

Technology Levy Survey

Results and Analysis

Ferndale School District

November 13 – December 5, 2014



Purpose of the Study

Ferndale School District asked the community for feedback about the role of technology in education. The purpose of the survey was to better understand the community's perspective on the district's current technology mission and goals as well as the level of support for a potential technology levy in 2015.

To ensure content validity, K12 *Insight* partnered with Superintendent Linda Quinn, Tammy Bengen, Mark Deebach and Scott Brittain to develop the Technology Levy Survey, which addressed the following topics:

- The District's Mission and Charge (Three Goals)
- 2015 Proposed Technology Levy
- Communication

Details of the Study

The survey was open November 13 - December 5, 2014. The survey was available in Spanish, Russian and English.

K12 *Insight* emailed individual invitations to parents, staff and key communicators (Community Advisory Committee Members, Facilities Advisory Committee Members, past forum participants). Reminders were sent 11/18, 11/25 and 12/1.

Potential participants received communication about the survey through

- the district's YourVoice webpage
- the district's Facebook page
- the district's Press Release webpage and school webpages
- the district's "Automated Message System" (a telephone call and an email were sent to all district parents)
- a community-wide postcard mailing (delivered to approximately 15,250 households and businesses)
- advertisement in the local newspaper
- flyers posted in schools/offices and sent home through students to parents
- flyers posted in the community

Understanding the Results

Results do not reflect random sampling; therefore, they should not be generalized to the entire district population. Rather, results reflect only the perceptions and opinions of participating patrons.

Analysis procedure: 10% or 100 (whichever is greater) of randomized open-ended responses were analyzed for common themes. Common themes are listed from most to least recurrent.

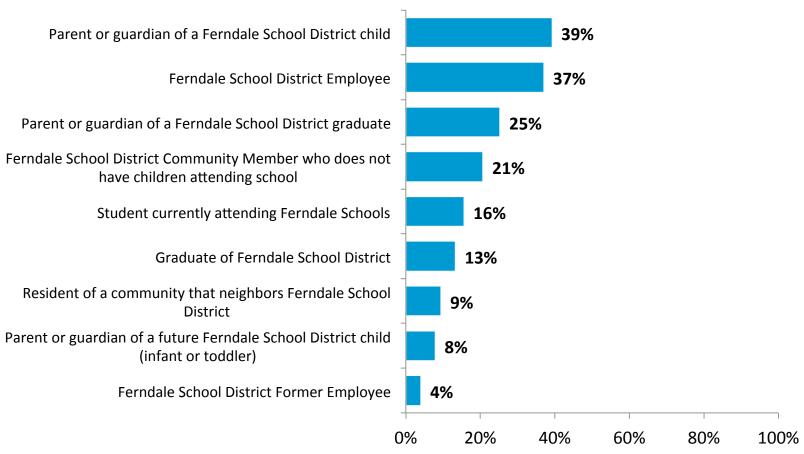
The findings for each item in the report do not include participants who did not answer that question. In charts and graphs, data labels less than 5% are not shown.

Participation

Responding Group	Number of Responses via Emailed Invitation	Number of Responses via Public Access URL	Total Number of Responses
FSD Patrons	206	403	609

Connection with FSD Community

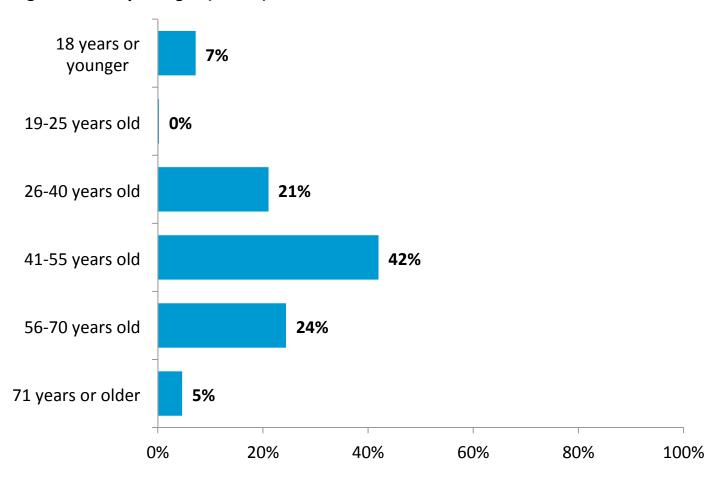
How are you connected to the Ferndale School District Community? (N=594)



Note: The sum of percentages may exceed 100% because participants could select more than one response option.

Age

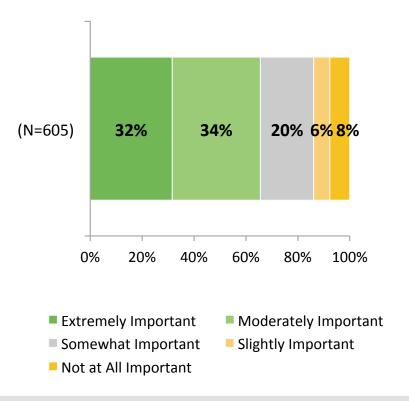
Which range describes your age? (N=592)



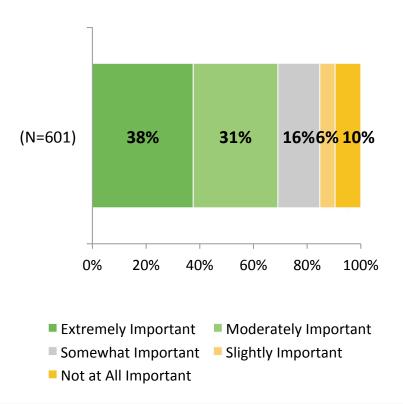
Main Findings

Achieving Our Mission 1

How important do you believe it is for students to get the information they need at any time from anywhere?

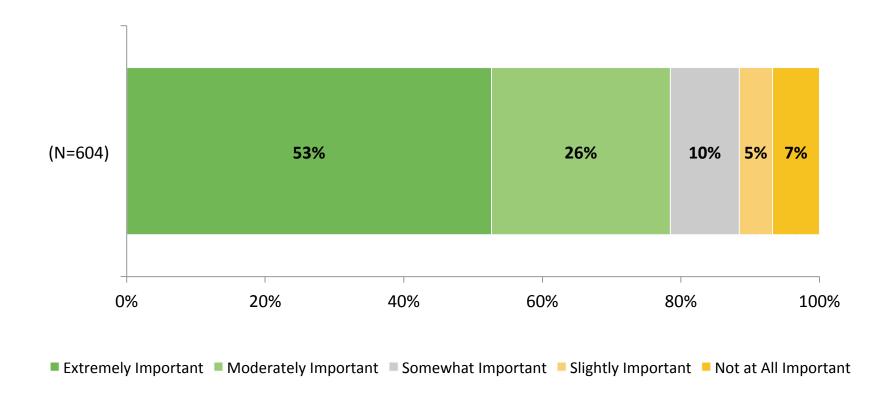


How important do you believe it is for students to have access to a computing device (laptop, tablet, etc.) in the classroom?



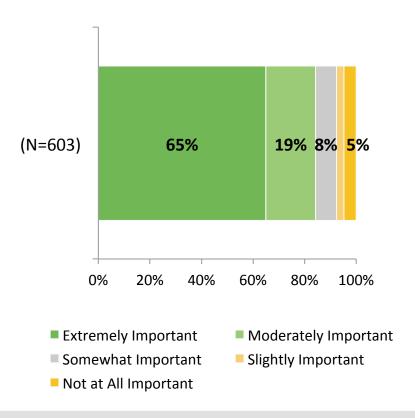
Achieving Our Mission 2

How important do you believe it is to provide teachers with current resources and devices to integrate technology into their teaching and differentiate instruction for students?

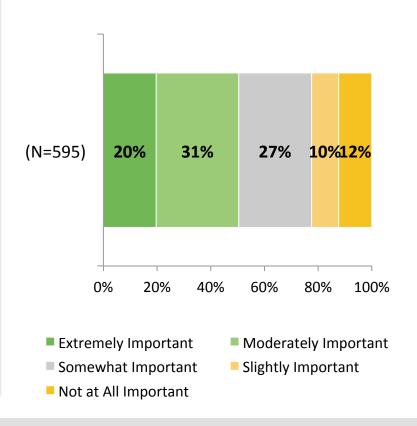


Achieving Our Mission 3

How important do you believe it is for students to learn how to collaborate with others?



How important do you believe technology is in fostering student engagement and collaboration?



Common Themes from Open-Ended Responses

Please share any additional suggestions or ideas for using technology to achieve our mission. (N=242)

While participants overall see the value of using technology in the classroom to support learning, many feel that more emphasis should be placed on general skill development (collaboration, conflict resolution, critical thinking, problem-solving, etc.).

Several participants stressed the importance of maintaining a balance between technology and face-to-face instruction and collaboration.

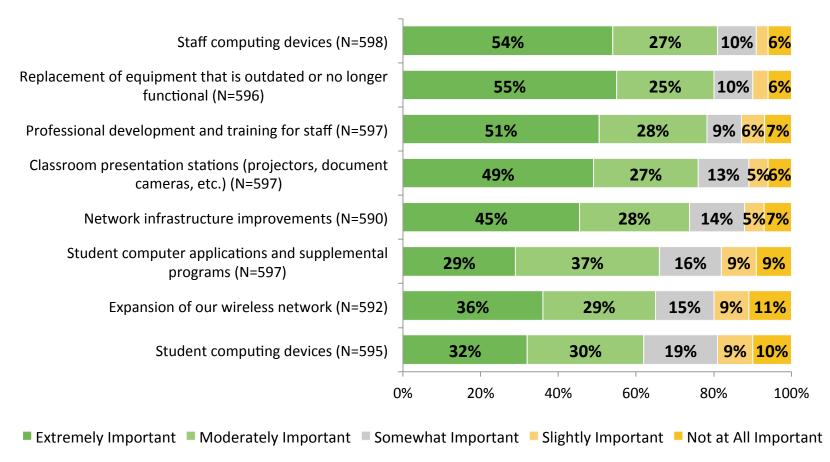
Participants would like to see greater guidelines for students on when and how to use technology. Many feel devices (tablets, computers, smart phones, etc.) have distracted students from their learning.

Participants feel greater technology support for teachers (professional development opportunities, IT support, etc.) and students is needed.

Note: Common themes are listed from most to least recurrent.

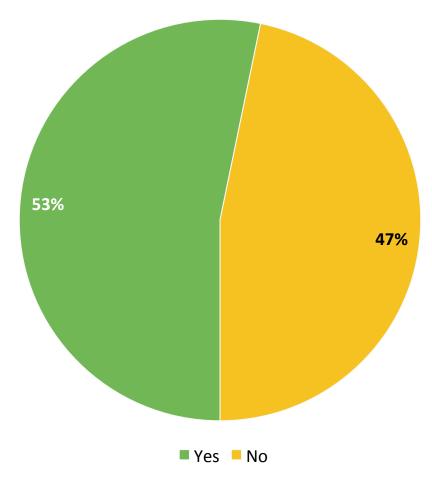
2015 Proposed Technology Levy

In your opinion, how important is the impact of these programs and/or materials to overall student learning?



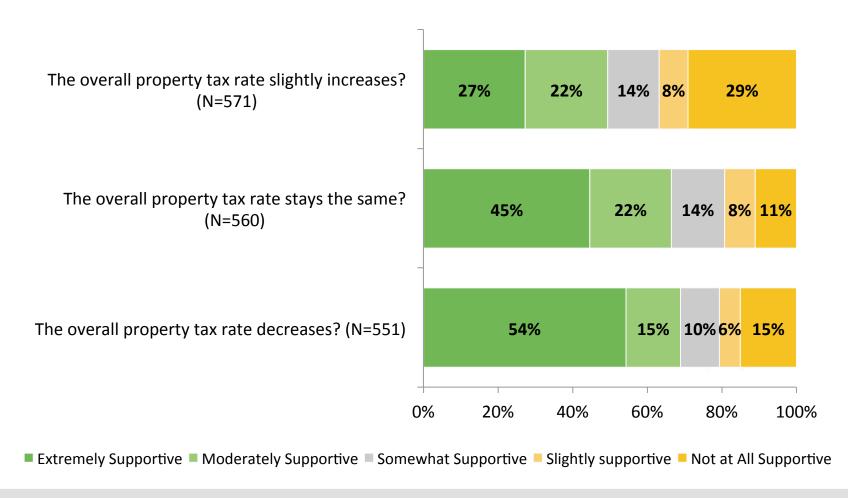
Future Bond

Does a potential 2015 levy impact your vote on a future bond? (N=571)



Level of Support for a Technology Levy

What is your level of support for a technology levy if:



Common Themes to Open-Ended Questions

What additional information, if any, do you need about the proposed 2015 Technology Levy? (N=169)

Several participants would like additional information on specifically how the levy funds will be spent (individual devices for students, computers for teachers, computers for the classroom, etc.).

Many would like to see more information on the academic and social benefits of incorporating technology into classroom instruction.

Note: Common themes are listed from most to least recurrent.

Communication

Please select and rank the top three ways you most prefer to receive information. (N=582)

Communication Method	Relative Weighted Score	Overall Rank
Email Message	100	1
Mail (U.S. Postal Service)	69	2
Electronic Newsletter	61	3
Automated Telephone Call	48	4
District Website	48	4
Flyers sent home with students	39	5
School Website	21	6
Local Media	21	7
Live, Face-to-Face Meetings	19	8
Text Message	17	9
Facebook	13	10
Other	4	11
Twitter	1	12

Conclusions - Highlights

Highlights

- Over a third of participants identified as an employee of Ferndale School District.
- A majority believe it is extremely or moderately important for students to have access to a computing device in the classroom and for teachers to have the current resources and devices necessary to integrate technology into their teaching.
- About half of participants say that a 2015 levy would impact their vote on a future bond.
- About half of participants support (extremely or moderately) a technology levy even if their overall property tax rate slightly increases.
- Email is the most preferred method of receiving information.

Conclusions – Next Steps

Next Steps

- Comments on the survey reinforced the need for the district to communicate more about the ways students and teachers are using technology to support learning. In response, we will publish a technology news tidbit through social media on a weekly basis. We will also provide more information about uses of technology in our schools to local media.
- To provide a chance for community members actually to see the kinds of things students and teachers are doing with technology, we will host a "Teaching & Learning with Technology" showcase in Spring 2015.
- To answer other questions raised through the survey process, we will continue to track and publish the impacts of technology in three areas: (a) teachers' instruction, (b) student achievement, and (c) district expenditures.
- The School Board will use information from the survey as they deliberate and ultimately decide if and when to present to voters a Technology Levy to replace the one that expired in December 2014.

Appendices

While conducting theme analysis on the responses to the two open-ended survey questions, it became evident that an individual completed the survey **26** times. Although the individual's responses did not significantly alter the overall findings, an appendix of the data, excluding 25 of the participant's 26 survey submissions, is included.

Appendix A – Achieving Our Mission

Item	Extremely Important	Moderately Important	Somewhat Important	Slightly Important	Not at All Important
Q1	33% (+1)	36% (+2)	21% (+1)	6%	< 5% (-4)
Q2	39% (+1)	33% (+2)	16%	6%	6% (-4)
Q3	55% (+2)	27% (+1)	10%	5%	< 5% (-4)
Q4	68% (+3)	20% (+1)	8%	< 5%	< 5% (-4)
Q5	21% (+1)	32% (+1)	28% (+1)	11% (+1)	9% (-3)

Appendix B – 2015 Proposed Technology Levy

Item	Extremely Important	Moderately Important	Somewhat Important	Slightly Important	Not at All Important
Q6 (A)	56% (+2)	29% (+2)	10%	< 5%	< 5% (-4)
Q6 (B)	57% (+2)	26% (+1)	10%	< 5%	< 5% (-3)
Q6 (C)	53% (+2)	29% (+1)	9%	6%	< 5% (-4)
Q6 (D)	51% (+2)	28% (+1)	14% (+1)	5%	< 5% (-4)
Q6 (E)	47% (+2)	29% (+1)	15% (+1)	6% (+1)	< 5% (-3)
Q6 (F)	31% (+2)	39% (+2)	16%	9%	6% (-3)
Q6 (G)	37% (+1)	30% (+1)	16% (+1)	9%	7% (-4)
Q6 (H)	33% (+1)	31% (+1)	20% (+1)	9%	7% (-3)

Appendix C and D – Future Bond & Level of Support for a Technology Levy

Item	Yes	No
Q7	51% (-2)	49% (+2)

Item	Extremely Supportive	Moderately Supportive	Somewhat Supportive	Slightly Supportive	Not at All Supportive
Q8 (A)	28% (+1)	23% (+1)	14%	8%	26% (-3)
Q8 (B)	47% (+2)	23% (+1)	12% (-2)	7% (-1)	11%
Q8 (C)	52% (-2)	15%	11% (+1)	6%	16% (+1)



K12 *Insight* is a research and communications firm that helps school district leadership better engage in conversations with parents, teachers, staff, students and the general public on critical district issues.

K12 *Insight*'s approach results in greater transparency and collaborative decision-making.

Watch our <u>Let's Talk! video</u> at <u>http://bit.ly/1umZZVj</u> to learn how to build community trust by listening, learning and leading with care.

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Ferndale School District Technology Survey 2014 Comments received for Question No. 6

Q6. Please share any additional suggestions or ideas for using technology to achieve our mission.

The skill of collaboration should be taught from preschool on, regardless of the technology available. In high school, technology should be used as a tool to enhance the teaching of collaboration. Collaboration without technology should not be overlooked either.

Technology is only one of many tools to be used in learning. They are not effective if teachers and staff are not properly trained to use them.

There are times when it useful for students to have unlimited access to information, however, if students have constant access to information I believe that we rob them of the important experience of wondering and thinking deeply about something. We need to be cognizant of teaching true critical thinking skills and not just improving "Googling" skills.

Students must have devices that are reliable and functional. Many students are now coming to school without their devices or with them non functional or not charged. If technology is going to be used at a middle school level, the student must be held accountable for the required materials necessary.

regarding the last question. If we believe it important for students to learn to collaborate with others there is a danger that too much reliance on technology will only make them more intolerant. We can see that in the constant withdrawal of students with their cell phones. I cannot see it being any different with their immersion into tablets.

Having technology alone is not the answer. Admin & Staff attitudes, behaviors, philosophies, etc. will need to grow to accommodate our changing world. Many staff are resistant to learning new technologies as some (a) seem embarrassed to have students who know more about technology/software then they; (b) are resistant to learning themselves due to personal interests that do not include technology; (c) some staff have even been explicitly barred by Admin to seek help in learning new software.

The technology is often a distraction even though it can also be a very valuable tool. Strong consequences and consistency of follow-through would be essential to a strong technology integration program in the classroom. I do not think that the technology alone is the key indicator of creating student engagement and collaboration. That can come with or without technology. I think the interest wanes when used all the time. Also the technology must be working properly to be a successful tool. Stuudents today should be called the computer generation, most of them have phones that are mini computers and they learn easily when seeing information provided in the social media formats. It is really about people. Smaller classes will allow teachers to individualize instruction more than having a tablet will. Smaller classes will allow teachers to really get to know students and their needs. A tablet will not replace a student's need to connect with an adult at school. You can give every student a tablet and kids will still struggle if the teachers can't connect with the kids. If you make smaller classes a priority, kids will do better whether they have a tablet or not.

Students need to learn how to effectively communicate and collaborate online. This is a skill that will be expected of them in the workplace and it is important that we have the programs available to support this

I believe more teachers = more individualized instruction, better success for students etc. More technology = whatever each individual teacher chooses to utilize in their content area and results will vary by classroom. See these articles, we are far from cutting edge in this area. http://goo.gl/nB0KKuhttp://goo.gl/wM2ES

I think it's more feasible to give each teacher/classroom a computer cart for one-to-one experience. Students who don't have technology at home could then check out a computer for the year. Perhaps with the money that this saves, the district could pay for internet access for qualifying families during a child's middle school/high school career. Thus, every child would have access to technology, but we would also have less problems with lost and damaged items, "dead batteries", "it's at home"...

Technology is such an integral part of our workforce today, so I believe it is essential that our students become technologically proficient. For technology to be effective in the classroom teachers need to be knowledgeable of how to use it/administer it. Schools also need adequate support such as updated technology, tech help to fix problems, and increased bandwidth to support a high amount of activity. keep giving them technology. also build a new school

You should unblock some of the programs on the laptop. Also enable desktop backgrounds

This survey is too simplistic! The bells and whistles - devices and hardware are all find and good, however, when faculty is not given time to MASTER the programs and technology needed in order to successfully use the tech... then failure is assured. An introduction to a device or software program does not make mastery. A workshop offered during non-contracted time is not ideal. Adequate training time should be provided if we are respected as professionals who plan for success.

It's imperative that students have basic skills BEFORE moving to the technology. Too often, students who can't ______ (fill in with read, write, do math, reason...), just google and the first thing becomes their answer. More and more often, we're letting the first thing that pops up be the answer. This is not Common Core and it is not helping our students become citizens in a democratic society - they can't read or reason using evidence; they can't evaluate sources; they can't do math

I believe there is too much of a push to have access to the "latest, greatest" devices for students. There is certainly a happy medium that can be achieved, but the focus should be on equipping instructors with tools and getting the best instructors to do so. Schools are a springboard to what exists in the world. They are not necessarily in a position to provide all of that.

Certified and classified should be trained on as many technology aspects as possible in order to be able to assist students when they don't know how to use a device or a website.

I hope technology integration is not just a first order change, but a second order change, giving teachers knowledge and skills needed to utilize the devices in ways that best meet the learning needs of students. I hope the district considers allowing teachers access to the technology we already have. For example, K-3 teachers have iPads, but do not have access to putting the apps on them that they see fit in their instructional practices.

I work remotely from home and believe in technology but sometimes the problem with using too much technology is that the student becomes isolated. Sure I know all 100 of my teammates but I have never seen them.. I also see how putting too much technology to use can hinder a persons development. Now a days people prefer texting over talking, playing with their electronics and not talking or working together. While I can do all of this, I learned way more with a hands on approach..

Technology knowledge is crucial. Proper instruction is also crucial. Knowledgeable and trained staff is also crucial!

Remember to adapt the technology to the lessons, and not the lessons to the technology.

I think that the computers are not doing much and all they are doing is a way at home to get a computer. I also think the school district wasted their money. thousands and thousands of dollars wasted.

Cell phones are a distraction. You could achieve similar results locally using a service/server for idea and document sharing.

I think all students should recieve laptops NOT just freshman at the high school level! You started with the middle school and are working backwards...just like this district has done before.. IT'S this type of BACKWARDS thinking I believe that helped NOT pass your last bond.

Just having immediate access to equipment is less important than teaching how to use it as a tool, not an end. Teamwork is far more important than the hardware to foster collaboration. Some kids who do not have access at home may need more time on the equipment than the multitude of students who have all that. Teamwork is fostered by working on teams, understanding different personalities and learning styles. I think technology is great but it can be very isolating if emphasized too much.

The technology is great when it works right. At times the technology is a huge hindrance because it does not work how it is supposed to, the kids don't have appropriate training, or there is not enough tech support to fix needs in a timely manner.

It's never too young for students to learn about technology and the uses (and hazards) it has for the future.

I'm supportive of the district's technology goals. However, when mandated to achieve these goals, it is unfair to students and staff to provide them with problematic infrastructure. Major sources of frustration and time-sucks include: less than satisfactory customer service by NWTech, glitchy HP tablets, frequently defective compatibility cases, and the slow network.

I have watched students use the program type to learn and basically ignore the directions. More supervision is needed to ensure students are doing what the program actually is trying to teach them. Too many times the computers are more of an amusement instead of an actual learning experience. I work in the classrooms. You have elementary students about to go into middle school who can not read, all levels who can not write a complete sentence, Things are worse, not better.

I think that the focus on one-to-one tech is not in the best interest of this school district. The tablets at the middle level are inadequate and create more distraction during homework time. I think the idea behind giving tech to all students is noble, but we as a district have far more pressing issues to deal with and this is not the answer.

True collaboration is very good. With kids concerned about getting their assignment turned in I have seen technology abused to copy the work of others and then turn it in as one's own. Students "share" in this way. This is something that must be addressed.

These questions ask about using technology for teachers and students which I support, but this district lacks in giving proper instruction on the usage of the equipment, maintaining the equipment and providing the equipment to the staff that needs it. Yes we can move to the 21st century, but not if we are not prepared to support what we have or what we will have.

1) Technology is not a magic bullet. 2) Sometimes it's good for students to NOT be able to access information right away, so they actually have to think about the answer themselves. (If they don't have a basic understanding of what they're looking for, or how the answer could be determined WITHOUT technology, then using technology in that instance won't help them in the long run.) 3) Differentiation, collaboration, etc. are more than technology. It can be a helpful tool, one of MANY.

Technology unto itself is NOT the answer. Why not get rid of teachers that need to find another line of work.

While technology can be a useful tool it can also be a distraction and a crutch. Most children are already exposed to plenty of technology in their everyday lives.

It's more important that we pay less in taxes. My student has learned on her own how to use technological devices. We do not need another tax to purchase "the newest" equipment to accomplish "the Mission." My student is struggling with Algebra II. More taxes and a new computer is not going to help her.

After writing my comments, I will probably be blocked from ever participating in other surveys. This is the United States of America, I am and have been a citizen of the USA all of my life (age 63 yrs.) I have been working and paying taxes since of was 15 1/2 yrs. I believe that all academic achievements should be geared to teaching children, mine are all grown, the English language and the culture that should still be predominant in the United States of America.

Make sure the teachers have adequate professional development to support changing curriculum and student needs.

I believe that the current focus on technology in schools is misguided, and that children below the age of twelve should not be exposed excessively to computer technology.

Only 500 letters? 1)K-4 students do NOT need classroom time on computers. 2)K-8 technology should be for instructors. Allow instructors to choose what they will actually use in their classroom. Force nothing on anyone. 3)Consider giving teachers a stipend so they can own what they will actually use. If they own it, they maintain it, saving tech maintenance \$. 4)Gr 9-12: Offer devices for checkout for students who can't afford their own. MOST STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ALREADY HAVE SOMETHING! 5)WA

Technology is important, however Students must first learn to use it as a tool, not there whole learning experience. If a student is addicted to these device's, then there need to be an alternative. Playing games on theses devices is not learning very much!

How many more times must we send you a message? the bond failed because of a lack of trust and overspending money. Now you want more money to give kids computers! NO I don't want my tax dollars to buy gifts for students.

We need to go back to using Apple software and Apple devices.

Most of the students in the future work force won't deal with anyone that isn't right in front of them. There will be exceptions, my son has a team that he runs that is in Houston, Boulder and India. We don't need to teach the ditch digger to reach out across the world to work as a team.

I believe that technology is changing so fast, that you could spend millions of dollars and be behind the latest technology in a couple of years. As you look around todays world, you see people so engrossed in their technology devises that they are unaware of what is going on around them. All the new technology has certainly made access to knowledge easier, but has it helped improve student learning or only become a distraction.

I do believe every student should have access to technology whether it is in the classroom, school, community. I don't believe every student should have a dedicated device in order to have that access.

Frankly, I believe the only technology that is needed at the elementary level are decent computers, software and projection equipment for the teachers. From what I see, the time spent with technology is interfering with the development of basic skills. I see many children who are developing addictive personality traits from their already excessive exposure to technology. Slightly less limited access to technology at the middle school level might be acceptable. High School maybe somewhat more

The schools should have a bank of a reasonable number of desktops for student use. I do not believe the students need laptops or tablets. I feel that the internet is making us all more stupid, impatient, and illiterate. I also find that the information available on the internet to be shallow and suspect in its derivation from facts and primary sources. Manual arts used to be taught in the schools, is Ferndale School District only interested in creating robots with no creativity?

What are some of the best ways we have seen the use of technology enhance student collaboration? Seeing examples would help voters -- who didn't grow up using these tools in the classroom -- make the connection between tech and collaboration.

Please spend / retire existing approved bond monies before asking for additional.

what kind of insurance do we have to potect the equipment from lose or theif or damage due to kid being kids?

I am a computer software engineer. I KNOW that Ferndale SD is not teaching real programming skills. It uses computers in lieu of real teaching. Students can learn all about games, web surfing, etc., without you. Computers should be used to teach real programming skills, not web surfing & games, which is a current plague among young people. Try teaching math instead, without a calculator, and not the brain dead 'new math'. The little cretins will learn all about social networking on their own.

You just had a levy in 2009 and there should be no need for another 5 years later. If you allocated the funds correctly the first time you would not be coming back for more. You need someone to track the technology. Every kid does not need a laptop to take home. Almost everyone has a home computer, smartphone or tablet. What is the accountability for someone that breaks their computer? Do you send the parent a bill and make them pay or float another taxpayer levy? We know the answer.

Teaching the good use of this technology is acceptable however if BU LL I NG and pornography are not blocked the proper learning will not be successful.

Using and learning technology is important but I believe it's taking away valuable one on one interactive time with our teachers. Students are losing the ability to learn social and communications skills. Computer/tablets being used to the extent they are in our schools are contributing to the social dysfunction we are seeing in students.

Technology is no substitute to learning basic information. It is important, but not "all important." Kids are on the computers so much that they don't even know how to handwrite anymore.

it is important for our kids to know how to use technology. However we must be careful they do NOT become so dependent on it they cannot think for themselves ie to realize an answer may not make sense. We would be better off with fewer but higher quality items that won't shut down w/o warning. Our kids would be better served with smaller classes with adult aides in each class to help kids and teachers. Kids would be better off with more art and cultural activity than an overemphasis on technology

I am a teacher and a tax payer. It is far more important for students to learn how to use physical books and use paper and pencil to collaborate than to pay a couple of billionaires to use their software. I pay over \$3000 a year in property taxes, more than half of which goes to the school district. I can't afford to pay my current taxes. How am I supposed to find money to pay for a levy we don't need?

Please see my subsequent remark.

None

While technology is not, and should not be, a replacement for face-to-face interaction and development of collaborative skills, it is an important tool for developing the collaborative skills needed for success in the present and the future.

Connect students to the community and nonprofits to support the work of the nonprofits while learning!

Should not take the place of books....

Technology is most effective under certain conditions: 1. when the actual devices are high quality and supported with necessary peripherals, like headphones for iPads/tablets. 2. when the teachers are supported with training and given some autonomy in the use of the devices, like app choice. 3. when each school has an instructional technology leader, like a media specialist/teacher-librarian, who can collaborate and co-teach to maximize positive impact on student learning.

Each student should possess their own lap-top computer, with the school supplying wireless internet access. Some assistance could be offered to students that TRULY need that assistance purchasing that computer.

Make it a point to have teachers trained, apps or software tested and equipment working before students get hardware.

It's their world. They've got to know how to deal with it.

I believe that preparing our students for their future is our job. Technology is now a critical component to the future of our students, therefore we have a responsibility to educate them in technology, with technology, and with current technology.

Collaboration is great when used correctly. However giving an example as a university is not correct as there is a difference in maturity from a middle schooler to a collage student.

Technology can only be used to achieve the mission if staff and students are adequately trained to use the technology. Otherwise, it is just another fad.

Teach technology, yes, defined by Ferndale Schools and drop Common Core and get our State politicians do that at the State level like a number of other states have.

Technology doesn't necessarily lead to collaboration. In fact, most of the time I see kids on technology, they are isolated from their peers. I think you are using a buzzword to look like technology is needed. This survey's questions are skewed to make it look like everything that you mentioned is "important" unless one answered "Not at All Important." It looks like Ferndale is up to its old tricks again...

Teachers need to be well-trained in order to make tech work in classrooms. From what I have heard, the training is hit and miss and the tech is often more of a distraction if the teacher isn't "on top of it."

I have been directly involved with computers since 1953. The most important characteristics to encourage in children are creativity and imagination; secondly, they must be able to communicate with spoken and written languages and with mathematics; thirdly, they must be able to work together for that is how our society progresses. The use of technological devices can be very helpful in achieving these goals, but they can not be achieved without high quality teachers and supportive parents.

Technology is only is good as the instruction on how to use it. Technology at the elementary level is more about things (ie: devices) than it is about teaching students how to use them. The focus is clearly on the middle and high school. Thus, we end up with sixth graders, entering middle school, with little to no experience actually using devices in a manner conducive to their learning.

Students need to understand how technology works and how to use it to reach a conclusion. They also need to know how to think critically and filter thru sources of information.

Collaboration is important regardless of whether or not technology is involved. Collaboration is about people working together with technology as a tool to be used if needed. Technology should not displace the basic concept of people working together.

Our students need to keep up with what currant and what's coming in today's technology to succeed in our world.

I believe it is important to have the technology AND of utmost importance to train the teachers how to use it so they can teach the students.

I think that technology is used way too much and personal communication not enough.

I do not believe the use of technology improves outcomes in any way when it comes to "the three Rs," which seem to be chronically under-valued in many circles. I do believe that all students should know how to find relevant and reliable information on the internet in a timely fashion, and that they ought to be literate in the use of spreadsheets and calculators. Beyond that, technology training is probably best done on a more targeted basis driven by the student's intended career path.

I want our students to be prepared for the modern world. That includes competence using technology for real tasks.

I don't think simply giving every student a laptop is the answer. There must be specific and intentional teaching about appropriate and effective use of technology in the academic environment. Students and staff should be trained together in what this looks like, as technology is constantly changing and we must adapt together. Computers do not equal life-long learners or collaborators -- it is the teaching behind the technology that achieves those goals.

The current 1:1 is slowing down learning, and has detracted from learning goals in the classroom. They have been poorly integrated.

Technology is a tool not the solution. Over emphasis on technology versus skill development is misleading

The world is moving rapidly with tech advances and we must keep up to compete with the world, or we'll fall further behind!!

Technology is important, but needs to be used in moderation. It can be used for collaboration and schoolwork, but some students are playing games and using it for purposes that do not support the educational goals that were in mind when the 1 on 1 technology is implemented. Also, we don't let our children hook their tablets or laptops to the internet at home because there is insufficient protections available to guard them against the undesirable elements on the internet.

My 8th grader has a school tablet to use at home and school, but my 10th grader does not...My thinking is my 10th grader needs it just as much as my 8th grader does.

The desired mode of communication among young adults is a constantly moving target! Email was quickly replaced by texting; texting was replaced by Snapchatting; and who knows what the next app-of-the-day will be. Supplying technology in order for students to communicate and collaborate would be outdated before the computers/tablets/phones/etc. were ever distributed, unless the students have the ability to install what they want to the devices.

The relationship between the student and teacher is more important than technology! Class size has a much larger impact on the learning process than technology. Money can be better spent on other things than worrying about students having access to technology whenever they want it.

I feel this the survey is asking questions we already know the answer too. What i would like to see is the school board make small classroom sizes a priority, stop over spending and spending money for "consultants" If lynden Sd can make small class sizes priority and still fund all the programs they do Ferndale can also.

Not clear here on what level of education you are waning this constant connection to electronics? It's not healthy to be exposed all day while in school. There are other interacting ways to learn.

I think our technology Missions are spot on. If we fail to provide our students with cutting edge technology we are handicapping them in terms of being able to compete in the workplace or in pursuing advanced education. I think one can argue about buildings but failing to embrace technology would be a serious failure of our community.

Having access to technology is important, but so is face to face work. So I wouldn't want to see students only encouraged to collaborate with others via technology. There is a balance somewhere. But on the other hand, our daughter attends Windward from out of district and her having access to a computer definitely is an asset to collaboration with others on projects.

already know how to collaborate and engage each other

Although using technology for student engagement/collaboration has its place, I think hands on working with others directly is just as important, if not more important, for satisfying social interaction and learning to work together.

My daughter was given a laptop for school/home use, but it appears the teachers are not utilizing them for a majority of assignments this year. I was under the impression this was the intended purpose of the grant, to intergrate technology into every subject.

It appears that this survey is suggesting that without immediate access to high tech tools students can not learn. How have students throughout history been able to understand the world around them without these tools. I believe that students left school 50 years ago with a much better understanding of history, geography, language and literature, mathematics and science using the basic tools of good text books and competent teachers. Certainly technology allows access to some information that

I agree that technology is an important tool for students and that it is crucial that students have a thorough understanding of how technology works and can be used as a tool. At the same time, I see a lot of money, time, and other resources being dedicated to technology to the detriment of important skills; creativity (noted by most tech people as a critical skill), social skills, face to face collaboration), etc. Technology is only a tool, engagement and collaboration need to be taught without this tool until a clear understanding on interacting with humans is achieved. Technology hinders engagement, collaboration and social interaction.

My biggest concern is that educators are not trained on how to best utilize technology and how to troubleshoot when technological issues arise. I know that some teachers have technology and do not utilize it as well as they should. I understand the fear and frustration that comes with teaching with technology, but it is essential for teachers to demonstrate how to handle issues without giving up to be good role models for students. Good professional development is a must!

Students need to learn how to collaborate. Sometimes they need models, instruction, etc. In person as well as electronically.

While I do believe it is important for us to teach students how to use technology effectively and incorporate it into their learning, I question going to a one to one model for all (perhaps device/laptop checkout on an as needed basis). Even many of our low-income students (though not all) have access to technology through, at least, a cell phone. I question whether our limited resources could be used more effectively at this time.

I think that providing students with devices 24/7 is not necessary at the middle school age. However, having devices available at school or check out to take home to work on things might be a better solution.

I do not want my child to have access to a cell phone at school or to be required to do work on/from a cell phone. deciding when my child is ready for access to a cell phone is a personal decision that I feel is mine to make, not the school's.

Technology is making it very impersonal. Young people are not learning how to interact with people but are able to hide behind technology. We are becoming more and more like hermits.

If you are going to use technology, you need to have programs in place to support this. Right now it is just another heavy thing to carry in their backpacks along with all their textbooks. The backpacks are very heavy...too heavy for children to be carrying around.

Develop external resources such as business in the community who work with software and hardware and bring them in to show how the knowledge gained by using technology is used in the day to day world

Please continue to issue tablets to ALL students in the Ferndale School District. It is very important for students to be fluent in technology and current trends in collaboration in the environment they will enter when they graduate from high school. I also feel that it is extremely important that very strong IT controls must be maintained on all devices issued to students. It there is some way to restrict YouTube and games, that would be very good.

First of all I would figure out who was responsible for loading windows on the Mac's and fire them. I mean how bone headed is that. Secondly, re evaluate the out sourcing of IT and get a District IT Department re established.

I fully support technology in the classroom, but please make sure the teachers get the proper training on using it.

I believe that teachers need to be trained on programs/systems AT LEAST several weeks prior to the expectation of teaching those programs/systems to students, so we can become adequately familiar with them. It is also very frustrating that teachers do not have access to Canvas yet. We need a lot of time to create teacher webpages, and with that in mind, it may take weeks if not months to set that up. With the current timeline, many teachers likely won't even be able to use Canvas this year.

Kids don't need to have a screen in front of them at all times. Computer/technology classes could be offered for students interested in this path. Having screens in front of them at all times is not productive as it is a distraction. There is a time and place for technology.

The use of technology in our society is extremely important. However, I find working with ELL students there is a need to be able to fall back on the good ol' textbook, worksheet or book. Many of these students also come from poverty, and from countries with less technology in the schools. We complicate the English learning process in content subject areas when they also have to become familiar with tech. While I believe technology is extremely important for students, I think there is always a necessary balance. For example, I don't believe Kindergarten students need to have the same access to technology as middle or high school students do.

practical professional development is just as important as having the device; the software staff and students are expected to use needs to be efficient, run smoothly and allow collaboration; universal design for learning and using accessible instructional materials is vital to engaging/reaching all learners (learning disabled, deaf/HOH; visually impaired; life skills, etc); we need technology support and buyin for a variety of devices/platforms, not just Windows.

Technology is a wonderful opportunity for all of us. With it comes much responsibility for the user. It is extremely critical that children learn ethical behaviors online and that they each pledge "no abuse" online at any time for any reason, whether personal technology or school technology.

let student get more time to take tests on the computer

can i I MEAN they....can they have 1 break:)

these are junk and we have problems with them

it gives a chance 4 kids to prepare 4 the new genoraton :) these compoters suck at most stuff make BIG mistakes

Please give us better computers these don't work write

I think using technology will help students to learn about computers and help them in there future with technology.

I would like the computers to help me advance in math and help me type better.

As important as I believe technology is, I think it is most important for teachers to have access to technology and know how to use what is available in our schools. I like students having access to and knowing how to use it, but I don't want students to get the idea that using technology is the only way to learn. They also need to learn patience and that not everything they want and need is going to be at their fingertips at all times. How do they find the information if technology is not avail

Rebuild north bellingham elementary!!!!!!

So far it has been my experience (30 years running my own architectural and engineering business with almost all of my work in some location other than Washington State) that technology is a useful tool for many, many activities. And, it does not necessarily improve communication, collaboration, or creativity. I believe these important strengths are best learned face to face. Example: current brain research tells us that most communication is contained in voice tone, body & facial expressions.

Students need to learn to communicate without technology.

Because there has not been anything in place to promote responsibility and accountability in using the devices, my impression is that for a significant number of students who fail to bring them, do not have them charged, have lost the charger, mistreat the devices, and are too often using them for games and music not associated with the curriculum and learning, they have been more of a distraction than a help. It is also unreasonable to expect Paras to assist the students without a device.

Si la tecnologia se utiliza para aprender esta bien pero cuando la escuela o el maestro lo utiliza para que el alumno se distraiga para que no moleste a los demas o al maestro sin importar que es lo que esta observando el alumno, creo que no es lo correcto. La computadora deberia de no tener acceso a cosas que no sea de aprendizaje, estoy en desacuerdo en que los pongan a ver lo que ellos quieran; a la escuela se va a aprender.

quit stealing my money and wasting it

We have had MANY new technological devices placed in our classrooms, yet there has been VERY LITTLE TRAINING provided for teachers to use them efficiently and to best meet the needs of students! I often spend an entire planning time TRYING to figure something out, on a program or a device. Yet, I am not able to do so within such limited planning time, and I feel as if I have wasted my planning time altogether!!

Technology is also a concern of ours as parents. Young children around the world are "recruited" by organizations that are extreme and radical, because the internet exists. We have to be careful, because this type of thing did not exist before and extremists can prey on vulnerable children/young adults via the internet. It used to be 12 or so young adults per year "recruited" to extremist organizations, now the numbers are in the thousands per year worldwide. Textbooks are still invaluable.

Training, training, training, communication and a strong plan for professional development with any purchase. . . . and or change in technology. We have resources that are not being used to their full capacity because of lack of time to spend figuring out how to use the technology of lack of training. Do not add more to teacher's already full agenda without support.

*When sharing a computer, or an idea on a computer, kids are collaborative. When all alone, they are not going to collaborate. * Students still need to be able to use pencil and paper.

Without boundaries, such as time related boundaries, students have foregone sleep in order to collaborate. It is important that students also be given specific parameters regarding collaboration and the use of internet or cell related collaboration technologies.

I feel ALL high school students should have the same access to all the technology opportunities. I realize the cost will be up, but listening to the kids (2017-2015) they are bitter that they are not give the same opportunities as 2018 and beyond.

Instant & immediate access to information promotes procrastination. In a classroom setting, access to a device is an added distraction--find a way to limit access to the subject at hand. Surprisingly enough, I was able to complete many group projects at university without "technology"--it is a tool, not the answer to everything-present it and teach it as such. "Technology" does not foster interaction or teach social skills--it isolates and disengages.

In many ways, technology makes student collaboration MORE difficult. However, this is on the teacher more than on the technology itself. I personally do not use technology to foster collaboration, but I would like to know ways to do this. (For context, I use technology all the time in my instruction, such as directing kids to my website. I just don't know what's out there for greater collaboration).

I would rather have more computer carts available in our buildings instead of the 1:1 model.

Technology (in the form of computers and tablets) can be extremely useful tools, but they can also be used to distract and to waste time. I think we need to emphasize the importance of moderation with all things technology. It doesn't replace genuine relationships and the ability to be able to communicate with people face to face. I worry about our youth and their disconnectedness to the natural world. Many people think technology is the answer to everything, but I'm not so sure.

Technology is an amazing tool, but I'm concerned it may inhibit critical thinking if over-used. We've already experienced our child's tendency to simply give up on a question if the answer is not readily avail. on google or Wikipedia. A strong work ethic and mastery of basic reading, writing, math and science must remain the highest priority. Technology should serve in support of this, but in a measured way. I'm very happy for the computers at Horizon. I only encourage balance. Thanks!

The technology only helps if we can access the sites our students need to maximize their learning of the Common Core standards. For example, just having iPads does not make them useful, having access to the sites we need at our grade level that kids can use to make the gains they need to make is!

Smartboards would be a great use of technology funds. Individual student devices wastes time, money and has kids staring at a screen instead of interacting and engaging with classmates and teacher.

What about modernizing north bellingham elementary! Without north Bellingham elementary open I will vote no on all levies and bonds!!!!!

students have been learning to collaborate with others long before computers and the internet.. face to face works for some great social engaging between folks

I have been spending quite a bit of time in the Middle School classrooms recently. I have observed nothing but interrupted class time, and constant distractions as a result of the tablets being used in the classrooms. They are a great tool for children who do not have access to a computer at home, but they should remain out of the classroom setting.

One to one isn't effective as it seems to be about acess rather than education. My kids (one in HS and one in MS) have only used their devices to type some papers. They have also been isntructed to go to websites for enrichment, but they just play around at a level that is easy. My kids report that during class students regularly are playing games, checking email & surfing the net. If you want tech in classes, teachers need to be taught on how to do this, as it stands, its a waste of money.

Collaborating with other students is a great idea in a perfect world where every student wants to be in class & wants to learn. But when a student who wants to work hard & succeed is paired with students who don't take their work seriously, it frustrates & hinders the hard worker to the point of hating class & the teachers/district that force cooperative work on them. You acknowledge the need for students to work at different paces (mission 2); let them work alone or choose their own partners!

Students must know each other well in order to collaborate with impersonal technology. Early teens are especially emotionally vulnerable, and they will need preparation in the classroom to carry off a meaningful collaboration at a distance via technology.

I feel that many students can enjoy the benefits of collaborating with others but it can also cause a lot of distraction and wasted classroom time when students are teamed up and given too much "collaboration" time without strict time limits and deadlines in place. Just like in a workplace, many employers seek employees who can work in a group setting.

While access to computers is important I do not believe it is the schools responsibility to provide computers at home for students. Schools should have adequate computers for all students at school and some available for check out to students who don't have access at home. Giving each kid a computer takes funds that should be used at the school for further education.

Technology classes should be held for the community so that parents can help their students at home using the devices that the students bring home.

The technology available to me presently at Cascadia Elementary is basically unusable. Our pod computers do not function most days. I call the technology support every time we use these pod computers. Even the simple tasks are difficult. Word is not easy for students to access, printing is often impossible (as printers go off line regularly), updating takes 20 minutes. All these factors make computers more of a bother than a support to education. My computer is not operational 100% either. Learning the application of technology for solving everyday problems, as well as business applications. All of our school buildings need to be upgraded to accommodate new technology. I fully support this levy renewal.

I think that technology is important in this day and age. HOWEVER, I think that the old fashioned "basics" are equally important, especially learning to actually write!!!!!

I hope that the kids won't have their noses glued to their electronic devices. There should be time where kids can interact by conversing between each other as well.

Your survey is slanted toward the outcome you want. Technology is NOT the answer to educational excellence. Go back to the basics of math, quality literature and writing skills, and the history of this great country. Allow your teachers to teach the body of knowledge that this country was founded on and built its greatness on, and stop exchanging your teachers for "facilitators" who propagandize our children with multiculturalism and deconstructionism.

The technology access is one of the few ways that students education can be customized/differentiated to their individual needs for their level of learning. Schools can't have enough teachers for that level of individualization so hopefully technology can be a resource.

Collaboration is extremely valuable in the teaching process as well. The capability of accessing the most dynamic educators digitally and bringing their expertise it every classroom to expand upon the efforts of the classroom teacher is critically important if the goal is to provide students with the best resources for learning that are available.

The tablets don't work like they should and teachers never use them in classrooms.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gM95HHI4gLk Khan Academy style of learning allows teachers to challenge students at different paces since you are cramming 30 students per teacher. Students with the ability to learn at a faster pace are waiting for the teacher to work with slower learning students. It's just not fair and I am tired of doing my part at home and watching my teacher do her part yet with the class size and mix it is impossible to provide my son with a excellent education.

This generation seems to be inherently tech savey. I personally do not like the way education is trending and I don't believe technology is a substitute for the classroom and professionalism from the teachers. I think you can lean too heavy on technology and miss the greater gains from direct social interaction and relationships.

Replacing face-to-face interaction 100% with technology interaction is absolutely not desirable in my opinion. No more than 50% replacement. . .

If Ferndale is going to do this correctly, they need to provide quality equipment, not just the cheapest model - that breaks down after a year or two.

the Dell laptop portable cart lab that the 4th & 5th grades share at Cascadia are very poor quality. It takes my class an average of 10 minutes to log on. The computers are slow and the windows platform is not as intuitive as the mac. I know the reason for switching from Mac to PC was to save money... but this savings comes at the expense of teacher/student time and learning opportunities.

I think that the level of importance of technology varies depending on age and subject matter. Training of staff in the use of technology at the elementary level has been, frankly, terrible. As such, our new technology and the money spent on it is wasted. Employing librarians as leaders in this area would be my first choice in seeing technology used in a beneficial way in elementary schools. And all professional training should occur during contract areas with appropriate support in follow-up

It is also critical that teachers have the opportunity to work collaboratively using the same technology that students are working with.

In order for students to be able to collaborate with people in other locations, internet at home in necessary. Many areas in our districts only have slow dial up internet connections, which can make research time consuming. Also, some families cannot afford home internet, and for whatever reason, cannot take advantage of the occasional offer from Comcast for low cost internet. Before work is required of students at home on the internet, these issues need to be addressed.

It is difficult to watch students trying to use their devices at any time they feel like it for any reason they feel like it in class. With devices, I have noticed that there seems to be less teacher control, more opposition, and less attention paid to the teacher of the class. Management becomes a daunting task. They want to use it all the time, teachers want them to use it when it is important for their lesson. I have seen many teachers just give up and let kids control the situation.

Students need to be able to read and write in a variety of formats. They also need to be able to interact with others appropriately in a variety of settings; technology is not a cure-all for any of these things. Technology is diverting our attention and resources away from people - teachers and students - and away from learning behaviors that apply to all kinds of formats and situations.

When the district purchases inferior products it creates an environment of frustration for students and teachers. If you are going to commit to technology do it the right way. Enough quality computers, useful programs and training for all!

people play games on these tablets.

The advantages of technology seem endless. While we are using it for so many things in our lives, I think it is important that we find balance between human interaction and technology, that we remember to shut down (too many people, in my opinion, are plugged in 24/7), and that we look more seriously at back-up plans (it is frustrating to hear someone say, "oh, the computer is down." When it happens to me I feel not only frustrated, but embarrassed and incompetent.

This levy should fail. Not because of Ferndale's system, because of other State mandated programs that do not recognize the importance of tech education. A tech program should be a no brainer for the State to fund 100%. A levy should not be necessary. I plan to rally against any new levy until the time the State focuses on the success of educated individuals who can add to society. Not for those who will always be a ward of the State.

Give us laptops that aren't as heavy and make sure that all textbooks can be accessed through them so that we don't have to carry heavy laptops and heavy textbooks.

Focus needs to be on the basics. Even students with good grades have a significant lack of knowledge on the fundamentals of math, English, and science. Do not teach to tests, but use tests to evaluate the effectiveness of teaching.

I believe technology "gets in the way" of students working collaboratively. They pay more attention to the technology than to the person who is in front of them. Teaching communication skills (active

listening, conflict resolution) would be time better spent. The technology is changing so rapidly it's crazy
to think that the school district can keep up.I'm sorry to see that you are trying. Gadgets should not be
the focus the students and their ability to interact with one another should be.
please modernize and reopen north Bellingham
elementary!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
fix north Bellingham elementary
now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Fix north Bellingham elementary, what an
eyesore!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
reopen north Bellingham elementary
soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
modernize and remodel the 1938 building at north Bellingham elementary
soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
please fix north Bellingham elementary for elementary
students!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
repair and remodel north Bellingham
elementary!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

repair north Bellingham
elementary!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
remodel north Bellingham
elementary!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Collaboration is critical and is wholly dependent upon good communication skills. Learning
communication as well as collaboration, should first occur with others is a common space and time
(physically close). Young people often do not yet tools to navigate the myriad intricacies of effective
communication (skills such as reading body language, tone, intonation, sarcasm). Learning these skills,
and then transferring them to "flattened" communication through technology is critical for success.
repair north Bellingham elementary
now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
fix the 1938 building at north Bellingham elementary and reopen as an elementary school!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
5G1001
repair the roof at north Bellingham elementary and reopen!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
repair north Bellingham elementary and reopen as an elementary school if you know what is good for you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
you
you better reopen north Bellingham elementary soon, I'm watching
you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
you better reopen north Bellingham elementary soon soon soon
soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
burn down north Bellingham elementary so it can be
rebuilt!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
I'm losing my patience with you, you better fix north Bellingham elementary
soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
people's patience is running out you better fix north Bellingham elementary
soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

repair north Bellingham elementary soon soon
soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
modernize and repair north Bellingham elementary
soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
run a bond to repair and modernize north Bellingham elementary
soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
repair north Bellingham elementary
soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
repair north Bellingham
elementary!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
maintain the buildings that you have
now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Bellingham
elementary!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
I believe we need computers in our classrooms more than each student have their own computer.
Virtually all kids now learn about social networking and basic computer use at home. What they're not
getting is sufficient instruction in basics that require memorization such as times tables, spelling,
grammar & parts of speech and scientific principles. Where they do need help with computers is at the
high school level. All students should graduate with an understanding of coding, hardware and
technology security. Those are the kind of things that would actually be useful later.
I still believe the traditional way of teaching is what is best. Libraries, research, etc Technology is not

the key to success.. If technology is the teaching way to go, why have hire and pay teachers with my tax dollars.

Manual problem solving is most important. Once you know how to do it manually, you can utilize technology to speed up the process. Don't focus too heavily on technology as the be all end all solution as if students don't fully understand what the technology is doing, they really are not learning. Concentrate on the three R's, history and civics. The technology can be learned anytime. Don't leap onto a keyboard before learning to use a pen and pencil and turn the pages of a book. If the big, electromagnetic surge happens, techno-kids need the real world to fall back upon. Don't let them become strangers in the real world.

In addition to equipping classrooms with sufficient hardware and software, please don't overlook the need for continual staff development to help teachers learn how to integrate technology use with their content areas and various student needs.

I think para educators should have computers and technology as well as teachers as they work one on one and in small groups with students, but with out these items they are unable to help students and teachers with students that need more time and help.

It's imperative that ALL students have access to WORKING laptops during school hours. Doing research and writing papers is a huge part of high school and virtually impossible without this technology.

I feel like I have already taken this survey, but I received another reminder today. I know that I have been to the link, but maybe it didn't get turned in successfully. I am not meaning to unfairly have my views weighted by doing it twice, but maybe the last one wasn't successful. Thank you!

I have a BS in Engineering from UW, and I'm in my 30's. I rarely used computers before getting to college. Even at university, "collaboration" was best achieved with face to face interactions. I find it far more important for teachers and staff to have access to technology to plan engaging lessons, rather than handing every student a tablet to do internet searches.

We are ok w/our kids using technology at school. But, it stays at school. I as a parent do not like the responsibility of dealing w/the tablets at home. Our kids do have internet access. But, we do not let them on the Wi Fi on their tablets. B/c- they have misused their tablets. Saying they are doing their homework, when they are messaging vtheir friends, emailing, looking up stuff that is inappropriate, or videoing themselves, ir taking selfies of themselves. Instead, of doing their homework. \Box

You left no way to download printer drivers for home printers. Bonehead decision on FSD part. i believe they should use computers in the lab like i had to in school. it makes for a better learning environment and forces them to make better use of their time, not playing around on other sites.. i believe that they should have free reign on the internet while at school.. and only focus on text books and library research

I voted for the last Tech Levy, but will probably not in the future. You spent too much money for the tech center which duplicated the Police Station EOC. The Schools do not need an EOC when you have the state of the art system at the Ferndale Police. This was not listed on the last tech levy, but happened anyway. I do not trust the Administration and School Board to spend the money on Kids. I would envision that the District Office will all get new computers including the School Board!!!!!

I think teachers need to be trained adequately, have professional development time and money available to integrate technology into the curriculum well - not on their own after the lap top rollout. The high school staff could have been better prepared about the rollout this year and the upcoming 8th graders and how the tech went at the middle schools last year. We found out very late in the year last year. Level 1/2 ELL/ESL students need a computer literacy class/help and basic English classes.

I do not believe younger students (middle school and younger) should be given tablets or laptops to take home for home use. I have a nephew who is a middle school student (Ferndale district) and issued a tablet for home use. The only thing he does with it is to take selfies and silly videos. He does not use it for school related work or projects. Not a good use of technology dollars. How about a ck out while at school program? Meanwhile, there are not enough computers at the high school level.

Personal interaction is equally as important. Social skills and the ability to collaborate as well as give and receive constructive criticism in live groups is equally as important of a skill.

If you ask me for \$ invest more in tech, do it right. Devices should not go home with kids. They crouch down next to houses on their way home using unlocked internet to access all the evils in the world. Put controls on the devices, or leave them at school. Train teachers to use the devices, even if it means paying them to come in on Saturdays. Shop around. Why in the world did you spend 600 per unit for something advertised on tv for less than 60 % of that? 1000 kids means you flushed much \$!

I believe that public education is being misused as training for the corporate structure now existing in the U.S. and around the world. Public education should instead be focusing on developing engaged citizens, yes, able to think critically and creatively and to collaborate. Just not for the express purpose of making a living. Life is so much more than that and public education has a responsibility to address the whole person. Thinking about technology use as a tool is fine, just limited.

Technology is important to learn how to use, navigate, and most importantly how to protect yourself while using. If you're talking money well spent, smaller class sizes a better investment. Smaller class size allows more one on one with teacher - considering how fast paced learning has become it is vital to have more one on one time with the teachers. Parents should be held accountable for their children! i also think it is extremely important that you hire certificated librarians to help students with current research practices, citations and website evaluation. My 3 kids have gotten NONE of that since the oldest was in 3rd grade. (Now 11th) I had a long conversation with my students' Honors English teacher who agree that our students are behind Bellingham's students who DO have certificated libraians to ensure the success of ALL students when using and integrating technology.

I believe it is much more important for students to be able to collaborate with others face to face, for them to have the skills to listen, maintain eye contact, etc. than to collaborate using blogs, etc. Student engagement and student talk should focus on interactions in the classroom rather than through a device. Equal, appropriate access for ALL students at all grade levels!

Its as difficult area to monitor content as the students are constantly attempting to override firewalls and access inappropriate sites.

I think the biggest problem this year has been content on the devices. The text books need to be in PDF format and not just accessible from a website that is difficult to read on the tablet's display. Also, a lighter tablet like an iPad would have been a much better choice (and cheaper to manage) for most work, or for a laptop, a MacBook Air 11 has all day battery life, and is lighter than the tablets, and faster. Maybe we should have waited 1 more year for the hardware to be available.

Provide more technology-related vocational training opportunities, e.g. 3-D laser printers, welding equipment, electronics shop, etc. Provide training in the use of GIS and CAD software and their products.

What ever happened to teaching the kids to do their own reading, writing, math. How about teaching them to use the library, or to talk to each other. Maybe if they had more "face time" with each other and less technology in every classroom, there'd be less guns taken to school.

It would be nice if the tablets provided to our middle schooler's function better. There seems to be on going issues with the tablet currently being used. As it took my daughter 15-20 minutes to get logged onto the tablet. The key board connection is a faulty especially when you have to blow in the connection to try to get the key board to work. So, with that being said if we do need a bit better devices for our kids to use. However I do not believe this means raising taxes or asking for more \$.

I would support a computer lab properly staffed and an activity bus. It is not necessary to provide each student with technology for home. I believe more than 90% of households have the technology needed. If not the case, our city has provided the most up to date, top dollar library and with public transportation.

Writing can begin much sooner with technology. Students have stories to tell but not all of them have the fine motor for letter and word formation. Technology lets kids be authors much sooner.

I agree that students should have access to up-to-date information, however, that does not require one device per child. I do not believe that technology is the key to providing students the ability to learn at their own pace. Trained teachers are the key. The teachers I have spoken to have indicated that the devices have not allowed them to differentiate, and are more of a distraction than an actual aide to better instruction. Clearly better resources and training for teachers are needed.

Must have controlled access and measured time away from developing one-to-one and group social and communications skills, regardless of technology.

Emphasize on tools that will allow for students to collaborate, such as Google Drive.

I think the access to technology is very important at the high school level, especially for students preparing for college. However, I have to say that for my current 8th grader (and during last year as well), it has been challenging at times for him to look up the info he needs for homework. The lack of a text book at home puts a lot of pressure on the student to be able to find the info on the computer. I feel this creates a gap in their completion & understanding of homework assignments.

One to one is not a proven method to raise student achievement - you should read current data collected from other states that have discontinued this practice.

Ferndale School District Technology Survey Comments received for Question No. 10

Q10. What additional information, if any, do you need about the proposed 2015 Technology Levy?

What exactly will the money be used for and who will make decisions/implement the levy?

Technology is changing rapidly and I am not sure that buying new equipment is better that leasing equipment that can be upgraded regularly. Giving students I-pads makes no sense to me. I believe having them available at school is important but not at home.

What % of levy funds goes to the 1:1 program for students. I'm not sure this is the best use of funds to get technology to each student k-12. I do feel we need more computers in classrooms or more laptop carts in buildings, but I'm not sure it is economical for every student to have a tablet/laptop as a take home. I would like to see more data about this and rationale for why the district chose to go this route instead of another. What public input was used to reach this decision?

What is the accountability for the funds being used for technology. Past decisions seem to have resulted in consulting services/committees that resulted in decisions which seem to cause more problems than they resolved.

I would like to see transparency of where this money is going and what the planning for decisions is. What would the \$ be used for? How would this tax increase directly effect my children and improve their learning? Fancy tech does not teach, teachers do. Money for more staff in the classrooms and libraries would be a better use of tax dollars that a new tablet my kids can play games on and chat with their friends.

Commitments from the district on how the funds will be used.

I need to know that the decisions being made about purchases are longer term, meaning I want to be assured that QUALITY is more important to the district than CHEAP. It seems like past tech purchases have been made based on least expensive, which has turned out to be very costly in the long run in teacher and staff troubleshooting time and lost learning time for students. I want the district to RESEARCH & purchase the BEST available products that will last for the long haul and not fall apart.

none because i don't care really

You don't need more money you just need to use it for important things.

Specifics about the priorities of how the district will spend the levy money. Hopefully these choices will not be top down decisions, but carefully gathered information from teachers and students and parents.

How much of the money will be spent on salaries? I can not support something that takes public money and makes a gift to students (first pads now laptops).

Details of what will be the focus, and how the school district will make sure that the path is not deviated I would like to know about what brands of equipment is being looked at.. I noticed a bunch of Apple products with a multi-operating system. We all know that an apple product can cost up to twice as much for an equivalent PC. We are always told technology levy but are never given more details as to what they money will be used for.

I need to see that the money requested is spent the way it was promised. I need to see equity among schools and staff. I need to see the resources we buy, used wisely. Finally I need to see the students getting the most and the administration getting less. For example, we produce an incredible amount of colored printing for staff and administration. Getting even a single student created product printed in color is nearly an act of congress. This type of thinking must stop.

I have no idea.

I used to be very supportive of education tax increases, but the arguments for more money have been the same for decades and nothing seems to get better. Where is the analysis - how much was collected since 2009? how was it spent? what improvements resulted? In this last section, is "staff" teachers or administrators? What is lacking in wi-fi, infrastructure, professional development? Initiative 1351 puts a big question mark on what the taxpayer can afford.

Make sure the financial figures make it into the local papers and on the radio so that more people are educated on this and can make an informed decision when they vote.

Show me better results in the education the kids receive for the money I already pay. Sticking kids in front of computers is not a proper education. More supervision is needed for what already have. Pay to have more people in the classroom helping. And raise the pay for those who do work in the classroom, especially for substitute teachers who have not had a raise in nine years. There might not be a shortage of substitutes if you paid them better. Also improve discipline.

I will not support any bond or levy that the district presents as long as the current administration is in power. No further information will be helpful, nor will it sway my vote.

Need evidence that the past technology has favorably impacted student learning. My impression is that the quality of secondary education is NOT improving. Voters have just approved a smaller class size initiative in this election -- but didn't identify how it will be funded. I won't vote YES for any additional local tax levies of any kind until the funding source for this is clear. I support good secondary education but not on an unlimited funding basis. There is only so much tax money!!!!!!!

Sell excess property and use it for this!

It's more important that we pay less in taxes. My student has learned on her own how to use technological devices. We do not need another tax to purchase "the newest" equipment to accomplish "the Mission." My student is struggling with Algebra II. More taxes and a new computer is not going to help her.

I think people will want to know if this is a replacement levy or an increase. They will also want to know more about the bond before making a decision.

I would like to know in detail what infrastructure improvements are proposed, what age children are being exposed to which technology, what sort of instruction is occurring via computing devices. I currently believe children could be taught effectively with little or NO computing infrastructure, and that young people get all the exposure they need to computers outside of school.

Rebuilding portions of FHS is my highest priority. I would not vote for a tech levy without knowing the proposal for the bond. The bond will have a greater chance of passing if the effects of the tech levy and the bond could be known together.

We pay enough taxes now. Live within your budget like the general population has to !!!

how many more administrators will you be hiring? get back to teaching the basics -

I would want to know what grade levels we are trying to improve. We don't need the state of the art for Primary level. Almost all children have technology at home, what are we giving them that they are not getting at home. I need to know what the children will get for the money that you are asking.

Money is not the answer all the problems in our educational system.

Again, to what degree is does this levy go in support for infrastructure vs. teacher hardware/software vs. student devices.

Again, I support, reducing technology in the schools. I believe it is negatively impacting basic skill acquisition especially at the elementary level. I believe that less time spent with technology will better serve all our students. If there is anywhere that I find it acceptable it would be at the high school level. This is predicated though on there being actual training and support for teachers use of technology first, which according to my sources is absolutely absent.

How many units of technology does the school district believe is necessary?

It would be nice to know what and how the current resourses are being utilized. I view this as a home budget, If i can't afford something i need, I try to find a way to cut expenses.

we recognize through the wording of the survey questions that the responses will skew the outcome of the survey to reinforcing the need for this levy by the school district.

Why do you continue to ask for additional funds when existing bonds / levies are not retired?

How much is funded by the state like they are doing now, they have a bad record, but the people just voted to really raise every school' taxes, by hugh amounts.

None.

There is no need to replace outdated or non functional equipment. If you had accountability on the technology you issued then it would be in perfect working order or replaced by the parent of the student that broke or "lost" it. The computer(s) I use at home are 5 years old and work perfectly with any software or "improvement" that has occurred in the last 10 years. Stop fleecing the taxpayer for your irresponsible accountability. Working in the IT field I know about this subject.

Senior citizens should not be taxed at the same level as those who have children attending the Ferndale district schools. Senior citizen should have a lower tax rate.

I will be voting NO on anything this district puts forward until there is a change in our district leaders, starting with Linda Quinn. This change at the district level could encourage me to vote YES in the future.

What would be the new numbers.

Would this include training for students, staff and interested parents. Specifics on what would be purchased and how it would be used. Would the money be evenly distributed through the grades or would most of it go to the high school, middle schools or elementary schools.

Several respected educators have expressed concern about how the extensive use of technology by students tends to isolate them from immediate personal face-to face social interaction. I believe this is a legitimate concern and that it is essential that educators recognize this issue and be appropriately trained and monitored in teaching methods that address this concern effectively.

None

I'm not supportive of the tech levy unless it includes the reinstatement of full time media specialists at each school.

None

I really have NO confidence in the superintendent or school board. You seem to word surveys in such a way as to get the response you want. Overall I think Ferndale School District is slow going down the drain. the respect and confidence is no longer there from the community.

I do not live in the district, so am unable to vote.

We only vote for a technology levy if Ferndale Schools makes a sensible change to the fiasco school levy last time and makes an attempt to opt out of Common Core.

Why the heck do you think every kid needs a computer to take home? Most of the kids I know just use the thing to play games and facebook in the evenings. Why not have computers (laptops) available in the schools for teachers to use? This would be cheaper. In addition, parents would not have to deal with the added headache of their kids on a computer. How much trouble can they get into without their parent's supervision. o taxes. City of Ferndale isF thinking of raising taxes. Where does it end? It never will. I dont get raises, neither will you manage what you have

I would expect the funds request to be backed up with a statement of purpose, a plan for accomplishment, a needs assessment, a budget for using the funds, and a schedule for reaching the goals. I would expect the project to be led by one individual who answers to the superintendent and is accountable for its success. Again, teaching the students, not just getting more devices, is what is best for the students. Without that, much of the tech levy fund is a waste.

I am one of the few who believes it is a good idea to educate the young to prepare to run the economy tomorrow.

What you actually plan to do with the money.

Technology is good but hands on is important. Many students do not know the basic math skills to do things without a computer. Teashing them 'what ifs' are better than having a lot of technology information.

Why do you mention the FHS bond in this survey?? They seem like completely different topics! And how about the other high school?

If there's a tax increase, the community must receive detailed reports on how money is planned to be used and we must receive bi-annual spending reports in the mail or thru the students bringing them home from school. I support these types of taxes ONLY if the come along with integrity and accurate accountability!!

I think the levy rate should stay the same.

give real property values instead of a low ball amount of 200,000.00, so it looks like you are not being taxed so much. I hate it when our IQ is insulted.

I feel updating IT systems at the High school level is a waste of money from other information i've read. I would not support a levy at all if it included funding for the High school unless is was for devises themselves, no upgrading of communication systems or wires.

More about what specific equipment and staff support is planned to be included in the technology levy.

I personally feel that the technology is being under utlized in the schools, my daughter mostly uses the devices to surf the internet (youtube) at home. I would prefer stronger controls for at home use.

Would like to see a plan for how the money is to be spent over the life of the levy. You are asking for money for infrastructure changes and at the same time talking about totally rebuilding Ferndale High School. So, would you spend any money on updating computer systems at the high school only to tear down the school in the coming years???? Does not sound like a good use of taxpayers money. Until you can show you are responsibly spending money, I will not approve any future levies.

how about more info? this survey doesn't really tell me anything.

The community needs specific information about how this money will be spent. What is the content of on-line curricula? Can they be reviewed by the public the way a traditional text can be?

The government needs to live within there own means and fund more to the schools to prevent tax increases! Ultimately all of this needs to be done sooner then later!

careful accounting of money used for technology

Until the Ferndale School District develops a plan that outlines the long term costs and expenditures of which is economically sound and achievable I will not vote yes on any bond measures it presents. I have no faith that they know how to properly manage or spend tax payer money and I will work as hard as possible to help defeat bonds.

Please make it clear it is a replacement levy. I know many community members are not thrilled with the 1 to 1 program in the middle school. The positive effects of this program needs to brought to the public.

Is this so we can go to a one to one ratio for all students? If this is the case, my support of the levy will be questionable. I believe that keeping technology current is important. However, the district is clearly not viewed favorably by the community right now, and I think we need to prioritize. Many of our facilities are in poor shape (the high school, Custer). This is more important, in my view. We may be asking too much of people in a questionable economy if we are trying to do both.

These past two questions are really useless. How much is a "slight" increase exactly? It is disingenuous to ask this question about support without defining what the actual financial contribution will be. There is simply no trust after the last Bond vote debacle where my taxes would have increased by over \$300/yr. Was that considered a "slight" increase?

ALL staff should have equal access to computers. At this time many classified staff DO NOT.

Will these funds be used at the old high school when you plan to build a new one? This would seem wasteful. Teachers should be required to use this technology to communicate more with parents. Teachers should have access to, and be required to use, easy websites that update parents on what they are working on in the classroom.

Don't throw huge numbers at the voters. I believe the last bond issue failed because it was presented incorrectly. Voters were presented with the bottom line and it was too big.

Please ensure all students are treated equally with the Technology support.

can we have tablets

the computers are not very successful they are hard to use and we need new computers for the school!

What about north bellingham elementary!

To continue the above comment, Paras who work with students with devices should themselves have a device so that they can be familiar with how the devices function, know how to use the software, can be familiar with the online curriculum and assignments and have access to Skyword to check missing assignments and areas where an individual needs more help.

Que nos informen o expliquen a detalle los programas que se van a usar y como piensan aplicarlos con los estudiantes y el personal (maestros y personal docente)

how much money is wasted on administration

We come from Wisconsin, where property taxes are very high and traditionally the majority of this money went to schools. Wisconsin still has one of the BEST education systems in the U.S. as a result of this. We don't understand why people in Washington are not very supportive of schools in general - we rank 47 and that is simply unacceptable to our family; it's a disgrace. Schools should not have to continuously ask for money via levies and bonds - the money should be built into the system!

specific communication about what the technology levy will be used for. . . Support. . . . Support for existing technology before we take on new things.. . . .

I don't live in the district, and thus don't vote in the district.

Para Educators need devices to teach, check email (a contractual piece) and grade.

I think the current staff and even new special staff needs to be on top and trained in policing all the social medias the kids have. This could help in a lot of different situations. Knowing the kids inside school walls and outside would help keep all kids safe.

Nowhere in this survey is student access to the internet outside of schools addressed. The assumption of the school district that all households have internet access readily available so students can have "instant and immediate" access to information is irritating and presumptuous, to say the least, and puts those students and the families in a postition of hardship and sets the student up for failure. What is being done about this?

Our schools are spending money and asking for more funding before auditing each school and department to see where to cut costs. Our schools are hemorrhaging money without the benefit of higher overall student progress. It's time for our school district to take accountability for poor leadership and poor un-researched decisions and not blame the lack of funding for student scores. It's also time to get rid of teachers not willing to put in minimal effort and who are adversarial with parents.

Explicit and transparent communication with the Ferndale/Custer/Lummi citizens.

"\$3.80 per month" makes no sense in this context. Do you mean \$38 per year on a \$200,000 home (\$0.19*200=\$38.00)? Given that you seem to have given incorrect information, I think the survey writer needs a little more education.... When you say "overall property tax rate increases" do you mean the tech levy would increase above \$0.19? Or do you mean the general tax rate would increase (with or without the tech levy)? The first consideration in proposing a levy should be given to the economic health of those being charged. My

income is not keeping pace with inflation at present, so I personally will not favor an increase at this time (although I could manage to support a status quo levy). That being said, when times were better, I voted for a higher levy, and may again in similar circumstances.

let the parents help fund improvement rather than property owners who may live in the school district but have no children in school. the schools don't need new computers every year when the rest of the population doesn't get them. please stop dumping on property owners to fund everything. some of us are on fixed incomes.

None. \$3.80 is a nominal amount if it aids the future success of our children or gives them any edge for future college or professional plans.

If the levy continues to support the use of tablets in the classroom, I will not be supporting it. If it will fund the necessary computers etc for the staff, I will be voting yes.

I would like to know what specifically it is going toward and what ideas are proposed to change or help the current one to one policy to make it an effective tool for learning. Without specific information, I'm not convinced I'd be in support because I don't see a benefit with the current model.

Exact details of what money is to be spent on.

when are you going to fix north bellingham for the kids to go back?

Don't buy such poor quality equipment. My previous MAC performed so much better. The pod computers are not well supported with network approaches that keep them functioning. It's shameful really. Who has allowed such poor choices to be made? I grew up in Ferndale, still own property in Ferndale, have taught in Ferndale for 20 years..... so sad to see the level of our technology so low. Also sad to see how previous decisions have alienated the community; support may be hard to earn.

I do not believe that there are enough restrictions on the tablet use for students. I support the use of tablets for learning, but not for socializing or other inappropriate usages... For me to support the levy, I would need to see more and better restrictions and safeguards on the student tablets.

I would like to know what the new numbers would be.

I am and have always been opposed to funding that predominantly falls only on property owners, when many of the beneficiaries of the education system don't own property. I would much prefer to see more equitable methods of funding. Unfortunately these feelings do impact how I vote for levies, and often it is negative. Teachers are responsible for their own "Professional development and training for staff". They should be smart enough to use CE training on technology. You have already been told rebuilding FHS for millions of dollars is out of the question so I don't understand why your even asking that question other than district leadership has also been told then don't listen.

40% of my property taxes are for Ferndale school. Pay off some of YOUR past debt before asking for more. I have a neighbor who can't afford the medicine him and his wife needs because their property taxes are over \$3000 a year. Understand what you ask for creates a hardship in some people's lives.

Wages have been stagnant for the past 8 years. NO MORE TAXES! Show me how you are cutting costs and trimming waste and I'll vote for a levy, after all I have to sacrifice every day of every month.

I would vote to support the schools if there was a guarantee that the money would be spent where promised. I do not trust Ferndale School District to spend their money wisely. I do not support buying devices for children to take home, nor do I support devices being used on school buses. Children can stay after school to use technology and catch the activity bus home. How much money would that save the district and tax payers?? Be very careful in running multiple levies and bond measures. Be as transparent as possible as how the money will be spent. Given the lackluster implementation of technology practices at the elementary level, I am hesitant in my support for a future levy.

I generally support schools. However, as an informed voter, I need to know in detail what the levy will cover and why expansion or infrastructure improvements are needed, the goals and the use of them. The communication ranking section was not working. Snail Mail, first then district website second, fliers and/or local media third. I prefer not receiving robo calls. I don't do twitter and rarely check facebook.

Not a voter in Ferndale. Above questions do not apply.

There needs to be a bank of computers available to students who are not part of the 1 to 1 to check for use - our 10th -12th graders have more need than 9th and below. Some families can afford to buy their kids computers, but many cannot, yet these students do a lot that requires computer access and they are being left behind. Will there be staff input or will it be the usual, the district makes the decisions without collaboration with staff members who will be using the devices. Or there is input which is ignored. You as a district do not have a good history when it comes to making decisions.

Just having a new property tax re-evaluation come in the mail my taxes are already increasing. Therefore any new tax would be a personal negative when the education system cannot show stellar results with the funding they already receive. Coming from a long line of Washington State educators, all the main streaming, no child left behind, or special ed, call it what you want is failing those who can learn and return.

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ı	The solution to improved education, at the high funding level we already have, is not additional money. Technology is just one method of teaching, it is not the only nor the best.
ı	I am pro tax and all for supporting the public schools. I have never voted against a tax hike. BUT I am not
ı	supportive of my \$\$ being used for technology that is frequently riddled with problems and quickly obsolete. If we teach kids to THINK they will know how to use the technology. If we teach kids to work together AND
ı	if we teach kids to THINK they will know now to use the technology. If we teach kids to work together AND
ı	tnink, then we are doing important and much needed work.
ı	think, then we are doing important and much needed work. please modernize and reopen north Bellingham elementary!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
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ı	run a bond for north Bellingham elementary
	now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
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ı	It's nickels and dimes to invest in our children.
-	I think the most effective locale for technology improvements for students is in high school, so much of a
	technology levy should be integrated into a capital bond if possible. I hope the appropriate use of technology
	and how to effectively use technology will be areas which receive as much attention as ensuring great
- 1	production to the state of the second of the second second of the second

technology resources.

fix north Bellingham elementary and
reopen!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
modernize north Bellingham elementary and
reopen!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
fix north Bellingham elementary
soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
if you know what is good for you, you better reopen north Bellingham elementary soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
fix and reopen north Bellingham elementary now now now now, I'm keeping a close eye on you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
fix north Bellingham elementary before the high school!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
burn down the school board's homes
soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
fix north Bellingham elementary now
fix north Bellingham elementary now
now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
modernize the 1938 building at north Bellingham elementary now now
now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
vote down levies and bonds until north Bellingham elementary is fixed or
repaired!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
repair north Bellingham elementary
soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

You continue to do bulk mailings for the Ferndale School District to Bellingham addresses. While some students in my area may attend Ferndale schools, these mailings have nothing at all to do with me. They fill up my security mailbox and prevent important mail such as bills and voting materials to drop down into my security receptacle. I have attempted to opt out of these mailings but there is currently no way to do so. My support and votes are for the Bellingham schools. Stop the spam.

Do not support the internet teaching our kids. They still need to learn without it. Also still need to be taught cursive that was taken away... That was just wrong of the district. I can only hope my grand children can afford private schools as public has gone down hill.

Regarding the 2016 Ferndale High School rebuild, fix what you have. You are starting to get greedy and asking for replacement of good facilities.

comparison between last year's and this year's grade scores indicating whether the new tech received by the high school students helped a tremendous amount or not.

How will the district ensure they acquire the best technology appropriate for school use, and not just the latest fad in devices? Who is responsible for cyber security? What specific applications areteachers asking for for student use?

Keep the tablets at school! Where they are monitored better. I don't like the tablets. They are a huge headache! It's one more thing i have to babysit. If the schools feel they are important. Then, the schools can keep them at school!

Have a plan that makes sense to the public. Thank you for allowing input.

FSD had been untrustworthy to this point in my opinion. This should be your primary goal not more money

I would need to see an exact list of projects before I will support.

While I work for the Ferndale school district, I do not live in Ferndale so I cannot vote for the proposed levy. I have always voted in support of school levies in the communities in which I've lived.

I am always in support of sales tax rather than property tax increases. I feel the property tax increases affect the poor more than sales tax as lower income families tend to buy more items second hand. Also, technology is great and necessary but what about providing free Driver's Education to all students, as part of the curriculum, as it was in 1982 when I graduated High School in York, PA? That is something that benefits all of society to have better drivers, not just those who can afford it.

If the district wants to continue to send tablets or laptops home with students (middle school or otherwise) maybe an incentive based program should be developed based on school attendance and grade point average. Only those students that maintain a 3.2 (or whatever gpa is decided on) with low absenteeism would be allowed use of school owned tablets for home. This way, the tablets may actually get used as they were intended to, the public perception of the program would change, and higher gpas.

It's very important for the staff to not get lost in the technology craze. utilizing all of technologies benefits even the things that seem small because there is little or no cost are very important. Web based isn't always the best, cloud based servers are very inexpensive and easy for the entire staff to access, tablets are nice and very mobile but purchasing tablets that are very inexpensive but out of date and unserviceable before they are worn out isn't a very good idea.

What each and every dime will be spent on, and who is in charge of spending it?

What specific needs will "student computer applications and supplemental programs" address? What are the limits of the current wireless network? What percentage of current equipment is outdated or no longer functional? What network infrastructure improvements are needed?

Smaller class sizes was voted on, smaller class sizes passed. Spend the money for smaller class sizes! Apply for grants to help with technology. Technology should not be number one priority. Many children have no access at home and the kids that have access already puts them ahead of kids who do! Focus on education in the classroom - smaller class sizes.

I would support any levy or bond any school district proposed because I always support raising money for schools, yet I do not think that the previous technology levy monies were used wisely and most advantageously. The tablets that were purchased for the middle schools were faulty, the roll-out of Sharepoint has been delayed, the district requested staff to learn and build Edline pages, yet they were disbanded, etc. These poor decisions do not fair well for passing another levy.

What will be done to solve the current non-technology issues such as overcrowded classrooms and a lack of librarians.

How will the funds be distributed across the schools, grade levels, and subject areas? Will funds be used for laptops for individual students? I am not sure that is as worthwhile as other expenditures.

I am for supporting the levy, but I don't want to support poor equipment choices. And I don't want the IT department to be forced into buying equipment if the hardware specs aren't available. I would like to see the tablets disappear and be replaced by lightweight Dell Latitude or Apple laptops. Both are built well and should last longer than the current tablets.

How many of the technology improvements you make with this levy will transfer to a new high school? I'd hate to see you spend \$1 million to upgrade equipment that can't be transferred to a new high school.

We really need to start living within the means of what is already being received. The economy is not any better than it was in 2008 & we cannot continue to just increase the working class taxes to pay for this. I will not be voting to maintain any current levies & I will not be voting for any new levies. It is the mentality of our politicians & public figures to just raise taxes. Well this is unacceptable. Ferndale is getting out of control with their spending ie: library & new police station.

I am not a resident of the district but I do work for the district

Having worked on global collaborative efforts in both the government and industry, technology is no panacea, and the best collaboration is done face to face. Let's teach our children the fundamental principles of collaboration before we get wrapped up in the mechanics of learning tools. FSD must present details about what the money will be used for 1 Device per child has not lived up to the hype. Comments section on survey needs to allow more characters - artificially limits input.

When and where will we see a proposed budget and line-item description of how the additional revenues would be spent. That might change my viewpoint about an additional levy.

Information about how the money will be spent needs to be as specific as possible with timelines or the voters are not going to approve it.

Lets deal with the bond first! District leadership needs to focus not be so scattered.