Individuals who have been in the school district for more than 20 years were honored as the University Place School District community celebrates its 25th anniversary.

In 1987, the University Place School Board, after years of discussion and preparation, established University Place School District. The district took over the administrative and financial responsibilities for the University Place School, which had been in operation since the 1910s, and its predecessor district. The district is now comprised of nine schools and serves more than 5,000 students.

The district’s Board of Directors honored the 25th anniversary by recognizing individuals who have served the district and community for more than 20 years.

Board members, administration, staff and district staff members were on hand to recognize the following honorees:

- Charles Kowadas, who served as the district’s first superintendent from 1987 to 2002.
- Brenda bubb, who served as the district’s executive director of operations from 1990 to 2010.
- John Enomoto, who served as the district’s finance director from 1990 to 2010.
- Mike Cooney, who served as the district’s school resource officer from 1992 to 2010.

The district’s Board of Directors also recognized the following individuals for their contributions to the district:

- Linda Thompson, who served as the district’s first assistant superintendent from 1987 to 2002.
- Donna Mccormick, who served as the district’s first director of curriculum and instruction from 1987 to 2002.
- Sue Apelt, who served as the district’s first director of technology from 1990 to 2010.
- Mike Blair, who served as the district’s first police officer from 1992 to 2010.
- Lori Spivey, who served as a teacher at Evergreen Elementary School from 1992 to 2010.

The district also recognized the following groups for their contributions to the district:

- The University Place School Board, which has served the district since its inception.
- The University Place School staff, who have served the district and community for more than 20 years.
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February Levy Measures

Dear UPSD Families and Friends,

Thank you for your steadfast support of our district.

In 2012, the independent Washington School Research Center identified University Place as the 3rd wealthiest school district in Washington State. We believe that, in every way, the achievement and reputation for security and excellence in this district is not support that we take for granted. We fully embrace our responsibility to maintain the high level of security and educational excellence that our community deserves.

This year we are asking for your support in a levy that will provide the necessary funding for the continued security and excellence that our students deserve.

The safety of our students is the highest priority for our Board of Directors. The Technology and Safety Capital Improvements Levy will be presented to the voters on February 11, 2014. This levy is needed to replace or improve existing security technology at school entrances and on buses. In addition, we will continue to improve surveillance and communications systems at all eight school sites and fund improved security technology at school entrances and during the summer. Levy dollars fund additional security staff including our district School Resource Officer, as well as activity surveillance and communications systems.

A Long Tradition of Community Support

Since its inception in 1990, our district has been able to provide the highest level of education possible through the community’s support of our local school district. We are proud of our record of responsible fiscal stewardship. In addition to annual independent audits that consistently note excellent budget accountability, we leverage all available resources to maximize direct support of classroom teaching. For example, UPSD has the lowest non-salary costs per student of any school district in Pierce County; by keeping these costs low, we are able to fund more teachers and provide more support to all our students.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Educational Programs and Operations Levy in University Place in 2013-14

Q: How much of our district revenue comes from local levy dollars?
   A: In 2013-14, University Place School District (UPSD) will receive approximately 43 percent of its revenue from local levy dollars.

Q: What is Levy Equalization and how much are we levying in 2013-14?
   A: Levy Equalization is a property value adjustment that is made to compensate school districts which have local property values below the state average. In 2013-14, UPSD is levying 5.32 percent to compensate for property values that are lower than the estimated amount on the ballot.

Q: How is current state and national financial condition affecting the district’s finances?
   A: As the state has experienced both revenue increases and decreases, our district budget has been affected. In the 2009-10 school year, substantial cuts were made in the state budget that included the funding for K-12 schools. Because 68.28 percent of the district’s 2008-09 revenue came from the state budget that included the funding for K-12 schools, the impact was significant. Although the state budget that included funding for K-12 schools has not been continous, the 2010-11 state revenue base included $440.6 million for the district.

Q: How is the district prepared to receive the new $440.6 million?
   A: The district has continued to implement budget reductions and has cancelled projects in order to maintain the budget. The Board of Directors has approved the Technology and Safety Capital Improvement Levy to be presented to the voters on February 11, 2014. This levy is needed to provide the necessary funding for the continued security and excellence that our students deserve.

Q: How are levy rates calculated and why do we have different rates?
   A: A Levy rate is calculated by dividing the approved levy amount by the total number of assessable properties in the district. Any changes in the district’s assessed property values increase or decrease the levy rate.

Q: How do levy tax rates vary by property value?
   A: Levy tax rates vary by property value because the property value per pupil is lower than the state average. UPSD receives 32.29 percent of our state, local, and federal revenue in local funds.

Q: Why is the district asking for a new levy in 2013-14?
   A: The Educational Programs and Operations Levy pays for staffing and programs that are not funded by the district’s base levy and capital levy. In addition, the district receives 63 percent of its revenue from the state. The district only receives LEA funding if the voters approve the district’s four levies. In order to ensure that we can provide the best education possible, the district must have the necessary funding.

Q: How do the educational programs and the capital improvements levy differ?
   A: Educational Programs and Operations Levy is intended to pay for the costs of operating the district’s schools; this is not support that we take for granted. We fully embrace our responsibility to maximize direct support of classroom teaching. For example, UPSD has the lowest non-salary costs per student of any school district in Pierce County; by keeping these costs low, we are able to fund more teachers and provide more support to all our students.

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2011-2012 Approved (Proposed) to Actual (Estimated)

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<th>Budget Percentage by Activity</th>
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The Educational Programs and Operations Levy

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The Safety Capital Improvements Levy

The Technology and Safety Capital Improvement Levy will be presented to the voters on February 11, 2014. This levy is needed to provide the necessary funding for the continued security and excellence that our students deserve.

The Board of Directors approved the Technology and Safety Capital Improvements Levy to be presented to the voters on February 11, 2014. This measure will provide the necessary funding for the continued security and excellence that our students deserve.

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The district is asking for a new levy in 2013-14 because the state has experienced budget cuts in the past. In 2009, the state budget that included the funding for K-12 schools was reduced by $3.9 billion. In 2010, the state budget that included the funding for K-12 schools was reduced by $4.4 billion.

Despite these reductions, the district has continued to implement budget reductions and has cancelled projects in order to maintain the budget. The Board of Directors has approved the Technology and Safety Capital Improvement Levy to be presented to the voters on February 11, 2014. This levy is needed to provide the necessary funding for the continued security and excellence that our students deserve.

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Although the state increased the district’s revenue for 2013-14, the budget is more stable, and the courts have determined that the state is not meeting its paramount duty to “fund fairly” public schools. In 2013-14, UPSD’s 10.4 million tax revenue came from the state. The district Board of Directors elected the University Place School District to reduce its budget by $12 million in 2013 and $8 million in 2014. The 2013-14 budget was lower than the estimated amount on the ballot.

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