

# Stevenson-Carson School District

## Summer 2018 ~ Newsletter



### Our Vision

Students will thrive in an environment where staff, parents, and community partner to nurture a passion for lifelong learning.

Through these relationships, students will grow academically and experience success in school and beyond.

### Interesting Numbers 2017-18 School Year

- Our school buses traveled 107,522 miles.
- Our cooks served 73,703 lunches with more than half of those lunches feeding children who qualified for free meals.
- WRMS and SHS had 479 individual athletic registrations.
- Our elementary students, through our Accelerated Reader program read more than 118,540,273 words!

[www.scsd303.org](http://www.scsd303.org)

### GRADUATION - A TIME FOR STUDENTS TO CELEBRATE

In June, Stevenson High School had 63 graduates walk across the stage to receive their diplomas. Not a typical graduating class, as the SHS Class of 2018 had TWO Valedictorians! Co-Valedictorians, Meline Liedtke and Paul Striby decided to give their speech together as a way to share this recognition. In the voice of our students, a small snippet from their speech, let us recognize our FABULOUS community:

*I've asked countless students what they love about SHS. The answer was never, "Stevenson High School has brand new text books" or "Stevenson High School has top of the line electronics," because in the end, these things don't matter that much. Whether the students have lived here their entire lives or just moved here within the past few years, the answer is almost always that they love it here because SHS has a community like no other. The support that our community gives us is astounding.*

The Stevenson-Carson School District is grateful for the partnerships throughout the county that support our students. It is especially rewarding when the students, for whom those partnerships are created, recognize just how lucky they are to live here.

### How is the school district spending the Levy Dollars?

In August of 2017, the voters approved a three year levy, in the amount of two million dollars per year. Due to new state legislation (Engrossed Housing Bill 2242), the levy will only collect the voter approved two million during the 2018 year and then will be reduced in 2019. The anticipated change will go from \$2.36/\$1,000 of assessed value down to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The district is spending the levy funds in the ways shared during levy informational meeting during the summer of 2017. Here are some of the specific areas we were able to fund due to local support:

- \*\*Technology for students: new computers, software licenses and other technology updates.
- \*\*Next Generations Science Curriculum for elementary students.
- \*\*Extracurricular activities for students.
- \*\*Field Trips
- \*\*New books and resources for our school libraries.
- \*\*Supplies and materials needed for teaching and learning are available for staff and students.
- \*\*Schools, buildings and grounds will continue to be maintained.
- \*\*Hi-cap and special education students' services were supplemented beyond the state allocation and additional class offerings for students.

## Our students deserve the benefits of a high quality education!

The Stevenson Community Pool has been reopened for just over one year and has provided hundreds of individuals an opportunity to exercise or recreate in a safe aquatic center. The pool had its first unscheduled safety audit, by an outside entity, and was scored in three areas: (1) individual lifeguard evaluation, (2) simulated emergency evaluation, and (3) administration evaluation. Our pool met or exceeded expectations in each area!

Financially, the pool is not yet meeting its fiscal expectation. When the district reopened the pool, it was with the stipulation that Community Partners would support the pool financially so that the district's budget would not be the only source of balancing the expenses and revenues of the community amenity. With our partnership with the City of Stevenson, the pool has about 1/3 of its needed fiscal sponsorship. The district, and a small community group calling themselves Stevenson Pool Association (SPA), continue to look for partnerships and grants to create a sustainable budget. For more information please contact Karen Douglass, Superintendent or Meaghan Young, Pool Manager.

## **QUESTIONS ASKED OF SCSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **What is the role of a school board member?**

We have two main roles. The first being to hire and oversee the superintendent and the second is to adopt the policies that govern how a school district operates. The best analogy that I have heard to describe these two roles is that the school district functions as a ship, or fleet of ships. The superintendent would be the admiral and each principal is a captain of a ship. The school board members sit up in the crow's nest and we point the direction that we want the admiral to steer the ships. We don't give direction on how to achieve a goal, just what goals we want achieved. The experts in their field will know the best way to accomplish the goals set before them.

It is interesting to note that as a school board, we only have one employee, the superintendent. Also, it is important to point out that we only have authority as a board as a whole AND only in an open public meeting.

### **How long is the term of a board member?**

We serve 4 year terms with elections being held every-other year in odd numbered years. In 2019 three positions will be up for election and in 2021 the remaining two positions will be up.

### **Where can I learn more about the role of school board members in Washington State?**

Washington State School Directors Association is the organization that supports school board directors, please visit their website for additional information: [www.wssda.org](http://www.wssda.org) .

Hope you found this informative,  
Brad Liedtke  
SCSD Director Area 5



Stevenson-Carson School District

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**Did you know that Stevenson Elementary has a "Buddy Bench" on the playground. This is a place for a child to go if they are looking for a "buddy" to play with during recess. When other children notice someone on the bench, they can invite them to play!**

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**Beacon Health Options Awards SCSD \$15,000** In a competitive grant process, SCSD was selected by Beacon Health Options as an award recipient. The \$15,000 grant will be used to purchase and implement a suicide prevention curriculum in the secondary schools. Beyond teaching our students, the district will also sponsor two parent/community events that will include components to increase suicide awareness and prevention. These events will be open to all community members regardless of which school district you live within.

**SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS ACT (SRS)** was reauthorized for FY 2017 and 2018. This means that the Stevenson-Carson School District received a payment of \$1.2 million dollars to offset the loss of timber due to national policies that substantially diminished the revenue-generating activity permitted in our forests. For many years, the district used the SRS funds to balance their school budget. However, because these payments have become unpredictable, the school board of directors has determined that these funds will most often be used for *one-time* payments or projects.

When our students return for the 2018-2019 school year, they will notice some changes, thanks to the SRS allocation. For example, our physical education classes, our cross country and track team, and a vast group of community members will notice a new track! The old track was riddled with holes (trip hazards) and with long cracks, causing two complete lanes to be closed during events because of safety. Our high school parking lot and a portion of the roof is being repaired. Finally, our secondary schools are getting a security update that include cameras and a buzz-in entrance and a security gate to allow for traffic to be monitored in our "limited access" parking. We are grateful for the reallocation of these SRS funds to allow us to take care of these much needed items.

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS:** In order for students to attain higher levels of education, they must be enrolled and attend school consistently. Research shows that children who are chronically absent—missing more than 10% of the school year--in kindergarten and first grade are much less likely to be reading at grade level by third grade. In turn, students who are not reading at grade level by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school. Our data also shows that many of our students and families that struggle economically have challenges maintaining consistent school attendance.

With a small grant from Kaiser Permanente for the next 3 years, SCSD will work with attendance staff from ESD 112 to explore ways that our schools can support these students and families to decrease barriers and increase their school attendance.

**STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) EXPERIENCES:** Washington has adopted new science standards based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) because we understand that a robust science education in elementary school will pave the way for increased opportunities in middle school, high school, and college. The Washington State Science Learning Standards encourage our teachers to offer all students interactive science instruction that promotes analysis and interpretation of data, critical thinking, problem solving, and connections across science disciplines—with a high set of expectations for achievement.

To support students engaging in high-quality science and STEM experiences, Stevenson Carson school district has joined the ESD112 STEM Materials Center cooperative, which will provide NGSS-aligned STEM kits to all of our K-5 classrooms beginning this fall. These kits complement our English/ Language Arts and Mathematics standards, enabling classroom instruction to reflect a clearer picture of the real world, where solving problems often requires skills and knowledge from multiple disciplines. Each kit explores a different scientific phenomena that will allow students to experience similar scientific and engineering practices as those used by professionals in the field. For example, third grade students will explore the physics behind force and motion and create a campaign that educates teenage drivers on the need to wear seatbelts.



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### WATCH D.O.G.S - Dads of Great Students

#### A NEW Program at Stevenson Elementary and Carson Elementary

*WATCH D.O.G.S. is a program that invites fathers, grandfathers, uncles or other community members to volunteer at our community schools to provide positive male role models for all students. The WATCH D.O.G.S. volunteers may read with students, play at recess, eat lunch with students, watch the school entrances and greet students when they arrive, assist with traffic flow and any other assigned activities where they actively engage with not only their own child(ren), but other students as well. It has been reported from other schools that the mere presences of a WatchDOG dramatically reduces student misbehavior and bullying. This program will kick off in September of 2018. If you'd like more information please e-mail Jessica Schultz, Volunteer Coordinator, at [schultzj@scsd303.org](mailto:schultzj@scsd303.org) .*



### For additional information, please contact:

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### Stevenson-Carson School District Board of Directors

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