FERNDALE
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Making a Difference...

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ferndaleschools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 28, 2015
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Special Election ballots due Feb. 9
Renewal of Ferndale Schools' M&O Levy up for voter approval

[Ferndale, Wash.] February 9 Special Election ballots must be postmarked or delivered to an official Whatcom County Elections drop box by 8pm on election night to be counted. In Ferndale a drop box is location at City Hall (2095 Main St.). For other locations in Whatcom County, please check the County's Elections department webpage at www.whatcomcounty.us/1863/Ballot-Drop-Box-Locations.

On the ballot is the renewal of Ferndale School District's Maintenance and Operations Levy. There would be no tax rate increase for the levy, which collects almost $14 million per year for school funding. It currently provides almost 25 percent of all funding for Ferndale schools.

The M&O Levy provides 27.5 percent of teacher salaries and two-thirds of all classified staff in such areas as special education, nutrition/food service, maintenance, transportation, and administrative support. A portion of funding is used for the school district's transportation and student safety programs, as well.

The levy also funds extracurricular academic student programs, such as Aiming High, Math Olympiad, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). In addition to academics, the M&O Levy funds athletic, music, and technology programs for Ferndale students. Ferndale schools have relied on an M&O Levy since 1966.

More information about the M&O Levy can be found on the Ferndale School District website at www.ferndalesd.org. Assistant Superintendent Mark Deebach is available to answer questions at (360) 383-9203 or mark.deebach@ferndalesd.org.

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Ferndale schools educate 4,700 students from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12. The school district offers college credit courses and has the largest Career and Technical Education program in Whatcom County. Teachers in the school district have an average 15.3 years of classroom experience and 69 percent have a Master's Degree or higher. The school district operates under a balanced budget and has a history of passing its financial and accountability audits by the state. For more information, visit www.ferndalesd.org or find us on Facebook at /FerndaleSchools.