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TUKWILA SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES RESOLUTION TO ALTER BOND EXPENDITURES, COMMITTS TO FULFILLING INTENT OF BALLOT PROPOSITION

(Tukwila, WA) --- The Tukwila School District Board of Directors has approved a resolution finding that changes in local circumstances have resulted in the need to alter expenditures from general obligation bonds originally approved by voters in February 2016.

The original ballot proposition authorized the District to issue up to \$99,158,706 in general obligation bonds to: make District-wide health safety security and educational infrastructure improvements; renovate and expand Tukwila, Thorndyke and Cascade View Elementary Schools, and Showalter Middle School and Foster High School; construct a Birth-to-Five Center and Transportation/Technology/ Maintenance Facility; and acquire land. While most of the original plan will be implemented as proposed, the Board resolution changes the district's approach to serving children ages Birth-to-Five.

Instead of building a new Birth-to-Five Center facility, the district plans to make capital improvements to the three existing Tukwila elementary schools, by building new classrooms to serve children ages Birth-to-Five. The district determined it could still fulfill the intent of the ballot proposition – health, safety, security and educational infrastructure improvements – *and* support children from Birth-to-Five, with this alternative solution. Approximately \$25 million out of the \$99 million bond was planned for the Birth-to-Five center and will be redirected.

Since passage of the bond, “construction costs in the region dramatically increased, district enrollment decreased, and questions came up about whether the district could afford to operate the building long-term,” said Dave Larson, Board President, “Moving early learning programs to elementary schools, where children will already be starting kindergarten, will support strong transitions and preserve the district's financial health.”

The alternative solution is also more cost effective. “Saving funds that would have been spent on a new building frees up dollars to be used on other priorities the planning committee had originally wanted, such as air conditioning at Foster High School,” said Dr. Judith Berry, Interim Superintendent.

Prior to adopting the resolution, the school board held a public hearing and solicited public comment through a survey on the district website.

Alteration of expenditures from these bond proceeds is allowed under the original resolution passed by voters, which read, "If the Board shall subsequently determine that state or local circumstances, including, but not limited to, changed conditions or needs, regulatory considerations or incompatible development, should cause any alteration to the Projects, the District shall not be required to accomplish the Projects and may apply the Bond Proceeds or State Financing Assistance (or any portion thereof) to: (a) other portions of the Projects; (b) acquire, construct, install, equip and make other capital improvements to the District's facilities; or (c) retire and/or defease a portion of the Bonds or other outstanding bonds of the District, all as the Board may determine by resolution after holding a public hearing thereon pursuant to RCW 28A.530.020."

The School Board approved the resolution by a vote of 5-0. The full text of the resolution can be found at: <https://tukwilaschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Resolution-No.-862-Reallocation-of-the-Birth-to-Kindergarten-Funds-signed.pdf>

Interested stakeholders may find more information about the bond on the district's website <http://tukwilaschools.org/district/about/bond-projects/>

About 2800 students are enrolled in five schools located within the Tukwila School District in southwest King County. Students represent many cultures and ethnic groups and speak more than 80 world languages. About 40 percent of students qualify for English Language Learner services. There is about 118 students enrolled in our early learning program. About 80 percent of students are eligible for free/reduced school meals. A staff of about 400 serve the district's students.