Schools
6th Grade STEAM projects
PORT TOWNSEND HIGH SCHOOL

Seattle Children's Theater "The Diary of Anne Frank"
US History "In the Heights" Seattle Repertory Theater
Improving College Access PSAT funding for all 11th graders
Updating and Expanding Science Equipment and Technology
Building Competency Takes Tools and Time.
Literary Arts - French Classroom Library
PTHS Salon Lecture with Filmmaker Leah Warshawski
Forensic Aspects of Arson Investigation

Contemporary World Problems
Library Expansion
Free Voluntary Reading
SALISH COAST ELEMENTARY
4th and 5th Grade Tall Ship Sailing & History Experience
Teaching Artist in the Classroom
YEA Music!
Literate for Life
Custom made hula hoops for Salish Coast
Revitalizing 5th grade Class Library
Kindergarten Dramatic Play
Creating a New Third Grade Learning Community



Blue Heron teachers, Leslie Shively, Brett Navin, Don Olivera, Roger Mills, and Jennifer Manning all Port Townsend Education Foundation grant recipients.

Holley Carlson, PTEF past-president, says, "When I walk into a classroom and know that without PTEF there would be no 4th and 5th grade art classes, no iPads at Grant Street, no essential high school science tools, no community garden and fewer dollars toward environmental restoration projects, it makes me so grateful for the support of the community that makes these things possible."

Each year PTEF's volunteers seek funds to benefit our schools through direct appeals to the community, corporate sponsorships and by hosting fundraising events. PTEF has believed from the

beginning that funds should be allocated yearly as they are raised. For the 2018-19 school year, \$51,000 in grants were awarded October 5.

While PTEF is pleased to be able to provide this support, as more teachers see how these grant projects not only increase student engagement but objectively improve student outcomes, the number of high-quality grant requests has begun to outstrip PTEF's ability to support those requests. Several thousand dollars in requests went unfunded during this year's grant cycle.

PTEF would like to double previous fundraising efforts in the coming year to help fund ongoing as well as new and dynamic projects in the schools. You can help in a number of ways! Current and upcoming fundraising efforts include:

- Attend our Spring Soiree on March 2, 2019
- Contribute to a change jar at businesses throughout town
- Respond to our Annual Appeal letter
- Purchase an engraved courtyard paver to be installed at Salish Coast Elementary

The newly-elected board of PTEF consists of Holly Petta, President, Nicole O'Hara, Vice President, Aldryth O'Hara, Treasurer, Carrie Andrews, Secretary, Missy Nielsen, Jim Funaro, and Elaina Harland. PTEF welcomes sponsors, volunteers, and donors who are interested in helping Build Community One Child at a Time. Learn more about our organization, make a donation, or sign up to stay in touch with our activities at www.pteducationfoundation.org.

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