

**Community Conversations  
2018-2019**

Meeting	Questions/ Topics/Issues	Answers
<p><b>Word on the Street 1/9/19</b></p>	<p>Emergencies.</p>	<p>Student Safety is SWSD priority in any emergency situation. As a district, we are constantly reviewing new options and plans for increased safety of our students and staff. Annually, district administrators attend the NWESD Safety Summit to learn new and better methods to provide a safe learning community for our students. However when we are put to the test often we need to think outside the box and determine the best action to take for the moment. Before taking action, our administration is gathering information to make informed decisions. The data is often changing and requires decisions to be made with urgency. Please be assured that in every instance student protection is our goal. If a student cannot be sent home safely, they will remain or be returned to school and our staff will remain with the students until everyone can be delivered safely.</p> <p>In each classroom, there are emergency supplies to cover a multitude of situations. The district office is a red cross disaster supply center. The district office runs on a generator that keeps communication flowing to and from the district. Robo messages are sent out via phone, email, SMS, Facebook and website posting to provide emergent communication to our staff and families as quickly as possible.</p> <p>On December 20, 2018, we were met with an urgent situation. The winds were high and power loss and downed trees were on the horizon. The first robo call that went out was due to the number of calls we received asking if school was in session or closing. The schools still had power at that time and it was unknown when and if power would be going out. The determination was made that the students were safer in the schools than attempting a release at about 11:26am.</p> <p>Unfortunately, as the time went by, the power went out. The district still intended to keep the students in school for safety reasons since a power outage this late in the morning would be manageable. Then we received word that roads were closing across the district due to fallen trees and branches and downed power lines</p> <p>Now there was a question as to whether the buses would be able to make their routes due to the newly fallen trees. Therefore, we called all of the bus drivers to return back to the district office. Our bus drivers begin their work day at about 5:30am to get the buses ready for the school morning pick up. After making their two pick up rounds, they have a break that is roughly from 10am till 1pm. Calling the drivers to return to the district office took some time. Once we had had enough drivers return to the district office, the decision was made to have them start the first run. We wanted to provide the bus drivers with extra time to make safety their highest priority. At 1:22pm, we sent out a robo message via phone, text, email, facebook and website to all 7-12 families that the 7-12 grade students would be taken home at 130pm. This provided the drivers the time necessary to</p>

		<p>avoid closed roads and find alternative routes. The district's intention was to have the buses be able to return to provide a normal 3:30pm departure time for the K-6 students.</p> <p>As soon as the buses completed the 7-12 route, they returned to the Elementary School. At this time, the winds were still high and we were unsure how the routes would change (on the 7-12 run, there were many routes that needed to be modified). Therefore, once all the buses arrived at the ES, at 2:49pm we notified all K-6 parents through phone, text, email, facebook and website that we would begin taking the K-6 students home at 3pm. Safety was our primary concern. We did not want the drivers to be in darkness when taking the students home. Down power lines could not be seen in darkness. We were receiving notices that trees and power lines were coming down on homes and across driveways.</p> <p>For all students K-12, if the buses could not drop them off safely or the students were unable to arrive safely at home, they were brought back to the schools and our staff remained until all students were home safe.</p> <p>On behalf of the district, we truly apologize for any hardship this emergency caused you. We have reviewed the events of this day and have noted the positives and the areas to improve.</p>
<p><b>Word on the Street 11/28/18</b></p>	<p>Levy 2019</p>	<p>This is a Levy Election year. On February 12, 2019, South Whidbey Community will have the opportunity to vote on the South Whidbey School District Levies. There are two levies: 1) Replacement for Educational Programs and Operations Levy and 2) Capital Improvements, including Facilities, Technology and Safety Levy. The first levy replaces the the levy previously known as the Maintenance and Operations Levy that helps maintain class size, improve student achievement, maintain programs and services, pay decent salaries, and funds the extra costs associated with food service, special education and bus service that are not covered by the state. The second levy was previously known as the Capital Projects/Technology Levy. This levy funds the needed renovations, upgrading and modernization of educational facilities of the District including safety, security and technology improvements. The SWSD budget is highly dependent on these two levies passing. The State currently funds only about 75% of the costs of the district. The remaining 25% comes from Levy funds. Please remember to VOTE on February 12, 2019.</p>
<p><b>Word on the Street 11/28/18</b></p>	<p>Behavior Issues</p>	<p>Concerns over the numbers of students in the elementary school that have behavior challenges. Challenges that lead to HIB issues. Do teachers need to adjust what they are doing to address the behavior challenges? Parental concerns over teachers spending too much class time addressing behavior issues during limited instructional time. SWSD policies regarding Harassment Intimidation and Bullying can be found on <a href="#">Board Docs (linked here)</a> SWSD Policy 3207.</p> <p>The SWSD Social Emotional Learning (SEL) committee, consisting of teachers, counselors, psychologists and parents from across the district, are working to provide a continuum of SEL education to all students. SEL committee's purposes are 1) to take a look at what we are doing in each building, curriculum and how we are integrating in the classrooms and 2) to make recommendations to make more continuity (K-12, something that</p>

		we can get for students as they make the transition between schools on the SEL learning) and have students keep building their skills. The goal is for systemic change. This will include programs, but we want to get away from the idea that SEL is done only by the counselors. We want to see it more in the classroom.
<b>Word on the Street</b> 11/28/18	Enrollment	SWSD Enrollment has been on a steady decline since the year 2000 (in 1999-2000, enrollment was 2327 FTE). This 2018-19 school year, the enrollment has declined even more than projected (currently 1273.09 FTE). Our 2018-19 budget was calculated based upon an expected enrollment of 1296 FTE. The decline in enrollment is occurring throughout Whidbey Island (Coupeville and Oak Harbor are also down from their projected enrollment numbers). This decline is due to families moving off island and often out of state due to employment and lack of affordable housing on Whidbey. SWSD is continuously looking for ways to increase enrollment. Innovative programming is one way to entice new students and families to South Whidbey. Program prioritization this Spring will take a look at all ways to keep or improve enrollment. However, the issue is much larger than SWSD.
<b>Word on the Street</b> 11/28/18	Classroom Sizes	Concerns over classroom sizes and how they affect the behavioral issues. Class size is definitely an issue that can be looked at and discussed. After the Levy Election on February 12, 2019, the SWSD will look at district wide priorities. Classroom sizes will definitely be part of this discussion. Please join one of the morning or evening discussions with the Superintendent to express your concerns over priorities.
<b>Word on the Street</b> 11/28/18	Middle School Sports	SWSD sports teams depend upon many issues. One of the factors is the ability to find a league to compete in. All questions regarding sports options should be directed to the <a href="#">SWSD Athletic Director, Paul Lagerstedt</a> .
<b>Word on the Street</b> 11/14/18	Orca Central	Orca Central is a General Education Tier II intervention room in our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions <a href="#">and Supports</a> ) Model. A Tier II intervention is for any student that needs reteaching of school-wide <a href="#">expectations</a> or a system of Check-In/Check-Out, where adults monitor and reward positive behavior daily. Adults in Orca Central also help students de-escalate behavior and help students regain self control, and learn to regulate their behaviors on their own. This room is not a punishment room, <a href="#">but a room with support for students</a> . <a href="#">Orca Central also serves as a leadership room for podcast recorders, student mediators, assembly crew, Orca K/1st assistants and other leadership programs</a> . We have staff assigned to assist in the room including the School Counselor, Student Support Specialist and Paraeducator. It is under the direction of the Principal Mary Thompson.
	Website	Please let Kristina “Kristy” Macarro know if you have any suggestions or see any problems with the website. Send an email to <a href="mailto:kmacarro@sw.wednet.edu">kmacarro@sw.wednet.edu</a> Feedback is always welcomed. The website is for the South Whidbey Community to be able to find information about the District and Schools. Please look there first. If you need any assistance in finding anything on the website, you can contact Kristy.
<b>Word on the Street</b> 10/24/18	Valued Aspects of SWSD	The SWHS is doing better than expected this year. Peachjar notices are getting more information out, however we still need to get more SWCC opportunities out to the public. Community Choir Concert at SWHS was a very positive experience.

	Community Connection with SWSD	Attendees want more connection to the schools for community members. More opportunities for adult volunteers to be part of SWSD. They want students to have more adult connections. Currently there are multiple ways to become involved with SWSD and volunteer: <a href="#">South Whidbey Farm and Garden Program</a> and the <a href="#">Whidbey Watersheds Outdoor Classrooms</a> are always looking for volunteers and are a large part of our school programs. Additionally, there are the <a href="#">Athletic and Band Boosters</a> and the <a href="#">PTA Groups</a> that always need additional hands. All volunteers are required to complete the <a href="#">volunteer packet (linked here)</a> and submit it to any of the school offices with a photo ID. With the <a href="#">South Whidbey Community Center</a> , the school district has been working, through Director Gail LaVassar, at bridging the community with the school district. Programs at the SWCC are involved with many of the 8th graders in providing enrichment classes. The SWCC is a great place for volunteers to get involved and work to make schools better for the students. For more information, contact Gail at <a href="mailto:glavassar@sw.wednet.edu">glavassar@sw.wednet.edu</a> . Over the next four months, South Whidbey Volunteers will be essential in providing information and supporting the 2019 School Levies. Stay tuned in for more information regarding the Levies.
<b>Moving Forward 10/17/18</b>	Rumors	Please contact any of the school offices via phone or email whenever a you need accurate information regarding school events. <a href="#">Contact information for the schools can be found online linked here</a> . You can also contact the district office to have your questions answered: 360-221-6100 or <a href="mailto:kmacarro@sw.wednet.edu">kmacarro@sw.wednet.edu</a> . Many of the homecoming rumors were false. Yet, the SWHS office had not received an email or phone call requesting accurate information.
	2019 Levy	In February 2019, the South Whidbey community will be presented with two levies, an Enrichment Levy and Capital Projects Levy, both of which the SWSD depends upon. The school board will be presented with the Levy Resolutions at their meeting on October 24, 2018. Stay tuned in for more information regarding the Levy.
	Grant Application	SWSD applied for a state grant to fund a coalition to reduce drugs and alcohol in South Whidbey and fund a full time student drug and alcohol counselor at the South Whidbey High School Campus. If we are awarded the grant, there will be coalition group formed at the South Whidbey Community Center. Attendees requested a parent component to this coalition. The program needs to be realistic. The coalition will involved parents, PTA and community members.
	Character Strong Curriculum	New for 2018-19, the SWHS began a <a href="#">Character Strong Curriculum</a> that is taught on Wednesdays during advisory period. Attendees to the Community Conversation brought up the fact that bystanders of violence stand by, video tape and encourage continued violence. The Character Strong Curriculum will address bystander behavior throughout the course during the year.
	Valued Aspects of SWSD	Attendees enjoyed the Sports Speaker from the Fall PAC meeting and request more speakers like this. Appreciation for the movement towards inclusivity and helping children and families of color feel more welcomed. South Whidbey Community Center is providing lots of positivity for the community
<b>Word on</b>	Old LMS Gyms -	The SWSD is NOT renovating the SWCC Gyms with SWSD funds.

<b>the Street 10/10/18</b>	SWCC Gyms	In 2013, the SWSD joined the OSPI sponsored initiative for a FEMA grant for a <a href="#">SWSD Hazard Mitigation Plan (linked here)</a> . In March 2017, the SWSD was awarded the FEMA grant to make structural improvements to the LMS (now SWCC) Gyms that were part of the original plan. <a href="#">More information regarding the grant is linked here.</a>
	7/8 Classrooms	The 7th and 8th grade classes have classrooms. The Wednesday yearbook enrichment class (that occurs only once a week) is the only class that shares a space.
	2019 Levy	In February 2019, the South Whidbey community will be presented with two levies, an Enrichment Levy and Capital Projects Levy, both of which the SWSD depends upon. The school board will be discussing the Levy at their Workshop on October 10, 2018. Stay tuned in for more information regarding the Levy.
	SWHS College and Financial Aid Parent Meeting	Requested to have 9th/10th presentation be provided at a 9th grade Parent Orientation prior to the start of high school. The SWHS Counseling Department has a webpage: <a href="https://swhs.sw.wednet.edu/cms/One.aspx?portalId=466034&amp;pageId=2395663">https://swhs.sw.wednet.edu/cms/One.aspx?portalId=466034&amp;pageId=2395663</a> <a href="#">Powerpoint presentation for the 9th and 10th graders is linked here.</a>
	SWSD Priorities	Board made Teacher Salaries the highest budget priority. SWEA contract will be available online once signed by SWEA and the SWSD. This year will be an ongoing discussion on priorities for the SWSD in order to balance the budget. There are unknowns at this time: Levy funds, State Budget, etc. Come to the School Board Meetings at the Community Conversations to get the most up to date information and to provide your opinions regarding priorities.
<b>Moving Forward 10/3/18</b>	Valued aspects of SWSD	Communication by the District, Garden/Farm Program, Family Aspects of the Small District, Teachers commitment to children, Arts, Parent Involvement at the Schools, Support for Struggling kids, Professional Learning Communities, Music program, SW Community Center and SWSD usage of space, Ability to express concerns and be listened to, Pick up patrol, Interactions with teachers
	Budget Concerns	The SWSD budget is an ongoing work in progress. Every July, the Assistant Superintendent, Dan Poolman presents a budget for the following school year. The School Board votes on the budget and it is up to Mr. Poolman to balance the budget each year. Every month, the budget is reviewed at the School Board Business Meetings (See <a href="#">Board Docs</a> ) (Monthly Financial Reports are available online here: <a href="https://sw.wednet.edu/about_us/departments/business_services/monthly_financial_reports">https://sw.wednet.edu/about_us/departments/business_services/monthly_financial_reports</a> ). Details regarding current public school finances are available online at: <a href="https://sw.wednet.edu/about_us/departments/business_services/public_school_finance_and_collective_bargaining">https://sw.wednet.edu/about_us/departments/business_services/public_school_finance_and_collective_bargaining</a> Teachers salaries are the highest priority, the budget is being adjusted to balance. Cuts are being made in professional development and other aspects. We are closely watching the State budget changes to keep the SWSD budget balanced. Further budget questions should be brought to the School Board Meetings. There, the public has five minutes to

		address the School Board with their comments and issues.
	SPED services to Preschoolers	SWSD works with the Skagit Valley College ECEAP program for our community preschool age children. We offer a Child Find program to find potential children who may need Special Education services. ( <a href="https://www.sw.wednet.edu/programs/special_education/child_find">https://www.sw.wednet.edu/programs/special_education/child_find</a> ). SWSD has contracted twelve spots for Special Education placement in the ECEAP program. Once in the program, our Special Education Department works in the program providing Speech and Language services, Behavioral Services and Occupational Therapy. Further SWSD Special Education questions can be presented to our team ( <a href="#">contact information linked here</a> ).
	Access to technology /wifi outside of school	SWSD strives for technology integration as a seamless part of the learning process where use in the classroom is routine and accessible for all students. Chromebooks, ipads, computers and printers are used and available for student use throughout the classrooms and in the libraries. When technology is required to complete an assignment, teachers are required to provide class time or alternatives for the students to complete their work. Additionally, the Sno Isle Library system offers the ability to reserve computer usage. Details and their hours of available are linked here: <a href="https://sno-isle.org/help/pcreservation">https://sno-isle.org/help/pcreservation</a>
	Parent Education	In 2017-2018, SWSD provide numerous opportunities for parent education: <i>Angst</i> the movie about anxiety; <i>Brainstorm, the Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain</i> a five week book study;
	Student Achievement for All	An ongoing process in which educators work collaboratively in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve. Professional learning communities operate under the assumption that the key to improved learning for students is continuous job-embedded learning for educators. More information on PLCs linked here: <a href="https://sw.wednet.edu/cms/One.aspx?portalId=465833&amp;pageId=2853148">https://sw.wednet.edu/cms/One.aspx?portalId=465833&amp;pageId=2853148</a>
	Early Morning Start Time for 7-12	South Whidbey School District encompasses 60 square miles from Clinton to Greenbank. We have a commitment to providing transportation to all students within our district. Additionally, our athletic teams compete against teams often over two hours away from South Whidbey. These two factors influence the start and end times for school. The issue of a later start time has been brought to the School Board. However, a later start time would require a later end time for all students. Athletes would miss more class time due to game travel.
	Structure and more use of Nature	South Whidbey values the natural beauty of our area and incorporates outdoor education in many aspects for K-12. All grades participate in the School Farm and Garden Programs (more information linked here <a href="https://whidbeyschoolgardens.wordpress.com/">https://whidbeyschoolgardens.wordpress.com/</a> . Additionally, many of the grades participate in the Outdoor Classroom, see more information linked here: <a href="https://whidbeywatersheds.org/education/elementary/">https://whidbeywatersheds.org/education/elementary/</a> . Our 5th graders engage in hatching and releasing salmon. <a href="#">Linked here is a video clip of the salmon hatching that the 5th grade students are raising</a> . Our 7th and 8th grade classes participate in Enrichment Classes outside of the

		<p>campus. Our 8th grade classes embark on Outdoor experiences that have included week long hikes on the Washington coast. South Whidbey Curriculum can be reviewed online linked here: <a href="https://sw.wednet.edu/cms/one.aspx?pagelId=652904">https://sw.wednet.edu/cms/one.aspx?pagelId=652904</a></p> <p>Washington state standard require specific goals be met in grades K-12 (see Washington’s OSPI site on standards linked here: <a href="http://www.k12.wa.us/ELA/Standards.aspx">http://www.k12.wa.us/ELA/Standards.aspx</a>)</p>
	Middle School and High School Programs	<p>The SWHS has a number of programs to serve the diverse population. See more info on programs online linked here: <a href="https://swhs.sw.wednet.edu/programs">https://swhs.sw.wednet.edu/programs</a>. There are over three dozen clubs, groups and teams that students can choose to participate in (see a list online linked here: <a href="https://swhs.sw.wednet.edu/cms/one.aspx?pagelId=655781">https://swhs.sw.wednet.edu/cms/one.aspx?pagelId=655781</a>)</p> <p>Our 7th and 8th Grader have multiple programs for students to participate in: online linked here: <a href="https://swms.sw.wednet.edu/students">https://swms.sw.wednet.edu/students</a>. Additionally, our 7th and 8th graders participate in enrichment programs on Wednesdays.</p>
	Discipline Procedures	<p>Each school building handles discipline procedures in a slightly different way due to the age and nature of the issues. SWSD Board Policies addressing discipline can be <a href="#">found online on Board Docs</a> under SWSD Policies 3240, 3241 , 3244, 3205, 3207, 4210, 4215, 4314 and more. If there is an issue with discipline, parents should first contact the teacher/coach to discuss the issue. If the issue is not resolved, then please speak with the Assistant Principal or Principal for each school. If you still have not resolved the issue, please bring your issue to the Superintendent. In some cases, discipline requires suspension from school. In all cases, parent/guardians will be contacted and a letter will be sent home to the parents. You have a right to appeal the suspension decision with the Superintendent within the time period provided in the letter.</p>
	Professionalism	<p>Staff are recruited and selected to assure that students grow and meet their full potential in district programs. Staff are highly effective, and have the necessary skills and experience to meet the learning needs of all students. The district works with teacher preparation programs, communicating the teaching skills, competencies, and experiences it considers of primary importance in its staff, and providing field experiences designed to train teachers to be able to improve student learning. Decisions about hiring, assigning, or transferring staff are based on maximizing the effectiveness of that staff member within the district’s programs. Our SWSD Board Policies 5000 series holds our staff accountable. All staff are evaluated annually. If any issues of unprofessionalism arise, please let the district know by contacting the administration.</p>
<b>Word on the Street 9/26/18</b>	Dress Code	<p>SWSD Board Policy 3224 (<a href="#">found online on Board Docs</a>) described Student’s Dress. Additionally, the SWSD <a href="#">Family Handbook (linked here)</a> addresses student clothing and the <a href="#">SWHS Student Handbook (linked here)</a></p> <p>Student Dress codes are a national current conversation. The District is open to greater discussion and updating our policies and procedures to reflect the best current practices.</p>
	Band	<p>Our SWSD award winning Band program is one of the best in the state. Over the years, the band has travelled</p>

	Fundraising	<p>to competitions across the nation including the Lionel Hampton Jazz Competition in Idaho, the Monterey Jazz festival in California and the Essentially Ellington festival in New York. The performance and competition experience helps the students become better musicians and opens opportunities to their futures.</p> <p>Parents, students and community members have joined together to form The Performing Arts Boosters, a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization that supports the music program at South Whidbey Middle and High School.</p> <p>They fundraise to purchase instruments and music, provide scholarships for college, and subsidize travel expenses for the bands and choir to perform at concerts and competitions. Everyone is welcome! Their tasks are many and their need for help is great. Each year, different parents are in charge and involved with the PAB.</p> <p>They ask all who love the performing arts to join in offering a hand in the way you feel most comfortable. The PAB organize fundraising events, host concessions at concerts, coordinate travel details, do community outreach, publicize concerts, and mentor students in the business and organization to support musical performance. PAB meets once monthly (first Monday of each month) in the Parent Room at SWHS 6:00 pm. If there are issues with fundraising, they should be brought to the PAB meetings for discussion.</p>
	Shop Fees	Will look into
<b>Word on the Street 9/12/18</b>	Welcome Packets for new families	<p>Currently, after registering for school at SWSD, parents are provided the website for new information. SWSD will work on a welcome packet from the district: New parent communication</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Connection for new registrant</li> <li>b) Copy of Parent Handbook</li> <li>c) PTA info</li> <li>d) Community info -- peachjar etc</li> <li>e) Who to contact</li> </ol>
	Peachjar links on Facebook	<p>Peachjar is a service to our community to provide a bank of flyers from the school and from the community for families to be able to turn to. All flyers are first emailed to the parents of either K-6, 7-12 or both. Peachjar took over the Take Home Tuesday flyer distribution that used to occur in the K-5 program. With Peachjar, we save paper and teacher time. Many of the school flyers are also published on the SWSD Facebook page. Peachjar flyers are always available on our website <a href="http://www.sw.wednet.edu">www.sw.wednet.edu</a> - communication - news - <a href="#">peachjar flyers linked here</a> to review at parents convenience. Unfortunately, due to the Facebook parameters, a peachjar link is not possible.</p>
	Better teachers presence on the website	<p>The SWSD requires teachers to have a presence on the website - staff pages. Each school site has a link to staff pages. <a href="#">The District Site links to all staff pages.</a> The teachers are paid an extra stipend for keeping a current staff page. If you feel that your teacher does not keep a current page, please contact your teacher and the school principal and request more current information.</p>

	9th grade parent orientation requested	<p>a) Checklist sheet needed for what they need to do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Student ID (did not know they needed to do that)</li> <li>ii) Fees needed to be paid</li> <li>iii) Should be able to do everything in one day</li> </ul>
	8th grade homeschool/private school invitation	Great idea. Will notify the SWHS for next year's event.
	New student buddy system	Great Idea.
	5% Pick up patrol clarity	<p>Pick up patrol is in full use for grades K-6. <a href="https://www.pickuppatrol.net/">https://www.pickuppatrol.net/</a> This is a service to families to be able to make pick up changes. However, it is essential for parents/guardians to double check their default plans on pick up patrol and make sure they match the default plans. As changes are made to the default, it is essential that these changes are made early in the day (they can be made up to three months in advance). Everyday, the K-6 secretaries pull the Pick up patrol changes, make copies for the Paras that assist with the bus loading. Additionally, they print, cut and deliver tickets to the teachers of the students of the changes from the default plan. It is very important for parents to make sure their child knows the plan. The teachers will follow the Pick Up Patrol changes regardless of what the students might request/report as their transportation plan. Please do not call in to make changes after the designated end time. Late calls create additional confusion to the school and child.</p>
	7% Lunch - want more tables, more quiet space	Will look into options and possibilities.
	Summer notices on the websites	Request for pages that need to be updated before the start of school have a date for planned updating so that the old information is not depended upon. Great idea. Including staff pages alerting to their being on Summer break and the date that a return call/email can be expected.
	Return messages from staff	24 hours. Staff are expected to provide a return message, even if an answer is not available to the question or request, but a notice that the message was received within 24 hours.

	After school programs, early release	In 2018-19, Early Release was adjusted so that less time in a single day was missed. This allows the teachers to provide a longer program for the students and have more check ins per month in their PLCs. The South Whidbey Community Center is offering multiple programs for the students to do on these days. Please check out their website at <a href="https://southwhidbeycommunitycenter.org/">https://southwhidbeycommunitycenter.org/</a>
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