SKSR General Meeting—ESD Board Room Feb. 20, 2025

Attendees: Approximately 24: 16 SKSR members; 6 members of the public; 2 colleagues of Steve Edmiston. (This does not count Dr. Miner or Steve Edmiston.)

At. 12:05, Jim Siscel welcomed members and introduced Edmonds Superintendent Dr. Rebecca Miner. She expressed her gratitude for what SKSR does for students with the annual mini-grants and the senior scholarships. She routinely sends acknowledgements to all the recipients. She then proceeded to give an update of the ESD in terms of its current demographics and then segued into an explanation of the district's underfunding and the difficult choices the school board faces in determining where to make cuts. In the past two years, $25M have been cut from the district budget, and the time is approaching when cuts will need to be made to classrooms. She finished by giving an update on the school construction approved in last year's capital levy and then answered questions.

Jim thanked Dr. Miner for her time and then pointed out three sign-up sheets on the entrance table: ESD Retirement Seminars, Edmonds Wellness Fair, and SKSR field trip to Cascadia Art Museum in Edmonds. He informed that our next speaker wouldn't begin until 1:00.

Linda Lee introduced Steve Edmiston; he is sponsored by Humanities in Washington, a speakers' bureau. Edmiston is a lawyer and historian. His topic was "UFO NW: the true 1947 story of how Washington State spawned the Men in Black." After some background information about UFO sightings in general (including that fact that Washington State has more UFO reports per capita than any other state), he launched into a fascinating account of a lesser-known UFO sighting off Maury Island in June, 1947. This sighting of 6 flying torus-shaped objects hovering over the water, followed by an explosion, then falling molten lava-type debris leading to a dog's death and burns on a child happened just days before the better-known sighting by pilot Ken Arnold of 9 UFOs around hovering around Mt. Rainier. Edmiston walked the audience through the aftermath of the Maury Island incident. This included the appearance of a mysterious stranger which Edmiston proposes serves as a model for the Men in Black characters that appear in many X-File style movies and TV shows. He supported his talk with a wealth of visuals, clippings, and

excerpts from the official US Army and FBI investigations that followed. The audience was fully engaged. The presentation concluded with a lively Q and A segment, during which many questions were posed. Audience members were given a QR code that linked to a survey for the Humanities in WA program.

At 2:37, Jim thanked everyone for coming.

Respectfully submitted

Karen McElliott (acting secretary)