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**TUKWILA SCHOOL BOARD VOTES TO RESCIND OPEN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING,
PLEDGES TRANSPARENCY**

(Tukwila, WA) --- The Tukwila School District Board of Directors has repealed a resolution originally passed in July 2017 that would have conducted collective bargaining in public.

The original resolution would have made Tukwila the second district in Washington state to conduct open public bargaining, a highly unusual practice. Since passage of the resolution, the district has heard significant feedback, new Board members have been elected, and an Interim Superintendent appointed.

“The Board of Directors is committed to transparency, and we must implement transparency in a thoughtful way,” commented Board President Dave Larson. He continued, “open collective bargaining is a very new practice requiring a high level of trust built over time between the associations and administration, and we do not yet fully understand all of the pros and cons.”

The Board of Directors nevertheless pledged transparency throughout the collective bargaining process. One strategy under consideration is to have a Board member observe negotiations. Also, a Budget Advisory Team has already started creating a more detailed and transparent budget development and decision-making process which will include regular presentations to the public about the budget and impact of negotiations, during Board meetings.

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. About 80 percent of students are eligible for free/reduced school meals. A staff of about 400 serve the district’s students.