



December 12, 2011

Dr. Steve Rasmussen, Superintendent
Issaquah School District
565 NW Holly Street
Issaquah, WA 98027

RE: Issaquah School District's April 17, 2012 Ballot Measure:
• **School Construction & Maintenance Bond**

Dear Superintendent Rasmussen:

I am writing to you on behalf of the 5,000 members of the Seattle King County REALTORS® to let you know that our Association has *Endorsed* the **School Construction and Maintenance Bond** that the Issaquah School District will be submitting to voters in April 2012.

We urge voters in the Issaquah School District to join the REALTORS® in voting **YES** on the 2012 ballot measure.

The REALTORS'® decision to endorse this ballot measure was unanimously made by our Association's Governmental & Public Affairs Committee. In making this decision, our REALTOR® members were mindful that:

- The 2012 bond measure will add space to accommodate growth, rebuild the oldest schools in the District, and will facilitate critical maintenance and repairs.
- Moody's has recognized the District's strong fiscal management with its highest AAA rating – only .76% of all school districts nationwide share this distinction – keeping tax rates as low as possible for residents.
- Washington does not fund regular building or maintenance of public schools, rather, local voters must approve school bonds.
- Construction in the ISD during the past 10 years shows that about \$325 million in projects were all completed on schedule and within budget.
- The Issaquah School Board was one of only 16 across the state honored as a 2011 Board of Distinction by the Washington State School Directors' Association. This awards



program honors school boards that demonstrate effective use of the Washington School Board Standards.

- Twenty-four more teachers in the Issaquah School District have earned the prestigious National Board Certification (NBC). NBC is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize great teachers and is the only credential process that compares a teacher's knowledge and skills with a national set of professional standards.
- ISD is one of fewer than 400 public schools in the nation that was honored by the College Board with a place on the 2nd Annual AP® Honor Roll for simultaneously increasing access to Advanced Placement (AP) coursework while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams.
- Outstanding improvement in student achievement led to a special honor for Cascade Ridge and Issaquah Valley Elementary, which received the 2011 School of Distinction Award.
- ISD seniors in the class of 2011 continued to significantly outscore the state and nation on the SAT and ACT college entrance exams, and more total students took the SAT than ever before.
- Good schools are the *first thing* homebuyers ask us about. Good schools are essential for preserving the value of family homes. They are critical for economic vitality and job creation. Schools unify and define communities. But, most important, quality schools are crucial to the futures of the students in the Issaquah School District.

Not surprisingly, there is *very strong support for Issaquah Schools* among our REALTOR® members. We are very proud to be associated with the real estate industry leaders who stand firmly committed to a healthy community, and to the success of the children whose families our REALTORS® serve.

We believe the April 2012 ballot measure for the Issaquah School District is worthy of very strong support and will urge our members to vote *YES* on these ballot measures.

Sincerely,



David Crowell, JD

Director of Governmental & Public Affairs

Cc: SKCR Board of Directors
SKCR Governmental & Public Affairs Committee
Sara Niegowski, ISD
Suzanne Weaver, ISD