

45th and 48th Legislative District Candidate Forum

Wednesday October 5, 2016 7-9PM

Redmond High School Performing Arts Center

Sponsored by Bellevue and LWSD Councils

Write-up by JoAnn Ten Brinke, ICS PTSA Legislative Liaison

Jane Dulski - Moderator

General introduction of selves by candidates

RG Roger Goodman

State Rep 45th district position 1, live in Kirkland 4th/8th grader children. 6th term, 10 years. Emergency Response. Judiciary. Environment Committee. Trained as an Environmental Lawyer.

RV Ramiro Valderrama

Deputy Mayor Sammamish. US Military . 4 kids in LWSD. Vice Chair Regional Sound cities safety. Chair Rotary. Advisor on LWSD Stem Startup

LS Larry Springer

Representative 45th district 6 terms, 12 years. Elementary teacher Auburn. Kirkland city council. Mayor 4 years. Deputy . Appropriations committee. Finance committee. Ed Policy committee. Rules community.

JM Joan McBride

Representative. Position #2. Went to LWSD, as do kids. Mayor of Kirkland. Golden Acorn winner.

BP Ben Phelps

48th Leg position #2. Grew up in Bellevue. Special Ed programs/Gifted programs. Youth group leader. Youth leader.

PK Patty Kuderer

State rep 48th. Appointed. Currently trial lawyer, kids raised in Bellevue. Golden Acorn.

MD Michelle Darnell

Libertarian 48th rep running. Alternative for 2-party status quo. Decades of failed policy. Olympia's out of touch. Homeless incarcerated. Traffic. 1/4 kids don't graduate. Reform.

McCleary Decision had 2018 deadline. How do you plan to fund schools by 2018 ? How do you respond to WA state's overreliance on local levies? How to pay teachers state dollars?

RG

Voted yes for \$\$ in earlier sessions. Support capital gains tax. Close tax loop holes/tax preferences. Carbon tax. State property tax will need to be used. Confident we will manage McCleary to amply fund schools. More money even after McCleary. remove high stakes tests. More classrooms is needed. "We'll get it done" but more will be required.

RV

Long-standing problem. We've been trying. Collective bargaining for teachers. Close loopholes/prefs. New revenues, internet revenues. Levy swaps. 2 billion from that? Not just throwing \$\$.

How is education defined? K? Spec Ed? LWSD took 10 years to pass bond, because of accountability issues. Teachers s/b evaluated. "not going to be writing checks anymore"

LS

Dominate legislation. No federal help. Same ideas as first 2 speakers. Can't get what we need out of current \$\$

Not using "loophole" word. Decisions made by legislature.

JM

6195 bill passed last year. What amount of money actually needed,

out soon. 1.5-4 billion needed. This is a budget year. We need to understand what we need. We need new revenue equitably, across state, businesses, individuals. Fair/just taxation system.

BP

How do we find this missing money? Close tax loop holes. No new taxes. Funding for students from state, then state needs to be at the table. Also support charter schools, vouchers, but want to support schools first. Where does money come from? How can we raise this revenue: streamline tax policy, fair to all. Raise more revenue. State involved in negotiating with teachers.

PK

Number 1 issue. Supreme court sanctions (\$\$/day). Need new revenue, can't cut out of this. Close tax loopholes. Capital gains tax. 3.4 billion is teacher salary. Supreme court wants basic education to be funded. I voted for increased pay for beginning teachers. 7000 teacher shortage in state. Not paying entry level compared to other states.

MD

What does ample funding mean? Not a blank check. Our families struggling. Choice, charter, vouchers. Other options, not just funding issues. Funding increased in last 2 cycles by 36%. Counter balance to increasing taxes/funding. Reforms. Choice increases efficiency. Works well in other states. That 1 out of 4 kids in WA state is not graduating is educational malpractice. Teacher shortage. Part of problem are salaries. Comparable compensation.

Should legislature recommend increased salary for new teachers?

RG

Yes. 40K for new teachers blocked by other house.

RV

Salary increases not recommended by (garbled). Salary is not correlated with results. Must look at more than \$\$, look at what else is needed.

LS

Taught school in 1969, when you could support household on 1 salary. Can't live on 1 salary in Bellevue 50% turnover in teachers. Most teachers live far away.

JM

Ditto to **LS** words. Crisis situation. Can't afford sub teachers, even. Teachers have second jobs. Why do we treat them this way?

BP

Cost of living adjustments regarding teacher salaries, but give and take needed. Why are teachers paid on seniority rather than skill and performance? Skill and performance hard to assess, but we should different models and different strategies.

PK

Invest money where it should do most good. Teachers grossly underpaid. Teachers going to ID, OR, other states, etc. When asked, most teachers that leave say pay the reason.

MD

Teacher pay complicated problem. Throwing money not issue. Efficiency. Bloated bureaucracy. Money doesn't get into classroom. Regulation/taxation cause the higher cost of living. Too simplistic.

Will funding transportation derail the educational funding in this next session. If so, what will you do to fund both?

(ST3 = Sound Transit 3)

RG

Need a regional transportation network. Answer to question is no. We've already passed a major transportation package. Separate budget.

RV

ST3: 15 bill to 54 bill. It's a pig. Almost nothing for eastside. Sammamish gets nothing for \$\$\$. ST3 will effect education.

LS

Reiterate **JM**. Funding education and ST3 shouldn't be looked at together [does not like question]. Whether ST3 passes or not, we still have an obligation to fully fund education.

JM

Support ST3 Coming to this area, coming soon. Self-driving cars. Self-driving trains?

BP

ST3 half-baked. Lot of \$\$\$ going to long-term plans. Would like to see a plan reach east side faster. Something that will allow us to go Redmond-Seattle. Regarding education funding, that's higher priority, push off transport another year.

PK

De-regulation got us into this mess. Wall street. Transportation vital to our industry. 1 million more by 2040. How to move them ST3 is part of that.

MD

Only so much money to go around. Taxpayers are paying for these things. ST3? Taxing will not get us out of this. decades of progressive taxing causing this issue.

Initiative 1351 reduce class size. Funding K-3 reached, but not 4-12.

Do you support funding lower class sizes for 4-12, as well as capital infrastructure [schools]?

RG

Class size matters, but class size #3. #1 parents. #2 quality of teachers. Must invest in reduced class sizes.

RV

Parents, teachers, admin together. K-3 most formative years, most important. CA has smaller class sizes, but not so much a result. NY saw increased teacher quality important for kids. Flexibility in approach. Charter.

LS

Haven't discussed capital costs of providing facilities we need. Capital budget taken to pay for operating budget.

JM

1351 first phase K-3 done well. McCleary needed to be worked on next year. Capital budget should be protected to provide classrooms for students.

BP

Of course we need good classrooms, but class sizes for older kids in higher ed, # kids depends on class. Look at different models of education

PK

I supported 1351. Stats are convincing that small class sizes make a difference. Makes a difference. 4-12 would be good, but we need to fund McCleary first. Crumbling schools. Fix those first. Pass levy should be simple majority.

MD

Top-heavy. 1 out of 4 students don't graduate. Revamp system.

Special education and English learners supported by para-educators in the classroom. Currently, there are no standards for para-educators. A bill for this passed Senate, but died in the House. Would you support a bill to provide standards for para-educators?

RG

Para-educators w/o standards can still be great. Standards require \$\$\$. Standards need to be funded. Appropriation question.

RV

Yes. Like nurses/doctors, para-educators should have standards, recognized. Para-educators required for a quality education, but too often thrown into classroom without proper preparation.

LS

Bill died due to budget issues. Same issue will return next year. Para-educators make a huge difference with the class size issue. With para-educator support, a teacher can handle larger class sizes.

JM

Yes. Support para-educators in classrooms. They are professionals. But, before requiring extra standards, we need to pay for it. If teachers aren't getting enough \$\$, para-educators are also not.

BP

Yes. [School choice] Choice schools exclude special needs students.

PK

Yes. Important to have high standards. Also, help para-educators

transition to teachers, help fix our problem with too few teachers.

MD

Not enough information yet to comment.

LIGHTNING ROUND

20 seconds to respond

Would you support lead testing legislation?

RG y of course

RV y of course

LS y poisoning students/teachers not a good idea

JM y \$\$ issues

BP y

PK y

MD y

Do you supported expanded STEAM occupational?

RG y 10K in high tech in this area, STEAM even more critical than STEM

RV y need \$\$ for apprenticeships

LS y where jobs are

JM y science good, arts give us wings

BP y should diversify what we teach

PK y critical STEAM investment, down 3 million jobs in that sector

MD y reforming

Do you support state funding of a 7th period funding in HS?

RG y competitive global

RV y/n yes, but how do we fund it

LS n don't support state funding for 7th, until we've funded 6 periods, then yes

JM y local districts decide 7th period, but should not be mandated

BP n funding issue

PK y [students have a] 24 credit requirement, no room for failure with only 6 periods

MD n challenge to fund K-12, pre-K, now 7th period. Kids spend more time with families

Prescription and opium use abuse growing in WA and country. How to address this issue if elected?

RG doctor over-prescribing opiates. good samaritan laws

RV crucial issue --

LS where can legislatures be effective--not a good vehicle for dealing with this problem, ask communities

JM mental health counselors in schools.

BP decriminalize recreational drugs, more money to deal with illegal

PK opiate abuse should be discussed in classroom. fund more mental health counselors

MD parents, Maslow's hierarchy of needs, kids need more time with mom and dad, not working all the time

Questions from audience

30 second response

What aspects of other systems would you like to see us incorporate?

RG MA required. Class size reduction. Increase teacher pay. Increase day/year.

RV effective. Beyond K-12

LS Finland/Singapore held up as example. Totally different. Finland: each kid gets same opportunity

JM Scandinavian lands don't over-rely on testing. Our teachers focus on testing

BP Finland example. No homework. Education in classroom.

PK Was an exchange student in Finland. Aide comes in in real time, not pulled out of class. No expulsion. No homework. Testing in broad blocks: K-3, 4-6, etc.

MD We have fantastic schools in US, but only wealthiest kids have access to these school. Equal opportunity. Charter, voucher,

How to make schools teacher accountable.

RG Accountability not a good word, punitive.

RV accountability. Our school system failing. 1/4 not graduated, 1/4 go back to get more.

LS teacher evaluation revamped several years ago. We should find out soon. Principals also evaluated

JM already have good ways to evaluate students. peers look at performance. Kids are not clogs, they may not be best students, but can still excel outside school.

BP greater choice in schools. Give parents more choices.

PK invest what we have, fully fund. Holding teachers accountable by student achievement.

MD choice charter. competition. revolutionize our educational system

Should there be mandatory vaccination?

RG vaccination essential to reduce disease. research compelling, overwhelming. misinformation on internet unfortunate.

RV herd immunity. Educate parents. But, allow choices.

LS yes. we should not allow a few to bring disease to others.

JM yes. we do this for each other. it's important to have mandatory vaccinations

BP yes. faith based work mandate. But, religious beliefs about vaccines. How to provide options?

PK yes. 2 exceptions. Religious. Health conditions.

MD personally pro-vaccine. But, oppose mandatory. If it's good, it should not be required

How would you make the public educational system more responsive to individual needs and choices of students?

RG LWSD is a model for state in offering choice schools. Smaller class sizes. More paras. Better pay for teachers.

Portfolio approach to assessment.

RV address opportunity gap.

LS offer students/families as many choices as possible. charter schools ok. LWSD has choice schools

JM opportunity gap for our students. every student has a chance to advance.

BP choice good. Learner center models of education.

PK LWSD has choice options. Adding charter would be a 2-tier system. Lower class sizes. Let teachers teach.

MD choice, charter, voucher