

WINTER UPDATE

January 2010

MEDICAL LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 326



A Message from the Superintendent

by Dr. Pam Veltri

On December 15, 2009, the Medical Lake School District Board of Directors passed a resolution to run a bond to take care of facility needs for the next 20 + years. The bond would include:

- **Expanding Medical Lake Middle School to accommodate grades six through eight, including construction of additional classrooms to house 6th grade and replace aging portables. It would also include a gymnasium and commons area. This would allow students to remain in their building for classes. They would be able to go to their classroom and use the restroom without walking outside to and from the main building during the winter.**
- **Expanding Hallett Elementary to accommodate grades kindergarten through 5th grade, including construction of six additional classrooms.**
- **Placing play fields at the Medical Lake Elementary School site and tearing down the old building.**

A group of citizens, including parents, community members and school personnel, worked with consultants to complete a study and survey of the district's facilities. The study was made possible by a grant from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. The facilities committee determined that Medical Lake Elementary is an old building, close to fifty years old, with fire and safety issues. The committee also acknowledged that the Medical Lake area is not growing and this trend is estimated to continue for ten years or more. In addition, the committee recommended that Medical Lake Middle School be expanded to replace aging portable classrooms and include 6th grade.

The Hallett Elementary site is not large enough to build enough additional classrooms to house grades kindergarten through grade six. It was determined that Medical Lake Elementary School was not constructed using quality materials and/or craftsmanship, and therefore it would be in the best interest of the district to tear it down and turn the site into additional play areas for children. The cost would be considerably less than a new kindergarten through grade three building. The issues with Medical Lake Elementary School have not changed. It is an old building with many fire and safety issues. At Medical Lake Middle School, students still leave the building and walk outside to portable classrooms without bathrooms.

An Increase in Property Values Will Not Increase School District Tax Collections

- ◆ *Changes in property values don't change the amount of taxes authorized*
- ◆ *Local school taxes can only be increased by a vote of the people*
- ◆ *Changing property values will change tax rates, but NOT tax collections*

Why add on to Hallett Elementary School?

The current Medical Lake Elementary school is close to fifty years old. The fire safety equipment is inadequate and fire suppression does not exist. Wiring and electricity are not adequate for the needs of students. It has encapsulated asbestos throughout, which is not harmful unless exposed through construction. Hallett Elementary School was designed to handle six more classrooms. Anything above that would create issues with wetlands and the capacity of the building. Since the Medical Lake area is not going to see major growth anytime soon, the committee felt it would be in the best interest of the community to add on to Hallett and Medical Lake Middle School, rather than build a new K-3 elementary at a much larger cost.

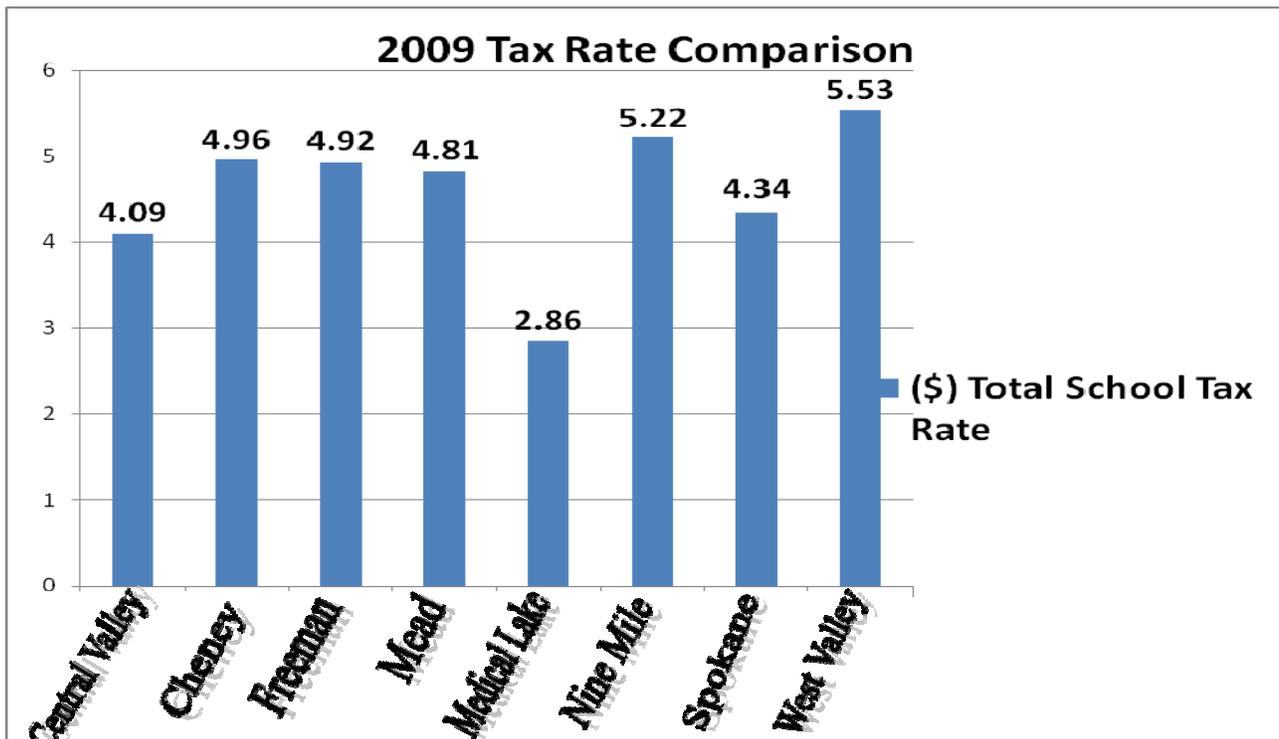
How much will the projects cost?

The proposed cost of the total project would be approximately \$15.6 million. Local taxpayers would pay approximately .72 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value or \$72.00 per year on a \$100,000 home.

Why build twelve new classrooms at Medical Lake Middle School?

The existing building was built in the early 1970's. The district has completed several upgrades to the building using maintenance and operation funds. These upgrades include: turning three classrooms into two state of the art science labs, replacing the carpet throughout the building, replacing the roof, replacing the carpet with tile in the multipurpose room, new heating and air conditioning, painting hallways, lockers and classrooms, remodeling bathrooms, and making all doors handicapped accessible.

The Middle School building still has many more useful years, and with the addition of twelve classrooms it will be a viable building for educating middle school children. The twelve classrooms will be used for teaching. Students will no longer go outside of the building to their classes. They would have access to bathrooms in the main building without having to go outside, wasting valuable class time. Six classrooms will be used for the 6th grade and the remaining six classrooms will replace portable classrooms for grades seven and eight. The gymnasium will assist in providing a full-sized gym. The current gym is not full-sized and overcrowded with P.E. classes holding up to sixty-five students. The commons area would provide a place for 6th grade students to eat lunch and hold activities.



Mandi's Second Marathon

from the website of Mandi Poindexter, Principal of Michael Anderson Elementary:

This year I will be raising money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma society again but will be participating in the San Diego Marathon. After my run in Seattle last year, I discovered some marathons are easier on the body than others, and from what I hear the San Diego Marathon is a wonderful race. This race will take place in early June and I will start my training in November, giving me much more time this year to train. I will run in the snow, sleet and rain, all the while thinking about Elliott, Michael, and Lance as I run. They have inspired me to be a better person and I am honored to run for them and their families as they go through these tough times. For more information, please see my website at:

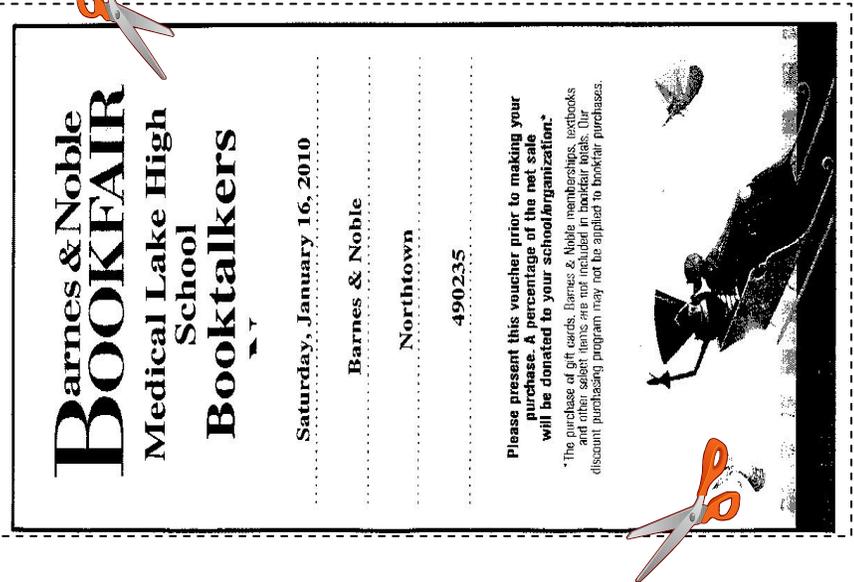
<http://pages.teamintraining.org/wa/rnr10/mpoindexter>

Shop at the Mall for High School Booktalkers

by Pam Wilcox-Mann

The Medical Lake High School Booktalkers Club will be having a book fair at Barnes & Noble in the Northtown Bookstore all day Saturday, January 16, 2010. Proceeds from the purchase of books go toward purchasing additional books for the high school library.

To participate, just clip out the voucher (right) or pick up one up from the Booktalkers table near the information booth in the middle of the mall. You can then give the voucher to the clerk as you purchase books, CDs, etc. at Barnes & Noble or Starbucks that day. Thank you for supporting our book fair!



PLEASE Beware of Railroad Crossings!

All school buses in the State of Washington must stop at all railroad crossings. The school bus will activate the amber hazard warning lights while stopping for railroad crossings. (These lights are located at the centerline of the bus, not to be confused with the student loading lights located at the top of the bus). Traffic behind the bus in the same lane must stop. It is against the law for vehicles to cross the double yellow line and pass the bus. Traffic running in the opposite direction need not stop. If the railroad crossing has a pull out lane (such as the new crossing on HWY 902) for the bus, the bus will pull into that lane and vehicles behind the bus may continue on in the main pass through lane. Opposing traffic need not stop. Please drive carefully around buses for the safety of all.



Winter Bus Routes

As winter materializes, we will be met with conditions that may require our drivers to make minor route adjustments. If possible the bus driver will inform the students if they need to be at their stop earlier, typically about five minutes. This will usually apply to those on the first half of the route. If more substantial changes need to be made, notification will come from the transportation office.

For your child's safety, please have them dress warmly. In the event of a bus breakdown or the need for evacuating the bus, they may get very cold while waiting for assistance. If you have any questions, please call the Transportation Department at 565-3110.



Congratulations, Peter!

Peter Loeffler was selected from 2,446 applications to the All State Band to be held in Yakima. He is a sophomore trumpet player and will be representing our school district. This fall, he went to state for cross country and was also voted most inspirational by the cross country team for the past two years. Last year, he was the 1st alternate for the State solo contest. While in 8th grade, Peter played the French horn in the Jr. All-State Band.

Peter has also received Presidential academic and fitness awards. In his spare time, he enjoys wake boarding, fishing, hiking and biking.



EPA/ AHERA - Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act “ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE”

In compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Act (AHERA), Medical Lake School District contracted with Educational Service District 101 of Spokane, Washington to conduct the three-year asbestos re-inspection of school buildings. During January 2007, an EPA accredited asbestos inspector and management planner performed the required inspection, reassessed each category of Asbestos Containing Building Materials (ACBM) and noted any significant changes from the 1989, 1992, 1995, 1998, 2001, and 2004 inspections. Re-inspections will assist the school district in the process of safely managing each ACBM within our district.

The AHERA Re-inspection Report and Management Plans are available to the general public and can be reviewed anytime during normal school hours. As required by AHERA, a designated person is available during regular business hours to answer any questions concerning ACBM in our buildings. The designated person, Gary Hartman, Maintenance Supervisor can be contacted through the district office at 565-3100.

Family Access New Automatic Calling System

We are excited to announce that we will now have the capability to use our automatic calling system to inform you of important news such as school closures. We will call the primary number we have in the system for each student. If you have not updated your primary phone, please call your child's school to update it.



Family Access E-Mails

By Debra Dupey

Please check the e-mail address we have on file for you in Family Access (look for Account Info in the top right corner). The district, individual schools and class teachers are sending messages using Family Access. We are getting quite a few bounce backs as delivery failures. Please check the address entered for spelling errors or if you don't have an address on file, please enter one. If you are not using Family Access please fill out an application at www.mlzd.org and click on the Family Access Tab. Next click on Application. Lunch menus, school and class newsletters are part of what you can gain by using this tool.

Nondiscrimination Rules in Effect

The Medical Lake School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or religion. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities and district employment opportunities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school districts Title IX/RCW 28A.640 compliance officer and or Section 504/ADA Coordinator: Dr. Pam Veltri, Medical Lake School District, PO Box 128, Medical Lake WA 99022, Phone: (509) 565-3100.

Reminder for Students and Parents
Medical Lake School District has a
SAFE SCHOOL HELPLINE.
Help Keep Our Schools Safe. Your
name is never asked. If you have
any concerns call
1-800-418-6423 or go to
www.safeschoolhelpline.com

Medical Lake School District
PO Box 128
Medical Lake WA 99022

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