

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Teacher Elizabeth Egeland provides instruction to Vista Middle School students. The Maintenance and Operations levy funds 27.5% of all teacher salaries.

Board passes resolution for Maintenance and Operations Levy

Levy provides approximately 25% of all school funding

[Ferndale, Wash.] The Ferndale School Board unanimously approved a resolution asking voters to renew a Maintenance and Operations Levy during the February 9, 2016, Special Election. The M&O Levy has been supported by the community since 1977 and accounts for almost 25% of funding for Ferndale schools.

There would be no tax rate increase for the levy, which collects almost \$14 million per year for school funding. The M&O Levy funds 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 M&O Levy funds a portion of the school district's transportation program for students.

The levy also funds extracurricular academic student programs, such as Aiming High, Future Farmers of America, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Ferndale schools' chapter of FFA competed at the national level and its Veterinary Science Team won fourth in the nation. A recent Math Night assembly sponsored by the STEM middle school program attracted more than 600 students, parents, teachers, and community members.

In addition to academics, the M&O Levy funds athletic, music, and technology programs for Ferndale students. The Ferndale High School Band has won state championships nine times in the past 10 years, and Ferndale sports teams qualify regularly for districtwide and state level competitions.

"Our community recognizes that quality schools are important to a thriving community," said Mark Deebach, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Services. "This levy touches every part of a child's educational experience during their time with us and well after."

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 speak with community groups or organizations about the M&O Levy and the role it plays in educating students. Contact him at (360) 383-9203 or mark.deebach@ferndalesd.org to schedule a presentation.

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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.