School board talks technology levy

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The Enumclaw Herald

The Enumclaw School Board resurrected its levy and bond conversation at a workshop Sept. 20.

After much discussion, the board is leaning toward putting a technology and capital improvement levy before voters, but with the economy in turmoil hesitated at the thought of a bond that would cover more capital projects including building elementary schools that would handle growth and replace aging facilities.

There was some discussion about conducting a climate survey to see what voters might be most inclined to support, but the board thinks putting more technology in the hands of students can't wait.

"Our kids are just getting farther and farther behind," board member Corey Cassell said.

Classrooms currently have little if any technology. A levy could provide classrooms with five student computers, a teacher laptop, projector, printer, SmartBoard, audio augmentation, document camera, wireless access point and a rolling computer lab to be shared among classrooms.

A levy would also include upgrades to the infrastructure to support technological additions and include long overdue capital projects like an Enumclaw Middle School roof.

More discussion awaits the board as it gave Superintendent Mike Nelson and business manager Randy Stecker the go-ahead to pull new cost numbers and different packages for it to examine. The board's next meeting is 7 p.m. Oct. 20 in the board room.

In other business, the board discussed special education discipline procedures with attorney Dave Holt, who specializes in special education law and represents school districts. Laws for special education are more complicated because those students are guaranteed a free and appropriate public education. Districts continue to provide education to a student even if they are removed from the program.

Holt walked the board through the manifestation determination process, which is generally triggered after the 10-day suspension threshold. The process is used to determine if the conduct of a special education student is connected to their disability.

The law dictates who participates in that process, he said, parent, school district and relevant members of the student's individual education plan team.

The review includes an evaluation or diagnostic results, observations of the student, any relevant information parents can provide and an IEP, including a behavior intervention plan, if one exists.

The board also discussed the behaviors that set the process in motion.