

January 31, 2008

Dear Parents:

The 2008 Citizens' Bond and Tech Levy Committee recommended to Ferndale School Board a six-year technology levy totaling \$4.2 million to be collected in \$700,000 increments over six years. The school board approved that proposal at their meeting of December 21. The election for the technology levy will be held on March 11, 2008 and would fund the following:

- Upgrade Classroom Technology
- Technology Replacement Cycle for instructional computers
- Instructional Technology Training for staff
- Network Infrastructure Upgrade
- Partial payment for a District Phone System Upgrade
- Establish Technology Replacement Fund (i.e. replacing bulbs, lab printers, projectors, document cameras, etc.)

In preparation for the Technology Levy, this past November the district hired Northwest Educational Service District (NWESD) No. 189 to compare our current technology program with five (5) other school districts of similar size and demographics. Below is a comparison chart of a portion that study:

	Number of Students Per Standards-Based Computer ¹	Number of Students Per Non-Standard Computers ²	Number of Students Per Computers located in a library	Number of Students Per Lab Computer ³	Percent of Classrooms with Document Cameras	Percent of Classrooms with Interactive Whiteboards	Percent of Classrooms with LCD Projectors	Number of Computers Per IT* staff Member	Number of IT* staff
Average of five districts	4.56	10.43	51.63	14.06	62.56%	5.93%	70.80%	277.9	5.9
Ferndale	9.6	4.8	59.5	9.1	8.92%	0%	20.70%	390.0	4.0
Notes	Lower= Better	Higher= Better	Lower= Better	Lower= Better	Higher= Better	Higher= Better	Higher= Better	Lower= Better	Higher= Better

*District Technology Staff

¹ Number of computers is calculated from OSPI standards-based systems instructional computers

² Number of computers is calculated from OSPI non-standards-based instructional computers

³ Lab computers include laptops used in *mobile labs*

Also in preparation for the Technology levy, since this past October, NWESD 189 has been conducting a "Technology Performance Review" studying and reviewing our current technology program. The review will be available around mid-January with recommended improvements, changes, and changes in policies to our current program. The results of the study will be shared with staff and patrons of the district.

What is the cost to the taxpayer per year on a \$300,000 home if the six-year technology levy is approved:

Year	Estimated Tax Increase per \$1,000	Estimated Tax Increase on \$300,000 home
2009	19 cents	\$57
2010	18 cents	\$54
2011	17 cents	\$51
2012	16 cents	\$48
2013	16 cents	\$48
2014	15 cents	\$45

It is anticipated that many of the new instructional computers will be leased by the district. Leasing provides a regular replacement cycle ensuring that our students and staff are using up-to-date computers to help meet the ever changing needs of technology. In addition, additional support or technicians will be needed in the future to help keep the district up-to-date in regard to technology and those personnel costs will be paid through district/state funds.

If you have questions or need further information, please use the districts' website at www.ferndale.wednet.edu. You can also contact the people listed at the bottom of this page.

Sincerely,



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Superintendent

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