



NEWS RELEASE

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Community members, students bring ideas to save pool at Lindbergh High School

Nearly 200 attend meeting to offer input on keeping pool open

March 17, 2010—Nearly 200 community members, district staff and students attended a meeting Tuesday night to offer their insights into how to keep the pool at Lindbergh High School open through the 2010-2011 school year.

Funding the pool will become the responsibility of the [district this year](#).

Many in attendance also attended a budget meeting in late February where they made it clear that the pool was a vital community asset, and wanted further discussions with the district about finding solutions to keep the pool open.

The meeting on Tuesday was in response to that request and included a work session to allow pool users to brainstorm ideas to find the additional funding needed to make up the \$175,000 gap between operating costs and income from pool rentals and swim fees.

"The pool at Lindbergh High is truly a community asset. I'm excited about the opportunity to find a community-based solution for keeping it open."

—Lynn Desmarais, Renton School Board President

Biggest ideas offered by community

The two biggest ideas offered by those in attendance were to increase fees for individual swimmers, groups, and clubs; and to decrease the operational costs of the pool.

Other ideas included more advertising about the pool to increase the number of paying customers; finding business partnerships and sponsorships; holding fundraisers; and asking the City of Renton for financial support.

If \$175,000 is raised, it will allow the pool to open for the next school year. Similar efforts must occur for the following school year. Some community members in attendance offered to work on long-range solutions to find more sustainable funding. The district will contact those citizen volunteers to offer direction for those efforts.

Next steps

The district is looking at operational costs and has begun to identify areas to reduce costs at both the Lindbergh and Hazen High School pools. Additionally, the district likely will increase fees, which were decreased in 2008 when the pool was [transferred to the district by King County](#), to bring fees at Lindbergh in line with the pool at Hazen High.

"Although there's more work to do," said Renton Schools Superintendent Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel, "I'm hopeful that by cutting operating costs, increasing fees and continued work with our community, we can raise the needed funding to be able to keep the pool open."

The district is continuing to work on finding short-term solutions to fund the pool for the coming year. Additionally, work will begin with those community members who volunteered during the meeting to assist in efforts to find more sustainable long-term funding.

The district will return to the community with solutions during budget sessions which are planned for Tuesday, April 20, 7 p.m. at Hazen High School; Wednesday, April 21, 7 p.m. at Renton High School; and Thursday, April 22, 7 p.m. at Lindbergh High School.