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May 11, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
711 Capitol Way S #206
PO Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908
pdc@pdc.wa.gov

Re: *Stanwood-Camano School District – PDC Complaint*
PDC Case No. 106965

Dear Washington State Public Disclosure Commission (PDC):

On behalf of the Stanwood-Camano School District (“District”), I respond to the above-referenced complaint that was filed by the Complainant, Mr. Steven Adams.

In Mr. Adams’ Complaint, his grievances relate to the District’s conduct leading up to an April 26, 2022 scheduled vote on a Replacement Capital Projects and Technology Levy (the Levy). Specifically, Mr. Adams alleges that the District “. . . committed numerous violations against RCWs 42.17A and 28A.320.090.”

As will be discussed, the District’s conduct did not violate Chapter 42.17A RCW or RCW 28A.320.090. In fact, RCW 28A.320.090 does not apply in this circumstance because the District’s Board of Directors was not presented with any expenditures of funds to authorize in accordance with that statutory provision. Additionally, the District’s conduct comports with the PDC’s *Guidelines for School Districts in Election Campaigns* (PDC Interpretation No. 01-03).

I. The District’s Conduct Did Not Violate RCW 42.17A.555

A. The District Provided the Community with Objective and Fair Content regarding the Levy that was Informational and Factual

Under RCW 42.17A.555, the District is prohibited from using or authorizing the use of school district facilities to engage in promoting or opposing any ballot proposition. The District’s facilities include, but are not limited to, stationary, postage, machines, equipment, use of District employees during working hours, office space, and publications. *see id.*

Importantly, for relevant background, the April 2022 scheduled election is the second time that the Levy has been placed on the ballot in 2022. The Levy was initially placed on the ballot in February 2022. The Levy did not pass in February 2022. On February 23, 2022, the District held a listening session with the community. Notes from the February 23rd listening session are enclosed as **Exhibit A**. In short, the feedback from the listening session indicated that people wanted more specificity about the Levy. The public wanted to know exactly how the funds would be spent. The Levy was placed on the ballot for a second time in 2022, at the next available election in April 2022. The Levy did not pass in April 2022. As the District understands it, Mr. Adams' complaints relate to the District's conduct in advance of the April 2022 vote on the Levy.

In his complaint, Mr. Adams asserts numerous grievances about the District's use of school district facilities leading up to the April 2022 scheduled vote on the Levy. Specifically, Mr. Adams takes issue with the following: (1) the District's use of equipment and/or work time to: (a) design and print flyers/pamphlets that were distributed to the community via mail; (b) create a YouTube video; and (c) "host numerous online pro-levy promotion sessions." In addition, Mr. Adams complains about the use of District-created printed and online publications, as well as the creation of a webpage related to the Levy. Further, in the documentation that he attached to his complaint, Mr. Adams appears to reference an April 12th listening session in an effort to support his claims. In effect, the crux of his complaint seems to be his incorrect claim that District used the foregoing school district facilities to engage in conduct that promoted the Levy.

Respectfully, Mr. Adams' complaints appear to be grounded in a misguided understanding of the conduct that is permissible for school districts to engage in during election campaigns. In particular, pursuant to the PDC's guidelines, the District is permitted to have District employees use public resources to produce information to the public that is a fair and objective presentation of the facts related to a ballot proposition. Moreover, according to the same PDC guidelines, in Dr. Rumbaugh's role as District Superintendent, she is permitted to speak publicly during regular work hours, provided that the presentation she gives is fair and objective regarding the facts related to the ballot measure. Further, Dr. Rumbaugh is permitted to respond to questions related to a ballot measure, provided this activity is consistent with her normal and regular duties.

Before I address the substance of Mr. Adams' complaints, it is important to note that the April 12th listening session that appears to be referenced in Mr. Adams' complaint had nothing to do with the Levy. This April 12th listening session was one of Dr. Rumbaugh's regular, quarterly listening sessions. The Levy was not discussed during the April 12th listening session.

Regarding the substance of Mr. Adams' complaints, contrary to Mr. Adams' claim, the District did not engage in any promotion of the Levy. Rather, the information that the District distributed to the community across all mediums was an objective and fair presentation of facts related to the Levy that was factual and informational.

Moreover, the District had a District employee create and disseminate the above-referenced fair and objective information to the community. At the District, Mr. Craig Degginger is the Director of Communications. Mr. Degginger has been employed with the District since October 2021. In his role as Director of Communications, during the course of his employment, one of Mr. Degginger's responsibilities is to create and disseminate materials that inform the community about a proposition prior to an election. Consistent with this responsibility, Mr. Degginger developed the informational materials (sometimes in collaboration with other District employees) that were disseminated to the community related to the Levy. Specifically, in advance of the April 2022 levy, Mr. Degginger engaged in the following conduct during the course of his employment:

1. Beginning March 5, 2022, Mr. Degginger started posting on the District's Facebook webpage. As part of this task, Mr. Degginger also created graphics for the posts.
2. Mr. Degginger developed the District's Spring 2022 quarterly newsletter. In this newsletter, the District provided information to the community about the April 2022 Levy. This newsletter was published in March 2022. It was sent to members of the community via mail. A copy of the District's Spring 2022 newsletter is enclosed as **Exhibit B**.
3. With the assistance of Mr. Noah Simshauser, Technology Specialist, Mr. Degginger developed an informational website. A link to the District's Levy website is enclosed as **Exhibit C**. The District's Levy webpage was up and running prior to the February 2022 vote on the Levy. Following the February 23, 2022 listening session, the District updated the webpage to include additional factual information regarding dollar amounts related to the Levy and the addition of answers to frequently asked questions. The District updated the District's Levy webpage in response to information gathered during the February 23, 2022 listening session. In particular, the District heard that the community needed more specificity regarding the Levy. It seemed that people did not know enough to their satisfaction about the matter on which they were voting.
4. With the assistance of the District's Capital Projects and Technology departments, Mr. Degginger developed an informational fact sheet. A copy of the District's informational fact sheet for the April 2022 Levy is enclosed as **Exhibit D**.
5. Effective February 17, 2022, the District entered into a contract with Mr. Timothy Hamp. Mr. Hamp is the owner/producer of TVH Keys Productions, LLC. The District hired Mr. Hamp to develop an informational video (which was uploaded to YouTube) related to the Levy. A link to the video that the District uploaded to YouTube is enclosed as **Exhibit E**. Under the contract, the Date of Completion of Mr. Hamp's work was March 18, 2022. The District had Mr. Hamp create the informational video because, when the Levy did not initially pass in February 2022, the response from the

community indicated that the District needed to provide more explanation regarding the Levy. Through the video, the District provided more information to the community on a wide range of topics related to the Levy including, but not limited to, robotics, digital design, as well as maintenance and repair of District facilities.

Further, during the course of her employment with the District, Dr. Rumbaugh was interviewed by a news media outlet. This news media outlet asked Dr. Rumbaugh questions about the Levy, and Dr. Rumbaugh responded to those questions. It is a normal and regular course of conduct for Dr. Rumbaugh to be a representative for the District when contacted by the media.

In the news media article about which Mr. Adams complains, Dr. Rumbaugh is quoted, in part, as saying, “[w]e’ve tried to address that in our public meetings, on our website and in mailers[.]” Mr. Adams incorrectly characterizes Dr. Rumbaugh’s statement as “admit[ting] here in the media that she has used public resources, online resources and flyers/pamphlets (“mailers”) to influence levy voting.” Dr. Rumbaugh has made no such admission, in the media or otherwise. Again, the District has not engaged in any conduct to influence Levy voting. Instead, in the statement that Mr. Adams quoted, Dr. Rumbaugh was explaining how the District responded to feedback that was given by community members during public meetings and listening sessions that were held between the first time that the Levy was placed on the ballot in February 2022 and the second time it was placed on the ballot in April 2022.

Lastly, contrary to Mr. Adams’ claim, the District did not “host numerous online pro-levy promotion sessions.” The District did not engage in any promotion of the Levy. Instead, the District received information by listening to community concerns, as is customary for the District to do. During the course of her employment, Dr. Rumbaugh held listening sessions with members of the community. One session was held on February 23rd and a second session was held on April 12th. As discussed, the April 12th listening session had nothing to do with the Levy. At the February 23rd listening session, Dr. Rumbaugh received feedback from members of the community about community concerns related to the Levy.

Based on the above, the District did not engage in promoting any ballot measure, let alone the Levy. During the course of their employment, District employees developed an objective, and fair presentation of facts related to the Levy that was factual and informational. The District disseminated this information through a variety of mediums including via the District’s quarterly newsletter, Facebook, a webpage, and a factual information sheet. It is common for the District to use the foregoing methods to communicate and/or disseminate information. As is customary, the District held an information session and responded to community feedback, which included a request for more specificity regarding the Levy. The foregoing conduct is permitted by RCW 42.17A.555 and the PDC’s guidelines.

B. The District's Conduct Leading Up to the April 2022 Replacement Capital Projects and Technology Levy Vote was Normal and Regular Conduct for the District

Under RCW 42.17A.555, there are several exceptions to the prohibition of using school district facilities to promote or oppose ballot measures. Notably, under RCW 42.17A.555(3), the prohibition does not apply to “[a]ctivities which are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency.” The phrase “normal and regular conduct” (as this phrase is used in RCW 42.17A.555) is defined as conduct that is (1) lawful and (2) usual. *See WAC 390-05-273*. Additionally, under WAC 390-05-271, the District is permitted to make an objective and fair presentation of the facts that are relevant to a ballot proposition, provided such action is part of the District’s normal and regular conduct. *See WAC 390-05-271(2)*.

In this circumstance, the District’s conduct in advance of the Levy falls within the normal and regular conduct exception to RCW 42.17A.555. Specifically, in advance of both the February 2022 and April 2022 Levy ballot measures, the District mailed out informational newsletters to the community. A copy of the District’s Winter 2022 newsletter is enclosed as **Exhibit F**. The District also published informational fact sheets in advance of both the February 2022 and April 2022 Levy ballot measures. A copy of the District’s February 2022 fact sheet is enclosed as **Exhibit G**. The District had a webpage devoted to the Levy in advance of both the February 2022 and April 2022 Levy ballot measures. The District also posted on Facebook in advance of both the February 2022¹ and April 2022 Levy ballot measures.

The above examples demonstrate that it is customary for the District to create and disseminate information related to a Levy in a variety of mediums including via a newsletter, an informational fact sheet, a webpage, and via Facebook. As discussed, the informational YouTube video was made following the February 23, 2022 listening session. It is common for the District to provide a forum for community members to give feedback and for the District to act in response to the community’s feedback. In this circumstance, the District acted in response to community feedback that included a request for more information regarding the Levy. The District provided this additional information via updating the District’s website with more factual information and developing an informational YouTube video prior to the April 2022 ballot measure.

II. RCW 28A.320.090 is inapposite to Mr. Adams’ Complaint

Under RCW 28A.320.090, a school district’s Board of Directors has the authority to authorize the expenditure of funds for preparing and distributing certain information to the public. The foregoing statute provides, in full, that:

¹ In advance of the February 2022 Levy, the District started posting on Facebook about the Levy on January 12, 2022.

The board of directors of any school district shall have authority to authorize the expenditure of funds for the purpose of preparing and distributing information to the general public to explain the instructional program, operation and maintenance of the schools of the district: PROVIDED, That nothing contained herein shall be construed to authorize preparation and distribution of information to the general public for the purpose of influencing the outcome of a school district election.

In this circumstance, Mr. Adams' claim that the District violated RCW 28A.320.090 is incorrect.

Importantly, the District's Board of Directors was not involved in decision-making for the expenditure of funds related to information that was prepared and distributed to the public related to the Levy. Instead, the expenditures for said communications to the public related to the Levy were approved by Mr. Degginger. During the course of his employment, Mr. Degginger approved expenditures for printing and postage on the informational newsletters that were mailed throughout the community, as well as the informational YouTube video that was posted on various media platforms.

Even if the District's Board of Directors had been presented with expenditures for consideration pursuant to RCW 28A.320.090, the materials that would have been considered by the Board contain objective and fair content that is factual and informational (and, thus, does not violate the limitation in RCW 28A.320.090).

For each of these reasons, the District's conduct did not violate RCW 28A.320.090.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Charles P.E. Leitch
Casey J. Schaub

CJS/cjs/mls/mjw

Enclosures: Exhibit A: Notes from the February 23, 2022, Listening Session

Exhibit B: District's Spring 2022 Newsletter

Exhibit C: District's Levy Website Page

Exhibit D: District's Informational Fact Sheet for April 2022 Levy

Exhibit E: District's YouTube Video

Exhibit F: District's Winter 2022 Newsletter

Exhibit G: District's Informational Fact Sheet for February 2022 Levy

Stanwood-Camano School District

PDC Case No. 106965

EXHIBIT A

Stanwood-Camano School District
Listening Session
February 23, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

<p>What are key issues that may have prompted individuals to support the February 8 levy? (<i>What are our strengths within the community?</i>)</p>	<p>What are key issues that may have prompted individuals to vote “no” on the February 8 levy? (<i>What are our community’s concerns?</i>)</p>
<p>Support of technology, wanting to keep up.</p> <p>One example of money being saved is having the buses parked at the south end of the island instead of taking them back to town.</p>	<p>People don’t understand and feel administrator pay is out of line.</p> <p>People don’t understand that money is needed to update Chromebooks.</p> <p>People are afraid their taxes are going to go up.</p> <p>Someone said as soon as the superintendent of public instruction gives up half his salary, they’ll vote yes.</p> <p>Concerns about the cost of school supplies.</p> <p>People may not understand this is a replacement and taxes will stay level.</p> <p>Feels there is a lack of trust. People may believe the money schools/district have is not being managed well.</p> <p>Feels it is a bad lesson for kids that the money is not being managed well so the district just asks for more.</p> <p>Concerned about the old superintendent’s salary and the first year superintendent salary. Feels they are outrageous. Why are the salaries so high when things like PSMS band has to fundraise for things they need. Why do they have to fundraise for things like music stands? Why aren’t things like that in the school budget?</p> <p>How is the current budget managed and why are we falling short?</p> <p>Feels there is not a lot of transparency as to how the funds are being spent. More transparency would be helpful.</p>

Inflation of taxes, gas, groceries and now the schools are asking for more. Maybe the schools should tighten their belts just as families are.

Possibly a communication issue that may be a problem with the whole levy~ example is that many folks may not have known about tonight.

Possibly negatively impacting is a general lack of transparency, involvement, and engagement.

Concerns about student behaviors in schools; how are we handling things like ACES and Trauma Informed practices.

Concerns about the message the high school gave about increasing presence in the hallways and supervision in the halls. Feels her students are well behaved and now they are being watched closely even though they are not rule breakers. Feels it creates a negative environment. Feels the request for information is just for show and the school moves forward with the original plan anyway. Feels kids are going to be "jumped on" ...feels like they can't turn any corner without someone watching them.

People don't understand what is really wrong with things. People need more clarification so they better understand. Explaining more detail about what is wrong with something like the sprinkler system. Why did it go bad? Is it the fire system or an outdoor system? What's wrong, how much to fix?

Why do the Chromebooks need to be replaced? What is the problem with them? This needs to be clear to the public.

Why are students unhappy going to school? Why do they become more unhappy as they move up in grades?

What does the district intend to do about the results of the survey? That info should be shared with the community.

How is technology used in the classroom?

Why is the technology there?

Perhaps people don't understand how technology is used.

Pen and paper learning - get back to this. May be better to use textbook curriculum vs. technology

Concern about the over-reliance on technology. Example, student flying through work so they can get to play games or use some sort of social media

Question about COVID money - where did it go, how is it being used?

People don't understand what this pool of money is for vs. general pool of money

"They have this brand new high school."

Technology isn't just a Chromebook... people don't know that.

"I don't have kids in school and I'm not going to pay for this."

The district used to think about showing the community what is going on with technology.

"TRI fund" - what precisely is this paying for? I go to church and the people say they don't know what this will go to.

People are strapped, taxes are going up, people can't afford basic things right now. More of the tax dollars should be getting back here vs. pulling from a levy.

Administration - how much is going there versus instruction? Administrators make almost twice as much. Why are we spending \$1.3 million on HR for instance?

I'm not necessarily happy with how they've spent their money so far.

Having come from a different industry I'm still not understanding where this money comes from

This ask is for something completely separate from everything else, and people don't understand that

Maybe they should pull from one pool of money to spend it in another.

Who is checking with Olympia on how the spending structures are happening?

People don't understand and feel administrator pay is out of line.

People don't understand that money is needed to update Chromebooks.

Why do the Chromebooks need to be replaced? What is the problem with them? This needs to be clear to the public.

Why are students unhappy going to school? Why do they become more unhappy as they move up in grades.

What does the district intend to do about the results of the survey? That info should be shared with the community.

Property Taxes--Taxes keep going up. Explain how taxes generate and are determined.

Income of the new superintendent (if levy doesn't pass the salary would be negotiated)

How does the superintendent's salary connect to the levy passage? Would the salary be renegotiated to a lesser amount?

People are unclear how each pot of money is spent (i.e. EPO levy, Capital Projects/Technology levy, Bonds, state levy)

Links to budget (revenue/expenditure) potentially not active or easy to find

Spending habits in general (e.g. new logo, strategic plan); priorities around spending

Ensure that money isn't being wasted. Instead of a new logo, put that money towards some of the items identified in the logo

Transparency regarding cost saving measures or budgetary matters

People don't get much information about what is going on. District is not telling the story about the vision and purposes.

Technology's purpose may not make sense to "older population." Tell it in a way that makes sense. Lots of people don't get the school/district messages. Need to reach the retired population with no connection to schools

Conveying the message in a way that is comprehensive and non overwhelming (Carl Sagan) not too academic

School district not ahead of the message--more of a presence in social media

Parent sentiment that kids might be hindered by too much technology. Not able to use books, (e.g. reference books).

	<p>Kids aren't learning as well using technology</p> <p>Tactile learning is important.</p>
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<p>What may have prevented people from voting on February 8?</p>	<p>Maybe remind people to vote in the newspaper.</p> <p>Nothing else on the ballot... maybe consider a time when there would be a higher turnout.</p> <p>One person was inactivated on her vote.</p>
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<p>What other information would you like to share?</p>	<p>Question~ Will tax rates go up if they vote yes?</p> <p>How many people show up for monthly school board meetings?</p> <p>How did people know about the meeting? Maybe it should be in the newspaper?</p> <p>The listening session was down at the bottom of the page</p> <p>When will the next listening session be? How far in advance will the date/time be published.</p> <p>What does the school board think? Why do they think so many people voted no?</p> <p>Questions about the survey and how much of that comes from problems in the home. Some kids are unhappy.</p> <p>People don't know how money is being spent.</p> <p>Most information comes from Facebook (CES; Stanwood Camano Community Page, Stanwood Involved, Stanwood Evolved, emails from school).</p> <p>Layout of website; not up-to-date; use IT students to help with site</p> <p>Finance tab on website might be helpful (graph)</p> <p>Why do books go out of date so quickly? Why do we need new history books when history doesn't change?</p> <p>How has the district arrived at how they use technology? How much tech is used versus</p>
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	other methods?
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Stanwood-Camano School District

PDC Case No. 106965

EXHIBIT B

FACTS ON THE REPLACEMENT LEVY

The Stanwood-Camano School District will place a four-year Replacement Capital Projects and Technology Levy on the April 26, 2022 special election ballot to replace an expiring 2019-22 levy.

The local levy continues our community's investment in our students. It will maintain essential funding beyond state basic education to support educational technology, facility improvements, and student safety and security.



Replacement
 levy—not a
 new tax

This is a proposed replacement of an expiring levy and will not increase school taxes.

Educational Technology

The levy funds technology devices and supports student learning

- Student/Staff devices
- Learning tools
- Personnel
- Infrastructure
- Security
- Software



Capital Projects

The levy funds prioritized facility improvements

- Safety improvements
- Building improvements
- Asset preservation
- Site maintenance
- Equipment replacement



Financial Information for the Replacement Levy

Approval of the replacement levy would assess no more than \$0.27 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Property values may fluctuate, but according to state law, the district may collect no more than the total dollar amount voters approve. When property values rise, levy rates go down. **See the tax rate chart on the next page.**



THE STANWOOD-CAMANO SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Stanwood-Camano School District Board of Directors consists of five citizens who reside within the School District. Board members are elected by voters to serve four-year terms. The board is the policy-making body for the district, while the superintendent is responsible for implementing those policies and plans. Learn more at: stanwood.wednet.edu/school_board

Natalie Hagglund
President



Miranda Evans
Vice President



Ken Christoferson
Director



Charlotte Murry
Director



Al Schreiber
Director



Deborah Rumbaugh
Superintendent
Secretary to the
Board of Directors



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Stanwood-Camano Community,

Our district is incredibly fortunate to be part of a community that places such a strong importance on the value of education in the lives of children.

In recent years, the state has increased the amount of funding it provides to public schools. However, it still does not fully cover the cost of educating our students or maintaining our facilities. All school districts rely on local levies to bridge this funding gap. On April 26, 2022, Stanwood-Camano voters will have the opportunity to vote on the Replacement Capital Projects and Technology Levy.

This is not a new tax; it is a replacement of an expiring levy. It will maintain essential funding to support student safety and security, facility improvements, and educational technology.

If the levy fails a second time, the district may not place it on the ballot again until 2023. Planned capital projects would be delayed and the district would not be able to upgrade its technology and maintain its buildings to support student learning as planned.

Please read through this issue of **Currents** to learn more about this replacement levy and how it positively affects our students and staff while keeping a stable school tax rate. In addition, more information is available on our website at www.stanwood.wednet.edu/levy.

Respectfully,

Deborah Rumbaugh, Ed.D.

No increase in the total tax rate if approved



Date/Measure		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
PROPOSED BALLOT MEASURE	2023-2026 Capital Projects and Technology Replacement Levy April 26, 2022	\$0.27	\$0.25	\$0.27	\$0.27	\$0.27	\$0.27
PASSED 2020	Educational Programs and Operations Levy	\$1.57	\$1.64	\$1.60	\$1.60	\$1.57	\$1.57
PASSED 2017	Facilities Bond	\$1.30	\$1.25	\$1.19	\$1.17	\$1.15	\$1.15
Total Tax Rate		\$3.14	\$3.14	\$3.06	\$3.04	\$2.99	\$2.99

REPLACEMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS AND TECHNOLOGY LEVY



CAPITAL PROJECTS

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

- Upgraded intercoms at Stanwood ES and Stanwood MS
- New bleachers at Stanwood MS
- Structural upgrades to Stanwood ES covered walkway
- Fencing and gates at Port Susan MS and Cedarhome ES

\$593,740

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

- Flooring at Stanwood MS
- Reconfigure multiple learning spaces
- Accessible path at Utsalady ES playfield
- Add shower to health room at Twin City ES
- Awning over Stanwood ES gym door

\$348,934

ASSET PRESERVATION

- New roof at Cedarhome ES
- Portable preservation at Port Susan MS
- Re-Roof maintenance shed at Stanwood MS
- Entry and corridor tile replacement at Stanwood MS

\$2,447,230

EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

- Fire sprinkler lines, replace piping and heads at Elger Bay & Utsalady ES
- Boiler replacement at Cedarhome and Elger Bay ES

\$791,570

SITE MAINTENANCE

- Parking lot replacement at Transportation
- Parking lot and playground paving repairs at Cedarhome ES

\$958,250



TECHNOLOGY

INFRASTRUCTURE

- UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) battery replacement
- Web Filter to help protect students from harmful internet content
- Wireless Access Points provide high-speed internet access

\$168,640

LEARNING TOOLS

- Assistive Technology
- Read Naturally
- Read & Write
- Renaissance
- Robotics
- SMART Notebook
- Screencastify
- Typing Agent

\$747,770

DEVICES

Renews:

- 25% of Student Chromebooks per Year (about 1,100 devices)
- 25% of Staff Computers per Year (about 100 devices)

\$1,612,196

PERSONNEL

- Administrative Tech Staff
- One Help Desk position
- Two technicians
- One Tech TOSA (Teacher On Special Assignment)

\$2,288,641

SOFTWARE

- School Messenger notification system
- Smore newsletters for parents and staff
- SolarWinds network monitoring and technology help desk
- WSIPC student information systems

\$277,980

SECURITY

- Camera installs and maintenance
 - Access control licensing
- These systems provide monitoring against unauthorized entry in order to safeguard the well-being of our staff and students.

\$69,150

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit www.stanwood.wednet.edu/levy

**Stanwood-Camano School District No. 401
Currents Spring 2022**

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Stanwood, WA 98292

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REMEMBER TO VOTE BY APRIL 26, 2022

How can I vote?

The April 26, 2022, special election is an all-mail election.

Ballots will be mailed to registered voters who live in the Stanwood-Camano School District boundary on April 8, 2022. Ballots must be returned by Tuesday, April 26, 2022. No postage is required to return your ballot by mail. To register to vote, visit vote.wa.gov.



There is a secure ballot drop box near the Stanwood Library (left) at 9701 271st St. N.W. and at the Island County Administration Building (right) at 121 N. East Camano Drive on Camano Island. The drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on April 26, 2022.



TAX EXEMPTIONS

Low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities may qualify for exemptions from property taxes.

For additional information or to apply for an exemption, contact the Snohomish County or Island County Assessor's Office:

Snohomish County: snohomishcountywa.gov
or call (425) 388-3433.

Island County: islandcountywa.gov or call (360) 679-7303.

The Stanwood-Camano School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the District's Title IX/Affirmative Action Officer and Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, Maureen Stanton (mstanton@stanwood.wednet.edu), or the Section 504/American Disabilities Act Coordinator, Robert Hascall (rhascall@stanwood.wednet.edu) Stanwood-Camano School District, 26920 Pioneer Hwy, Stanwood, WA 98292. Telephone: (360) 629-1200.

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Stanwood-Camano School District

PDC Case No. 106965

EXHIBIT C

Link to District Levy Webpage: [Capital Projects & Technology Replacement Levy - Stanwood Camano School District \(wednet.edu\)](#)

Stanwood-Camano School District

PDC Case No. 106965

EXHIBIT D



FACTS on the REPLACEMENT LEVY

Stanwood-Camano School District will place a four-year Replacement Capital Projects and Technology Levy on the ballot for the April 26, 2022, special election to replace an expiring levy approved in 2018.

This proposed local replacement levy would fund critical facility and technology needs not funded by the state.



Replacement
levy—not a
new tax

This is a proposed replacement of an expiring levy and will not increase taxes currently being paid if it is approved.

WHAT DOES THE LEVY FUND?

The local levy continues our community's investment in our students. It will maintain essential funding beyond state basic education to support safety and security, facility improvements and educational technology.

Educational Technology

The levy funds technology devices and supports student learning

- Devices: Renewal of 25% of staff computers and 25% of student Chromebooks, about 1,200 devices annually
- Learning applications/online curriculum
- Personnel: Technology department staff and Teacher on Special Assignment
- Infrastructure: Web filter and wireless
- Security: Cameras and access controls
- Software: tools such as School Messenger and Smore newsletters



Capital Projects

The levy funds prioritized facility improvements

- Safety improvements: includes fencing, gates, sidewalks and bleachers
- Building improvements: includes classroom renovations
- Asset preservation: includes new roof, portable renovations and floor replacements
- Site maintenance: includes parking lot and playground paving
- Equipment replacement: includes fire sprinkler lines and boiler replacement

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Approval of the replacement levy would assess no more than \$0.27 per \$1,000 of assessed property value and generate an average of \$2.5 million for each of four years of the levy, 2023-26. The district only collects up to the total amount approved by voters. Property values may fluctuate, but according to state law, schools collect no more than the total dollar amount voters approve. When property values rise, rates go down.

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Tax exemption

Low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities may qualify for exemptions from property taxes. Additional information is available on the Snohomish or Island County website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
visit stanwood.wednet.edu/levy
or call 360-629-1200

Election Day is APRIL 26, 2022. Remember to vote.

Stanwood-Camano School District

PDC Case No. 106965

EXHIBIT E

Link to District's Levy video: [Stanwood-Camano School District Replacement Capital Projects and Technology Levy - YouTube](#)

Stanwood-Camano School District

PDC Case No. 106965

EXHIBIT F

SHS, Church Creek campuses hold open house



The Dec. 11 open house at Stanwood High School and the Church Creek Campus, home to Lincoln Hill High School, Lincoln Academy and Saratoga School, was attended by hundreds of community members eager to see and tour these new buildings created with the approval by voters of the 2017 bond issue. Opening ceremonies were held at each building. The ceremonies may be viewed on the Stanwood-Camano School District YouTube channel.

Help SCSD create a new 5-year strategic plan

During the 2021-2022 school year, Stanwood-Camano School District is engaging in a comprehensive Strategic Planning process. The Strategic Plan acts as a roadmap for our school system. Its primary aim is to align all interested parties on a shared vision, common goals, and unified direction for our district's educational efforts.

Community-wide involvement is vital to the Strategic Planning process. We are designing the process in ways that will embrace the diverse voices of our Stanwood-Camano community.

Community members are serving as members of the five planning teams. The core planning group

Virtual community forums online for the Stanwood-Camano SD Strategic Plan

- Tuesday, February 8:
7 to 8 p.m. (focus on elementary)
- Thursday, February 10
7 to 8 p.m. (focus on secondary)

Links to these virtual forums are available on our website at stanwood.wednet.edu.

of over 50 members worked for two full days in December to help give direction and guidance for the content and priorities for our Strategic Plan.



THE STANWOOD-CAMANO SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Stanwood-Camano School District Board of Directors consists of five citizens who reside within the School District. Board members are elected by voters to serve four-year terms. The board is the policy-making body for the district, while the superintendent is responsible for implementing those policies and plans. Learn more at: stanwood.wednet.edu/school_board

Natalie Hagglund
President



Miranda Evans
Vice President

Ken Christoferson
Director



Charlotte Murry
Director

Al Schreiber
Director



Deborah Rumbaugh
Superintendent
Secretary to the
Board of Directors

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Stanwood-Camano Community,

Welcome to the first issue of *Currents*! This newsletter is being mailed to households in our district as we expand the reach of our communications. If you haven't already, please join us on social media: Facebook and Instagram @stanwoodcamanosd and on Twitter @scsd_401. You can also follow me on Twitter @rumbaugsupt.

We were so excited to finally be able to open the new Stanwood High School and the Church Creek campus for a celebration and open house to express our gratitude to the community for its support of the 2017 bond issue to construct these buildings. On February 8, we are asking voters to consider the proposed replacement capital projects and technology levy. Please remember to vote.

Even as the pandemic begins its third year and continues to challenge us every day, we are looking to the future. The district strategic planning process is well underway. We have received survey feedback from over 2,000 students in grades 3-12 and have conducted focus groups at our elementary, middle and high schools. Parents and guardians have also completed surveys about their priorities for our schools. Our Core Planning Team, composed of families, staff and community members worked for two full days to help give direction and guidance for the content and priorities for our Strategic Plan.

We invite you to join in the strategic planning process by attending one or both of the virtual community forums at 7 p.m. on February 8 and 10. Links to these events are on our website at stanwood.wednet.edu.

Respectfully,

Deborah Rumbaugh, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Directors Murry and Schreiber re-elected to School Board

Stanwood-Camano School Board Directors Charlotte Murry (top photo) and Al Schreiber (bottom photo) were administered the oath of office by Superintendent Deborah Rumbaugh for new four-year terms during the Dec. 7 regular Board meeting. Natalie Hagglund will be continuing as Board president and Miranda Evans as Board vice president.



REPLACEMENT LEVY 2022

Replacement Cap/Tech levy on February 8 ballot

The District is proposing a four-year replacement Capital Projects and Technology Levy on the February 8, 2022 ballot to replace an expiring levy. The proposed local school tax is expected to decrease from current levels. Levies require a simple majority for approval.

The Capital Projects and Technology (Cap/Tech) levy covers two areas:

- Facility improvements and updates that are beyond a general repair or regular maintenance but fall short of bond-level funding needs.
- Instructional technology and related staffing, professional development and technology infrastructure.

What will the proposed levy fund?

Approximately 50 percent of the funds is expected to be used for long-term facility needs, such as:

- New roof at Cedarhome Elementary;
- Replacement fire sprinkler lines at Utsalady and Elger Bay Elementary Schools;
- Portable maintenance at Port Susan, including new roofs, paint and siding repair;
- Upgraded public address systems at Stanwood Middle and Stanwood Elementary Schools;
- Various projects to improve student safety, such as fencing and sidewalks.

Approximately 50 percent of the funds is expected to upgrade technology used for student learning at all schools. Projects include:

- Replacing aging classroom computers, chromebooks and software licenses;



Stanwood High School students use technology purchased with levy funds to learn coding in this career and technical education class.



Capital projects such as the playground improvements at Cedarhome Elementary are funded by the levy.

- Maintaining infrastructure that supports technology for student learning, for example, servers, wifi and network;
- Provide for staffing to maintain and operate district technology.

What has SCSD accomplished with local funds?

- Increased the number of computer labs, mobile labs and student-accessible technology at each school;
- Increased the curricular tools and online educational resources;
- Provided professional development and technical support to staff that impacts teaching and learning;
- Replaced fire alarm systems at Cedarhome, Twin City and Stanwood Elementary;
- Playground safety improvements at Cedarhome, Elger Bay and Utsalady Elementary;
- Renovation and roof replacement for the SHS Transition Program facility;
- Seismic upgrades for Stanwood Middle School.



Please remember to vote by February 8

Snohomish and Island Counties conduct all elections through mail-in ballots. The ballots for the February 8, 2022 election must be postmarked (mailing is free) or placed in a ballot drop site by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2022. Ballot drop boxes are located near the Stanwood Library, 9701 271st St. NW and on Camano Island at 121 N. East Camano Drive.

ECRWSS Postal Customer

POINTS OF PRIDE



Stanwood HS FFA (above) won the State Tractor Driving Contest this fall. Cole Tveter, Hayden Main and Ethan Jakel were the first-place team, and Ethan Jakel was the first place individual.

Utsalady Elementary students (right) held a drive-through event to honor area veterans prior to Veterans Day in November. Each class held signs and cheered veterans as they drove through the school parking lot. Each veteran received a gift from the school in honor of their service.



Stanwood Elementary students (left) donated 1,120 pounds of food to the Stanwood-Camano Food Bank, and the joy they felt in helping out is hard to disguise under their masks. Other SCSD schools held similar drives this fall to benefit the food bank during the holiday season.

Jim Piccolo, retired Stanwood High School athletic director, was inducted into the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Hall of Fame. During Piccolo's tenure at Stanwood High from 1984 to 2006, he helped develop the 4A Booster Club, the Athletic/Academic Awards night, an athletic training program and the Stanwood Athletic Hall of Fame. Piccolo becomes only the second person from Washington to be chosen for the honor. Piccolo is pictured here with current athletic director Tom Wilfong at the awards event in Denver.



NONDISCRIMINATION NOTIFICATION

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Stanwood-Camano School District

PDC Case No. 106965

EXHIBIT G

Replacement CAPITAL PROJECTS & TECHNOLOGY LEVY



On the ballot February 8, 2022

What would this levy fund?

The proposed 4-year Replacement Capital Projects and Technology Levy would replace an expiring 4-year capital levy. This levy proposal would allow the district to maintain technology systems and continue to make major improvements to existing facilities.

See the list of projects completed by the facility and technology levy, approved in 2018 by voters, at: www.stanwood.wednet.edu and click on "Levy Information."



What would this levy cost?

The estimated tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed property value for this measure is 27 cents for each year of the levy.

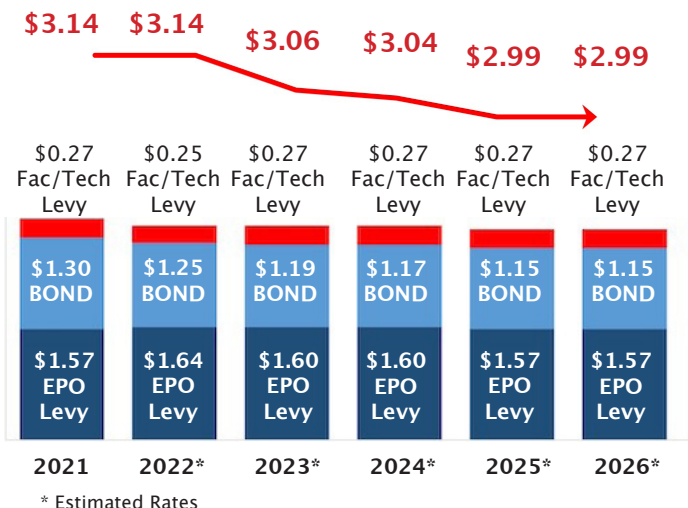
School districts are allowed to collect only the amount of money approved by voters. The sample ballot (see back) lists the annual tax amount and the estimated tax rates voters will be asked to consider. Unlike bonds, there is no interest cost for a capital levy.

When assessed property values change, the local school tax rate is adjusted to ensure that the district collects only the levy dollar amount approved by voters.

The proposed total local school tax rate is expected to decrease from current levels

If approved by voters, this measure would expire at the end of 2026.

A stable total local school tax rate.



Who proposed this measure?

The Citizen's Facility/Technology Advisory Committee made recommendations, which the School Board approved.

Why do we need this levy?

The state does not provide adequate funding for major facility repairs or for technology systems. However, the state allows school districts to seek local funding support for these needs.

The Replacement Capital Projects & Technology Levy is expected to provide funding over 4 years.

Approximately 50% of the funds is expected to be used for long-term facility needs, such as:

- New roof at Cedarhome Elementary
- Replacement dry sprinkler lines at Utsalady and Elger Bay Elementary Schools
- Portable maintenance at Port Susan, including new roofs, paint and siding repair
- Upgraded public address systems at Stanwood Middle and Stanwood Elementary Schools
- Various projects to improve student safety, such as fencing and sidewalks

Approximately 50% of the funds is expected to upgrade technology used for student learning at all schools. Projects include:

- Replacing aging classroom computers, chromebooks and software licenses
- Maintaining infrastructure that supports technology for student learning, for example, servers, wifi and network.
- Provide for staffing to maintain and operate district technology

To the Citizens of the
Stanwood-Camano School District

**The measure as it will appear on
the February 8, 2022 Ballot:**

**Proposition No. 1
Stanwood-Camano School District No. 401
Replacement Capital Projects &
Technology Levy**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2021/2022-001 concerning a capital projects and technology levy to replace an expiring levy. This proposition would authorize the District to modernize and repair District facilities; modernize and upgrade District technology and computer systems for instruction and operations; other capital project expenditures; and the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2023	\$.27	\$ 2,448,925
2024	\$.27	\$ 2,546,901
2025	\$.27	\$ 2,648,746
2026	\$.27	\$ 2,701,705

all as provided in District Resolution No. 2021/2022-001. Should this proposition be approved?

YES.....

NO.....



Senior citizens and disabled persons may qualify for an exemption from these taxes. For additional information about eligibility or to apply for an exemption, contact the Snohomish or Island County Assessor's Office:

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov> or (425) 388-3540
Island County Assessor's Office:
<https://islandcountywa.gov> or (360) 678-7853

**REMEMBER TO
VOTE
FEBRUARY 8th**

For more information or to access a Spanish version of the flyer, please visit the Stanwood-Camano School District website at www.stanwood.wednet.edu or call (360) 629-1222.

Para obtener más información, o acceder a la versión en español del volante, use el código QR (a la derecha) o visite la página web del distrito escolar Stanwood-Camano en www.stanwood.wednet.edu o llame al (360) 629-1222.



February 8, 2022 election ballot is mail-in:

Snohomish and Island Counties conduct all elections through mail-in ballots. The ballots for the February 8, 2022 election will be mailed to local voters in mid-January. They must be returned to the county elections office or to a ballot drop site by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

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