

**Community Conversations
2018-2019**

Meeting	Questions/ Topics/Issues	Answers
Word on the Street 10/10/18	Old LMS Gyms - SWCC Gyms	The SWSD is NOT renovating the SWCC Gyms with SWSD funds. In 2013, the SWSD joined the OSPI sponsored initiative for a FEMA grant for a SWSD Hazard Mitigation Plan (linked here) . 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. More information regarding the grant is linked here.
	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: https://swhs.sw.wednet.edu/cms/One.aspx?portalId=466034&pageId=2395663 Powerpoint presentation for the 9th and 10th graders is linked here.
	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.
Moving Forward 10/3/18	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 Board Docs) (Monthly Financial Reports are available online here:

		<p>https://sw.wednet.edu/about_us/departments/business_services/monthly_financial_reports).</p> <p>Details regarding current public school finances are available online at: https://sw.wednet.edu/about_us/departments/business_services/public_school_finance_and_collective_bargaining</p> <p>Teachers salaries are the highest priority, the budget is being adjusted to balance. Cuts are being made in professional development and other aspects.</p> <p>We are closely watching the State budget changes to keep the SWSD budget balanced.</p> <p>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.</p>
	SPED services to Preschoolers	<p>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. https://www.sw.wednet.edu/programs/special_education/child_find. 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 (contact information linked here).</p>
	Access to technology /wifi outside of school	<p>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: https://sno-isle.org/help/pcreservation</p>
	Parent Education	<p>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;</p>
	Student Achievement for All	<p>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: https://sw.wednet.edu/cms/One.aspx?portalId=465833&pageId=2853148</p>
	Early Morning Start Time for 7-12	<p>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</p>

		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 https://whidbeyschoolgardens.wordpress.com/ . Additionally, many of the grades participate in the Outdoor Classroom, see more information linked here: https://whidbeywatersheds.org/education/elementary/ . Our 5th graders engage in hatching and releasing salmon. Linked here is a video clip of the salmon hatching that the 5th grade students are raising . Our 7th and 8th grade classes participate in Enrichment Classes outside of the 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: https://sw.wednet.edu/cms/one.aspx?pagelId=652904 Washington state standard require specific goals be met in grades K-12 (see Washington's OSPI site on standards linked here: http://www.k12.wa.us/ELA/Standards.aspx	
Middle School and High School Programs	The SWHS has a number of programs to serve the diverse population. See more info on programs online linked here: https://swhs.sw.wednet.edu/programs . There are over three dozen clubs, groups and teams that students can choose to participate in (see a list online linked here: https://swhs.sw.wednet.edu/cms/one.aspx?pagelId=655781 Our 7th and 8th Grader have multiple programs for students to participate in: online linked here: https://swms.sw.wednet.edu/students . Additionally, our 7th and 8th graders participate in enrichment programs on Wednesdays.	
Discipline Procedures	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 found online on Board Docs 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.	
Professionalism	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.
Word on the Street 9/26/18	Dress Code	SWSD Board Policy 3224 (found online on Board Docs) described Student's Dress. Additionally, the SWSD Family Handbook (linked here) addresses student clothing and the SWHS Student Handbook (linked here) 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.
	Band Fundraising	<p>Our SWSD award winning Band program is one of the best in the state. Over the years, the band has travelled 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. 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
Word on the Street 9/12/18	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"> a) Connection for new registrant b) Copy of Parent Handbook c) PTA info d) Community info -- peachjar etc e) Who to contact
	Peachjar links on Facebook	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 www.sw.wednet.edu - communication - news - peachjar flyers linked

		here to review at parents convenience. Unfortunately, due to the Facebook parameters, a peachjar link is not possible.
Better teachers presence on the website		The SWSD requires teachers to have a presence on the website - staff pages. Each school site has a link to staff pages. The District Site links to all staff pages. 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.
9th grade parent orientation requested		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Checklist sheet needed for what they need to do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Student ID (did not know they needed to do that) ii) Fees needed to be paid iii) Should be able to do everything in one day
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		Pick up patrol is in full use for grades K-6. https://www.pickuppatrol.net/ 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.
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 https://southwhidbeycommunitycenter.org/