



Serving the Communities of Ferndale, Lummi Island, Custer, Lummi Reservation and North Bellingham.

FERNDALE SCHOOLS

Winter 2006-07

District building projects underway

New elementary school goes to bid

District staff have been very busy working on Capital Bond Projects since the passage of Proposition 1 last March. Several of the smaller projects have been completed and there has been a great amount of effort put into preparing for next summer's construction season. Following is a project by project status report:

New Elementary School

The design phase of the two-story, 65,000 square foot *state of the art* facility is complete and the district is currently soliciting bids for the construction of the facility. Bids will be opened in March, with the breaking of ground occurring in July. It is esti-

imated the school will cost \$12.8 million. Completion of the project is expected to be in time for students to attend school in the new building fall 2008.

The school will consist of four learning classroom clusters which have shared common areas, a library, a gymnasium, a computer lab and an atrium.

When designing the school, the district considered the natural landscape to capitalize on the mountain view.

The school is in close proximity to the neighborhood allowing for safe walking access to the school.

The design also implements as many green concepts as is feasibly possible. Natural light is incorporated into all learning



Facade of new elementary school to be located at 6175 Church Road.

spaces.

Architects for the project are Rolluda Architects of Seattle.

New Secondary School Site

In November the district completed the purchase of a 29 acre site located off Church Road for a new secondary

school. This parcel of land located on Swede Hill was once part of the Erickson Dairy Farm which began with an initial purchase of land by

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WASL Testing begins March 13



Beginning March 13, students in the district will participate in the Washington Assessment of Student Learn-

ing (WASL).

Students in grades three through ten will take required tests sometime during the March 13 through May 4 testing window. Optional testing will be available for students in grades 9, 11 and 12.

WASL is a series of tests that helps make sure our students learn the foundational skills and knowledge that educators, parents and community leaders say are important to their success in life.

The WASL serves two

purposes. It helps identify how each student is doing and how each school is doing. Schools pay attention to WASL results. They use them to improve teaching and to do a better job of meeting every student's academic needs.

Starting with the class of 2008, all students must show they have a certain level of skill in reading, writing and math (and, soon, science) to be

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*Ferndale
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Thank you, Alcoa Foundation and BP Cherry Point Refinery for your support of schools and students. The district values its partnerships with you.

BP contributes \$10,000 to Try A Trade Program

Mike Abendoff, Manager of Government and Public Affairs for BP Cherry Point Refinery, presented Whatcom Tech Prep Consortium with a \$10,000 donation.

Linda Cowan, Consortium Director, indicated the donation will be used to support their annual Try a Trade program hosted by Bellingham Technical College. On February 15, high school teachers and students will spend the day at BTC visiting a variety of professional technical programs such as nursing, instrumentation, process technology, HVAC, welding,

fisheries, and more. Participants learn about the requirements for education and level of skill attainment needed for success in the classroom and workplace.

Following the campus event, participants may job shadow at various work sites to see how the training is used on the job.

The program creates awareness about the variety of technical career opportunities available in this county. To learn more about the program, students are encouraged to contact their high school career center specialist.



Whatcom County Tech Prep Director Linda Cowan (left) receives a contribution from BP Manager of Government & Public Affairs Mike Abendoff.

Submitted by: Linda Cowan, Director, Whatcom Tech Prep Consortium
lcowan@btc.ctc.edu

Alcoa Foundation awards Ferndale Schools \$10,000 grant

Ferndale School District was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Alcoa Foundation. The grant will be used toward the Keith McKay Natural Resources Learning Center Pond Renovation/Water Quality Improvement Project. Grant monies will be used to renovate the pond to create tiered sides and installation of a new filter system.

Keith McKay Natural Resources Center, located at Ferndale High School's campus, serves ninety students who are actively engaged in environmental education which includes raising fish and hydroponics. The center is a vital component to the district's science curriculum.

The center was constructed

in 1998 and is named in honor of Keith McKay, a 1991 graduate of Ferndale High School, who was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1992.

Alcoa Foundation, a global resource that actively invests in the quality of life in Alcoa communities worldwide, has invested nearly \$411 million since its inception in 1952.

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Testing

eligible to graduate. One of four ways students statewide must do this is by passing the WASL (or a state-approved alternative – available after two attempts at the WASL) or, for students receiving special education services only, passing one of the

options available under the Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS).

Unlike most standardized tests, which are all multiple choice, the WASL is a mix of multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response ques-

tions.

The WASL is used to meet testing requirements under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. WASL scores determine whether a school, a district or the state has met Adequate Yearly Progress.

For more information about testing contact your school's building principal or call the district's Curriculum & Instruction Department at 360/383-9211

Information is also available online at www.k12.wa.us/assessment/WASL

Grade	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Reading							Optional		Optional	Optional
Math							(reading, math,		(reading, math,	(reading, math,
Writing	No test		No test	No test		No test	writing only)		writing and	writing and
Science	No test	No test		No test	No test		No test		science)	science)

Note above: shaded boxes indicate mandatory testing

CP projects update continued

Rod Erickson's grandfather more than 100 years ago. At the Ferndale School Board meeting held October 27, Erickson conveyed that his father valued education and learning; he would be glad to see that the site will serve and teach children of

the community.

Planning has begun for the new school and will continue through fall 2008 when a citizens' advisory committee will meet to discuss the project as well as other capital projects. In its planning, the district has pledged to maintain the beauty, tradition and history of the site.

Skyline Elementary School

This past summer, a new connector road was built between Vista Middle and Skyline Elementary schools. The Skyline parking lot and student drop-

off/pick-up areas have been redesigned to provide a clear delineation between buses, parking and parent vehicles. The end result is a much safer area for all traffic and students. Parents needing to drop-off or pick up their Skyline students

now enter the new road at Vista Middle School and then travel via the road to the new drop-off/pick up areas along the front of the school. Parents may also use the Vista parking lot on Vista Drive as a pick-up/drop-off area.

Custer Elementary School

As part of the bond issue, voters approved \$3.5 million for the renovation of Custer Elementary School. Preliminary design investigative work for the renovation of the school uncovered a few previously unknown building deficiencies. These discovered deficiencies will require upgrades in excess of the voted bond amount. The district is eligible for additional state match dollars, but to qualify would need to spend more dollars than the bond would cover. Since this discovery, the district has completed a study of the building and updated the needs assessment. The district is completing the preliminary design phase which includes defining educational needs which are then compared to several facility design options. Preserving the historical appearance of the school will be a priority in planning for the renovation. The school board will be meeting the end of February to discuss options for the school's renovation and to provide direction on how the district should proceed.

Ferndale High School

Several projects have been completed at Ferndale High School: a new roof on the gymnasium, resurfacing the gym floors, adding new bleachers in the old gym and refinishing of the gym floors. Work in progress includes: lighting upgrades in both gyms and a campus-wide security upgrade.

The district has designed and is prepared to bid construction in March the following work:

- A campus wide upgrade to the electrical distribution system.
 - Fine arts complex will see numerous upgrades to the auditorium area including new restrooms, concessions, carpeting, seating and ADA improvements.
 - Art classroom renovations and upgrades.
 - Vocational technology will see the addition of a new photography darkroom and media center classroom.
 - Science areas will see several classroom upgrades, including an additional chemistry classroom.
- Construction on these projects will begin once school is dismissed for the summer.

Mt. View Elementary School

Currently, the district is in the design phase for the Mountain View Elementary School bond project. Work is scheduled to begin this summer and includes: creating three new classrooms, additional restrooms and storage area. Site work will include a new fire lane/bus road and a new play structure.

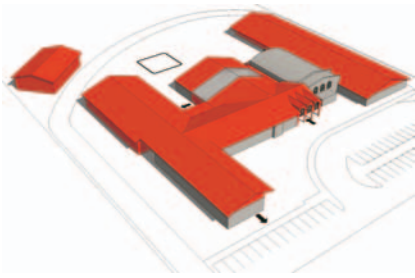
Other Capital Projects

- Other work currently in design includes:
- Heating and ventilation upgrades for Vista Middle and North Bellingham Elementary schools.
 - New windows and air conditioning for the library at North Bellingham Elementary School.
 - Various site improvements at Beach Elementary School.
 - Revisions to the transportation facility.

The goal is to complete the design phase and begin construction by summer for these projects.

3D Visuals showing options for Custer Elementary School's proposed renovation

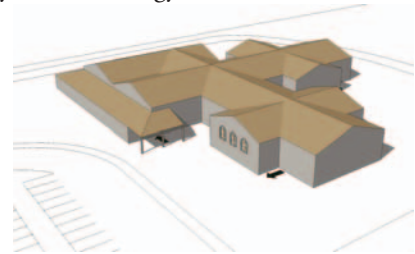
Option 2B: Numerous upgrades, adds classrooms, storage area, new common areas, partial pod configuration



Option 2C: differs from 2B in that 2C provides full pod configuration and ease of community use

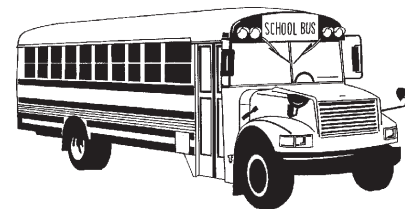


Option 4: Basically a new two-story school with full pod configuration, ease of community use and energy efficiencies



For more information about capital projects contact the business office at 360/383-9203

School bus fleet operating on biodiesel fuel



Fuel will improve air quality, public health and the environment

As of November 1, 2006, Ferndale School District began operating its fleet of school buses on a biodiesel blend named B-20 instead of regular on-road diesel.

Prior to that, the district conducted testing using 99% biodiesel on its fleet of 39 buses. Mileage and performance were tracked with both showing an increase by using B-20.

Studies have demonstrated that emissions of certain pollutants are lower when burning biodiesel compared to regular

on-road diesel. Since diesel particulates have been found to be very hazardous, the use of biodiesel will dramatically reduce the particulate levels and, thus, improve air quality, public health and the environment. Students will experience a safer and healthier ride to and from school.

Implementation of the use of B-20 was made possible by a grant from Northwest Clean Air Agency through its Statewide Clean School Bus Program. The

grant, initially for \$8,000, will offset the increased cost of using biodiesel instead of highway diesel fuel.

Ferndale is the second school district in the state making the switch to biodiesel. Central Valley School District in Spokane also operates its fleet using biodiesel.

Director of Transportation Darrell Clute is credited with writing the grant and securing the necessary resources for the district.

Micro-small Biodiesel Seminar

Phase West, with the assistance of Clean Air and Alcoa Intalco Works will host an informational seminar on the benefits, safety, licensing and production of biodiesel.

Saturday, March 31
8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
Ferndale High School
Vocational Facility
Room 714
5830 Golden Eagle Drive
Ferndale

No cost to the public
Lunch will be provided

RSVP is required to
360/383-9316 or
jyoung@ferndale.wednet.edu

Preschool enrollment

To apply for admission to preschool, parents may call 360/383-9700. Attendance is free of charge.

Preschool opened November 2006

School serves 27 students and will double capacity next year

Ferndale School District's new preschool program, funded by a four-year U.S. Department of Education (DOE) grant of \$955,075, opened November 8.

In its first year, the preschool will serve up to 12 three year-olds in a daily morning program and up to 15 four year-olds each afternoon at North Bellingham Elementary School. The second year's operation will see the program double in size to two three-year old classes and two four-year old classes. Initial hopes were that the program would be placed at Eagleridge Elementary School, however a lack of space there required the

move to North Bellingham Elementary School.

The new preschool will provide a developmentally-appropriate and culturally-sensitive curriculum linked to a high-quality literacy program supported by Compass Learning's pre-kindergarten computer instructional software. The preschool—which is separate in funding and regulatory oversight from the district's special education developmental preschool sections—has three main goals to help young children be kindergarten-ready when they enter the district:

1) Development of social and

emotional skills regarding peer interactions, response to school structure and the ability to participate positively in group activities;

2) Increase in beginning literacy skills in the areas of phonological awareness, expressive vocabulary and use of alphabetic principles; and

3) Increase the number of American Indian students in district early childhood programs.

Mr. John Fairbairn, principal of Eagleridge Elementary School, and Dr. Michael Berres, director of special services, will serve as co-directors of the preschool.

Eagleridge Elementary gets a new track

Eagleridge Elementary School is the recipient of a new 1000 foot long, 9 foot wide recycled asphalt product track thanks to school parent/teacher organization members and

community members.

The PTO donated \$10,600 to the project. Tony Freeland and Associates contributed engineering services and a monetary donation. Wilder

Construction and Jeff Nelson provided personnel and equipment. Lynn Smith donated her services for the permitting process.

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FHS students fed the needy

Under the direction of the FHS ASB Leadership students and Advisor Rick Brudwick, high school students collected over eight tons of food to help our needy neighbors.

Local businesses Haggen and Cost Cutter assisted in the efforts.

Students collected toys for children

Early College Program students collected six shopping carts full of toys that were given to Ferndale Food Bank and Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation for distribution to children.

Ferndale Cost Cutter, Haggen, Rite Aid and Walgreens provided sites for collection of toys.

Students Made A Difference

More than 80 Ferndale High School students and volunteers cleaned up the beach area from Stommish Grounds to Gooseberry Point on Lummi Indian Reservation on Make A Difference Day. More than 60 large bags of garbage was removed from beaches.

District Highlights—Fall 2006

Horizon receives State and National Award

Horizon Middle School was recognized as a 2006 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education at ceremonies held in Washington, D.C. in November.

Horizon was recognized in the dramatic improvement category due to the school's progress in closing the achievement gap by showing strong and consistent improvements on its state reading and mathematics assessments since 2002-2003. Horizon is one of seven schools in the state and one of 250 schools nationwide honored this year.

Horizon opened in 2001 and serves 390 students in grades seven and eight.

Horizon is the sixth school in Ferndale School District to hold the distinction as a State and National Blue Ribbon School. Previous recipients include Ferndale High School, Vista Middle School, Skyline Elementary School, Mountain View Elementary School and Custer Elementary School.



Washington State Senator Dale Brandland (left) congratulates and presents the NCLB Blue Ribbon plaque to former Horizon Middle School Principal Wayne Massie.

FHS Band and Guard win at State

Ferndale High School's Marching Band and Guard placed first in state winning both the preliminary and final

competitions at Tumwater Festival held October 14, 2006, at Tumwater High School. This is the second year in a row the

band and guard have been awarded the state trophy.

The 10 high schools participating in the inaugural festival were divided into divisions judged on percussion, auxiliary, music, marching and overall general effect. Ferndale High placed *best* in auxiliary, percussion and general effect categories which led to its win of the Frank Minear Sweepstakes.

Ferndale's band and color guard is comprised of approximately 85 members and is under the direction of Steve Menefee.



Ferndale High School Band and Guard win at State for the second year in a row.

Comcast Care Day volunteers overhaul high school

Over 120 volunteers participated in Comcast Cares Day on October 7 at Ferndale High School. Volunteers included Comcast employees and family members; high school staff, students and parents; and community members. It is estimated that between 650 and 700 hours of labor were given.

Volunteers worked on a variety of projects including rebuilding soil bins and tables for

the greenhouse, weeding and landscaping, painting, and general clean-up.

Businesses who supported the project by donating food or supplies were Western Refinery Services, OSO Lumber, BB Lumber, Creative Designs, Ferndale Ready Mix & Gravel, Northstar Stone & Landscape, Ferndale Quiznos, Ferndale Haggen, Ferndale Cost Cutter, Kent's Nursery, Van Wingerden's

Greenhouses and Fred Meyer. KISM Radio provided a feature segment of the event.

Comcast not only provided workers for the day, but donated \$1500 toward the efforts.

Ferndale School District thanks Comcast, the above mentioned businesses and the volunteers who supported this project. Everyone's efforts have truly improved the appearance of the high school campus.

Meningococcal Immunization Update

Washington State schools are required to provide meningococcal information beginning with sixth grade entry to students and parents in their communities.

Meningococcal disease, commonly known as meningococcal meningitis strikes up to 3,000 adolescents and adults in the U.S. each year. Adolescents and young adults have an increased rate of contracting meningococcal disease compared

to the general population, accounting for nearly 30 percent of all U.S. cases annually.

According to one study, as many as one out of every four adolescents infected with the disease may die. Of those who survive, up to twenty percent suffer long-term disabilities, including brain damage, hearing loss, kidney disease and limb amputations.

Washington's Department of

Health wants parents to be aware of meningococcal meningitis and the availability of a vaccine to protect against the disease. Vaccination can help protect against up to 83 percent of the meningococcal disease cases occurring among adolescents and young adults. Vaccination is not required for school attendance.

You are encouraged to learn more about meningococcal

meningitis and prevention, and to speak with your child's physician about immunization. In addition, speak with your children about good hygiene and not sharing personal items that may help transmit the disease.

For additional information log on to:

Washington State Department of Health Immunization Program:

Meningococcal disease information:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/meningococcal.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Meningococcal vaccine information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/vis/vis-mening.pdf>;

Disease Information:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningo-coccal_g.htm;

Fact sheets: http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/mening/mening_fs.pdf

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Vaccine Education Center:

http://www.chop.edu/vaccine/images/vec_mening_tear.pdf

National Meningitis Association: <http://www.nmaus.org/programs/pta/index.htm>

Don't miss FHS Theatre's *Footloose*

Make plans now to attend Ferndale High School's Theatrical production *Footloose* March 8-10 and 15-17.

Footloose is an energetic choreographed musical that

follows a teenage boy, Ren, and his mother, Ethel, as they uproot and move from Chicago to live with relatives in the small farming town of Bomont.

All performances will be held

in the high school auditorium with performances beginning at 7:00 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$10-adults; \$7-students and seniors; free for children under six years.

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Supts message continued

school board, our staff and the various school parent/teacher organizations.

We are getting a lot of help from our police agencies and from the state through the school mapping study. Despite all that we read, the data and research associated with school safety clearly indicates schools are one of the most safe places to be.

You will be receiving a school

calendar survey shortly. Please be sure to respond to it. We appreciate your thoughts, and the board and administration pay careful attention to what the survey tells them.

If you need additional information on what is happening with the new elementary and Custer elementary, you can visit the district website at www.ferndale.wednet.edu or the architects website at [www.](http://www.rolludaarchitects.com)

[rolludaarchitects.com](http://www.rolludaarchitects.com).

Other construction projects will also be included on the district website as they get underway. All of the projects, other than the new elementary school, will start later this spring so news on those projects will not be available online until late spring.

We are looking forward to spring. Best wishes,
Roger Lehnert

Preschool and kindergarten registration set for Ferndale schools

Register during the week of March 5-9

Kindergarten

Parents with children who are planning to enter kindergarten in Ferndale School District in the fall of 2007 are to register during the week of March 5-9. Registration hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

Parents should register children at the school they will be attending. If unsure of which school that is, please call 383-9207 or

383-9236.

For planning purposes, it is important that students register during the March 5th week. Placement of students in their neighborhood school in kindergarten is on a first come, first serve basis.

To be eligible to register for kindergarten, a child must be five years of age prior to midnight on August 31, 2007. The child's birth date will be verified at the time of enrollment by birth certificate, baptismal certificate or a hospital birth registration. A record of immunizations, as required by state law will also be verified prior to the first day of school.

Preschool

Applications will also be accepted for enrollment of three

and four year olds into the district's preschool program. Registration will take place at Eagleridge Elementary School, 2651 Thornton Road.

If you have any questions regarding registration, you may call the school your child will be attending:

- Beach Elementary, 383-9440
- Central Elementary, 383-9600
- Custer Elementary, 383-9500
- Eagleridge Elementary, 383-9700
- Mountain View Elementary, 383-9650
- North Bellingham Elementary, 383-9550
- Skyline Elementary, 383-9450

2006-07 School Year Calendar at a Glance

Month	Days	Event
February	19	Presidents' Day, No School
	20-23	Snow Make-up Days
March	2	Conference Prep, Grades K-6 Early Release
	14-16	Conferences, Grades K-6 Early Release
	29-30	Conferences, Grades 7-12 Early Release
April	6	Snow Make-up Day
	9-13	Spring Break, No School
May	18	Snow Make-up Day
	28	Memorial Day, No School
June	8	Report Card Prep, Grades K-6 Early Release
	25-26	Snow Make-up Days
	26	Last day of school
	27-29	Possible Snow Make-up Days

Immunizations required for school attendance

To ensure that children are protected against a number of childhood diseases, Washington State law requires that all children admitted to public and private schools be immunized (or

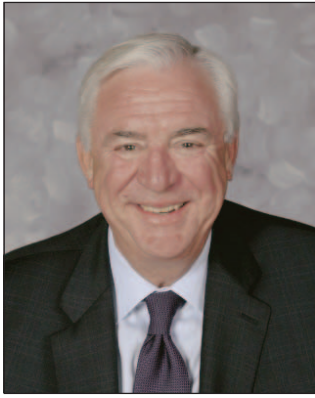
be in the process of receiving immunizations) against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTP and DT), polio (OPV or IPV), measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), and hepatitis B as

appropriate. Parents should consult with their family physician.

For more information about immunizations call Department of Health at 866/397-0337 or visit www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize

GRADE	Varicella (Chicken Pox)	DTaP/DTP/DT/Td	POLIO	MMR	HEP B	
Kindergarten (ages 4-6)	1 dose given on or after the 1st birthday OR Parent reported history of the disease	5 doses Pertussis-containing vaccine recommended 4 doses acceptable provided the last dose is given on or after the 4th birthday	4 doses recommended 3 doses acceptable provided the last dose is given on or after the 4th birthday	2 doses MMR recommended both given on or after the 1st birthday and at least 28 days apart	3 doses	
Grade 1-5 (ages 7-13)	Recommended, not required	Td/Tdap		2 doses Measles; 1 dose Mumps & 1 dose Rubella acceptable both given on or after the 1st birthday and at least 28 days apart		
Grade 6	1 dose given on or after the 1st birthday OR Parent reported history of the disease	Pertussis is not required above kindergarten (age 7) 5 doses recommended; the last dose must be received on or after the 4th birthday				
Grades 7-9	Recommended, not required	Booster dose of Td/Tdap recommended at age 11-12				
Grades 9-12 (ages 14-18)		3 doses acceptable provided the last dose is given on or after the 4th birthday				3 doses recommended, not required

Superintendent's message



Dr. Roger Lehnert

Greetings! The winter weather has been a challenge to all of us. Canceling school for five consecutive days set a record for me as well as many others in the school system.

On any weather event day, we are up early driving the roads and side roads determining where problems exist and what actual driving conditions are. That begins around three in the morning. While the driving of the roads is going on, we are monitoring the weather on computers. Weather maps, temperature changes, wind conditions, conditions that will exist after the opening of school and

predictions regarding the rest of the week are things we look at and consider.

Superintendents in the county usually talk with one another early in the morning because we have found that in Whatcom County weather conditions can be very different from one region to another. Ferndale School District tries to make the decision as to whether or not school will be in session around 5:30 a.m., but on occasion we have made the decisions the night before. While that is rare, there are those times when the weather is so obvious and so predictable it is not difficult to make the decision the night before.

We are tremendously proud of our transportation crew. They are well trained, operate in a safe manner and care deeply for children. Our most recent snow event went from a predicted one to three inches of snow to nine inches of accumulation. To say the least, weather forecasters, this superintendent and our community were all surprised.

After the last snow events,

we have spent a great deal of time doing an inventory of what happened, how we could do better and what went well. We value the advice and concerns you shared with us. They helped.

By the time you receive this, we will have called for bids for the construction of our new elementary school to be located off Church Road. We hope to break ground in June or July and complete the school in time for the opening of school in fall 2008. Shortly after the new school is bid, we will be seeking bids for the other projects which include Beach, North Bellingham and Mountain View elementary schools, Vista Middle School and Ferndale High School.

We are reexamining the decision to renovate Custer elementary. We are down to two options both of which would require us to ask the voters for additional money in a bond issue that would be run in February or March of 2008. With state match dollars, we find it attractive to consider a major renovation or a new

school. The money for the original renovation was \$3.5 million and with state match of another \$3.5 million added we have a total of \$7 million. A new school is estimated to cost about double that amount. We will be presenting all of the options to the school board in February and asking for their direction. From that point, we will begin to develop a plan that will be shared with a citizens' committee in the fall of 2007.

Currently, all of our schools are being studied for safety and other features through two studies. The first study is more a local/county law enforcement task called Rapid Responder. The second study is done by the state and is called mapping. That study shows us where we are at risk should we have intruders, our capacity to lock down our buildings and where we should locate video surveillance. We will take all of that information and share our recommendations with the

see Supts Message page six

School Board of Directors

Dr. John Hraby, President
Mr. Norm Robertson
Ms. Lee Anne Riddle
Mr. Stuart McKay
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Superintendent/Board Secretary

Dr. Roger L. Lehnert

Editor

Tammy Bengen

FERNDALE SCHOOLS is a newsletter for Ferndale School District community members. Its purpose is to improve understanding of school programs. Questions or comments may be directed to the administration office, P.O. Box 698, 6041 Vista Drive, Ferndale, Washington 98248, 360/383-9207.

Visit the district website at
<http://www.ferndale.wednet.edu>

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Ferndale School District is an equal opportunity employer. The district is committed to providing equal opportunity for all persons without regard to race, color, creed, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, age, or the presence of any non-job related sensory, mental or physical disability.

Our Mission

Ferndale School District, in partnership with families and the larger community, will educate each student to develop the knowledge, skills and character necessary to lead a self-reliant, socially responsible life.