

**EATONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
200 LYNCH STREET  
EATONVILLE, WA 98328**



**Report**

To: Board of Directors

From: Krestin Bahr

Date: August 10, 2014

**1. Communication**

Dorn Files Brief With Supreme Court

“The Legislature passed a plan to fully fund education,” Dorn says. “Now they need to fund it.”

**OLYMPIA — August 4, 2014** — The state Legislature and the Governor should be given the 2015 session to make substantial progress on fully funding basic education. If that doesn’t happen, the Court should make clear that there will be certain consequences, including, if necessary, a requirement that the State be barred from funding non-education elements of the budget.

That’s the essence of a brief to be filed with the Supreme Court by State Superintendent Randy Dorn this afternoon. The brief concerns *McCleary v. State of Washington*, a January 2012 decision by the state Supreme Court that determined the state isn’t meeting its constitutional duty to fully fund basic education.

“In 2009 and 2010, the Legislature passed a plan to fully fund basic education,” Dorn said. “The Supreme Court accepted House Bills [2261](#) and [2776](#) as the plan. Now the Court is saying the Legislature needs to fund the plan they, themselves, have adopted; and I agree with the Court.

“In 2013, the Legislature passed its first biennial budget to address *McCleary*. It didn’t make much progress. If they continue on that course, they won’t meet the 2018 deadline. I’m asking the Court to hand the plaintiffs a hammer if enough isn’t accomplished in 2015. That hammer could stop spending that doesn’t apply to basic education.”

State law cited by the Court imposes a 2018 deadline for full funding.

In the brief, Dorn proposes that, if the Court believes that the Legislature hasn’t made sufficient progress toward fully funding basic education in 2015, the Court should allow the *McCleary* plaintiffs to petition the Court for an order barring any nonessential state spending that doesn’t satisfy *McCleary*.

That could include declaring all, or part, of the 2015-17 operating budget unconstitutional.

In April, the Legislature delivered a report to the Court detailing its progress to date on meeting the decision, as well as a plan for the future. In its report, the Legislature acknowledged that it did not have a plan to achieve full funding by the 2018 deadline.

The Court responded by ordering the Legislature to appear Sept. 3 and explain why it shouldn't be sanctioned for lack of action.

Dorn's brief argues that sanctions aren't the best course of action at this time. "As a former legislator, I understand the difficulty of the work that needs to be done," he said. "There are only two major state budgets left before the 2018 deadline: 2015 and 2017. That leaves only two opportunities to satisfy *McCleary*."

"This is an election year, so there will be new legislators in 2015," he added. "I'm willing to let them do their work without the threat of sanctions. Right now, they're about 20 yards into a 100-yard dash. They need a big surge in 2015.

"The most important thing to understand is that this issue is about students, not adults. It's about what's right for our students. It's about giving them a quality education that will help them be successful in their futures. As a society, that's our responsibility

## **2. Fiscal Responsibility**

Attached is the requested information regarding the cost savings measures and the actual savings. This is good news. We will continue to be vigilant regarding keeping our fiscal costs in the forefront of all decisions.

Speaking of fiscal decisions, the cost factor to include an after school activity bus with two busses/five days per week for most of the school year will be approximately \$35,000-\$40,000. This would allow for schools to have academic intervention programs in addition to extended day options, as well as increased access for sports/clubs after school.

I have directed (name redacted) to assemble our off site holding for consideration for next steps. We will review these next month during our board meeting.

## **3. Construction and Grounds**

The final big push for the start of school is on. The grounds and the maintenance staff are working hard to meet the needs of returning staff.

The contract for the bus barn is being drawn up for our project with Lakes Tapps Construction. (Names redacted) will work with them to establish a timeline as well as a valuing meeting to review the specifics on the contract. I will keep you in the loop as we go through this process.

## **4. Academic Success**

All summer training has been completed! The five schools are ready to greet students next week.

Our No Dropout Contract is being considered at the state level to become a 1418 HB Program which

will allow our students to get the same level of care and education while allowing our district to keep the graduation rates and specifics for the state to consider as part of the re-engagement legislation impact. This is good news for both ESD and the No Dropout partners.

The professional Development calendar dates are completed and in draft form as we are waiting on several specifics to be determined. I will send this to you when all is Final.

### **5. Other:**

(Names redacted) and I attended the Legislative Reception for a newly developed School Lock down System to increase safety for students in the event of a lock down. The event has been widely publicized. The cost of the app is \$3000/building regardless the size. I am in conversation with the company and will keep you posted..

Our Welcome Back was well attended by all staff (or at least as many filled the high school commons). This was a great opportunity to set the tone and vision for the year. I have included the PowerPoint and the speech that (name redacted) gave to the staff. The cheer squad started the meeting off as well as food from mike and his crew. Thank you to (name redacted) who was able to attend. The Ohop Grange members were gracious enough to give their teacher of the year award to retired teacher, Billie Needham. This is a wonderful tradition. Please note the benchmarks which will be a focus for our accountability measures this year.

Next week is Eatonville Strong: Open Doors Time...please feel free to accompany me as I 1. Ride busses two days 2. Visit classrooms in all building 3. Make myself available for troubleshooting all issues that may come up during the first week rush. It is an honor and a privilege to go throughout the classrooms in all of our schools to say thank you to the teachers, support staff, and parents for their partnership in educating all of our children!

Enjoy your weekend!