



Rural Education Center

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Report to WSSSDA Small Schools Task Force Legislative Conference – Jan. 28, 2018

1. Staff Mix/SAM

❖ Equity Issue

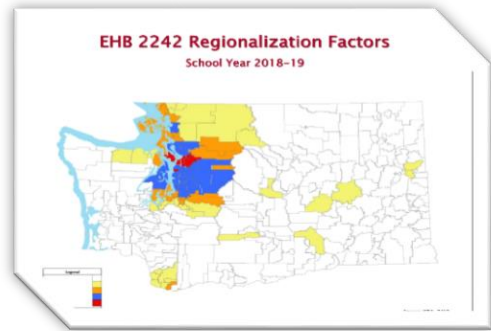
❖ Recent “discussions” with LEV & MJ

Certificated Staff Salary Allocations

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21*
Minimum	\$35,700	\$36,521	None	\$40,000	\$40,000
Average	\$54,943	\$56,201	\$59,334	\$64,000	\$64,000
Maximum	\$67,288	\$68,836	None	\$90,000	\$90,000
Specialty	None	None	None	Up to 10% add	Up to 10% add

* 2019-20 and 2020-21 amounts will be annually increased by inflation (IPD, not Seattle CPI)

What if \$1 billion more is “dumped” into the new “avg. salary” system without making reasonable and equitable changes?



2. 2242 – Changes?

- ❖ Supt. Reykdal’s Proposal Regarding Increasing Levy Authority – YES!
- ❖ Resident student definition...
- ❖ Local voters want to support their LOCAL schools
- ❖ Will there be any significant changes to 2242?
- ❖ Continue to “tell your story”...



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To make up for lost funds, Davenport school officials propose two levies

By MARK SMITH
Of the Times

Davenport School District voters will find two special levies on the Feb. 13, 2018, ballot as the school board and administrators try to make up funding shortfalls expected from the state Legislature's adequate school funding bill passed in the wake of the state Supreme Court's McCleary decision.

As a result of the legislation, local school districts will be confined to \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation in the collection of "enrichment" levies lawmakers authorized as the successor to maintenance and operation levies.

Davenport stands to lose more than half its present M&O revenues in 2019 as a result of this – severely affecting what has been about 20 pe-

When the state "adequately" funds "basic education" the money will come "with strings attached," Davenport Supt. Jim Kowalkowski told school board members Monday evening. Most of the funding will cover teacher salaries.

That leaves a severely reduced amount in locally generated "enrichment" levies remains to underwrite the additional programs, including extracurricular activities, that the district has up to this point been able to offer.

"We may have some tough decisions on what programs to offer," Kowalkowski said.

To recover some of these lost revenues, local districts are permitted to run a capital project levy for technology, safety, security and facilities improvement and a

On Monday, Davenport's board members agreed to submit both varieties to the voters in February. They'll make it official with a resolution in December. Both levies will be for two-year terms.

The good news for local taxpayers is that the combined cost of the present "enrichment" levy, along with the state property tax (most of which will pay for basic education) and the two new levies (should voters approve) will be less than what they're paying now.

"The overall tax rate that our voters are paying is estimated to be less than they are currently paying, even if both of these levies are approved," Kowalkowski wrote in a memo to district staff issued after Monday's board session.

During the meeting, directors for the capital projects levy and 45 cents for transportation, should voters approve. These would be added to the state education assessment of \$1.88 in 2017-18 and \$2.70 in 2019, the \$1.50 for the current M&O which expires in 2020, and the elementary, middle and high school bonds (\$2.80 in 2017, increasing to \$3.18 in 2019).

The superintendent noted that House Bill 2242 – the education funding bill – "contains many significant changes in the way schools are funded, including limiting local M&O levies to the \$1.50 per \$1,000 tax rate."

He explained that the district's current levy rate is just above \$4 per \$1,000 assessed valuation "and even though voters approved our levy for four years (2017-2020), the

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(continued)

3. 55% - for School Construction Bonds



- ❖ See attachments
- ❖ Would help many (not all) districts get over the bar!
- ❖ SB 6246 & Senate Joint Resolution 8213
- ❖ My testimony is attached..



4. Federal Legislative Update

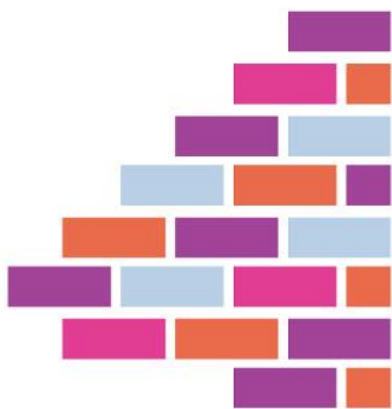
- ❖ Dr. Mike Dunn – an amazing advocate!!! ...still waiting to hear from Secretary DeVos...



5. Other Items:

- ❖ SB 5453 – Concerning school construction assistance for small, rural school districts
- ❖ Other “stuff”:

Reminder:



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