

November Luncheon

Nov. 16, 2023

Starting at 11:30, people assembled in the Shoreline Room at the Shoreline School District Conference Center for a meet and greet. At 12:04, Jim Siscel welcomed everyone and went over the agenda.

Thirty-seven members and guests enjoyed a delicious Chef Dane-catered lunch of lasagna, green beans, Caesar salad, focaccia bread, and cookies.

After lunch, Dr. Susana Reyes, SSD superintendent, spoke on the state of the school district. She reported that the district's demographics are changing: now over 50% of its population are students of color and almost 1/3 qualify for free and reduced lunch. She spoke about the district's areas of focus and the work being done to respond to a shrinking budget

Diana White, former two-term ESD School Board member, was the featured speaker. She talked about her experiences during the 2023 Paddle to Muckelshoot, a journey that featured more than 100 canoes and canoe families. She illustrated her talk with photographs of the Blue Heron canoe and canoe family, the month-long journey, the landing at Alki, and the following activities. At the conclusion of her presentation, SKSR Vice President Cathy Webb presented Diana with certificate of appreciation and a \$200 honorarium.

Jim then asked everyone to look at the copy of the budget at their table. He pointed out that the major difference in this year's budget is the reduction in the amount put forward for scholarships. Currently SKSR awards four scholarships and renews up to 12 scholarships each year. Starting this school year, scholarships will only be renewable for one additional year; the amount of each year will be \$2,500. Aaron Feik made a motion that the proposed budget be accepted; the motion was seconded. Approval was unanimous, no nays, no abstentions.

Jim announced that Alan Burke, WSSRA Executive Director, will be retiring in June.

He also ran through WSSRA's legislative initiatives for this year
--support SCCP plan for a 3% PLAN 1 COLA
--endorse an automatic Plan 1 COLA beginning 2025

- protect the \$183 monthly medical allotment
- support a 1.5 credit for each year a Plan 2/3 member works over 30 years
- support dental care for members in healthcare facilities

Jim thanked those present for their donations that were collected at the door for Washington Kids in Transition.

He then explained the cleanup procedures. and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen McElliott