

From: [stacey chlanson](#)
To: [Shari Winstead](#); [Chris Eggen](#); [Keith McGlashan](#); [Jesse Salomon](#); [Will Hall](#); croberts@shoreline.gov; [Doris McConnell](#)
Subject: Tax incentives for developers hurt our schools
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2015 7:23:40 PM
Attachments: [2014-2015 Capacity Template \(1.29.15\).xls.pdf](#)

Attending city council meetings over the past weeks has made it very clear to me that the council has not considered the impact this rezone will have on our school district and other city resources. The last council meeting ran 6 hours with an end time after midnight. Seeing decisions affecting our schools made at such a late hour with such an unclear process only increased my concern for our schools with overcrowding, and loss of revenue from 10 or more years of tax incentives for developers.

Councilman Hall painted a picture of our neighborhoods not having young families and our schools on the brink of closure due to low enrollment. While the school district did close schools in the past due to enrollment they are now faced with the serious dilemma of overcrowding. Last month the Shoreline School [District closed new non-resident boundary transfer applications for grades K-6 for the 2015-2016 school year](#). The reasoning for this was based on classroom size and building use. Currently the elementary schools are near or at 95% capacity. In addition to schools already being stretched for building space Initiative 1351 that was passed last November will decrease classroom sizes causing new teachers to be hired and more classroom space to be utilized as our district is projected to have 9,000 students enrolled next year. This is a far different picture than what was painted at the city council meeting. Many young families like ours are buying homes from the original owners and raising them in these single family residential neighborhoods. The proposed 70 MUR zone will cause enrollment to increase even more without offsetting that growth through property tax.

This is not the time for the city to cut a revenue source for the schools by ten years. The cost to the standard of education we have come to expect for our children is too large of a price to pay to recruit developers.

The city needs to scale back the area size and structure size of this rezone for the sake of our entire school district. What affects one of our schools affects all of our schools. What affects part of our city affects all of our city.

Sincerely

Stacey Chlarson

Near Meridian and 185th St.

I have also include the sources used in finding this information and attached the Shoreline School District's capacity chart from January 2015.

<http://www.shorelineschools.org/news/release.php?releasesid=1615>

<http://www.nytimes.com/1991/05/22/education/business-tax-breaks-are-hurting-schools-educators-complain.html?pagewanted=2>

<http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/accountable-development/key-reforms-protecting-schools>

<http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/sites/default/files/docs/pdf/edu.pdf>

Elementary Building Capacity 2014-2015 Summary

Revised 1/29/15

2014-2015 School Name	TOTAL TEACHING STATION BREAKDOWN		TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM USE		SPECIALIZED CLASSROOM USE					School Total
	Total Teaching Stations	Teaching Stations 23 to 35	Reg Ed	HiCap	Self-Contained	Modular M (1-3)	Comp Lab	Title 1 LAP ELL Res.	Misc. Class Rooms	
Briarcrest	28	21	19	0	0	3	1	3	2	28
Brookside	29	22	20	0	2	2	1	2	2	29
Echo Lake	28	19	19	0	2	3	1	3	0	28
Highland Terrace	28	20	19	0	3	2	1	2	1	28
Lake Forest Park	27	23	23	0	0	2	0	2	*	27
Meridian Park	18	15	15	0	0	0	1	2	0	18
Cascade K-8	9	8	8	0	0	0	0	1	*	9
MP Hi-Cap	7	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
MP ECE	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	** 7
Parkwood	27	18	18	0	3	3	1	2	0	27
Ridgecrest	23	18	18	0	0	2	1	2	0	23
Ridgecrest Hi-Cap	6	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Syre	27	20	20	0	2	2	1	2	0	27
Total	264	197	179	13	12	19	8	21	5	264

* These rooms are not added to the Traditional Classroom column for the 2014-2015 School Year.

** This total represents (4) Headstart classrooms and (3) ECE classrooms for a total of 7-Teaching Stations.

School Maximum Capacity Total				School Totals 2014-2015							
Optimal Class Size	25	School Name	Teaching Stations	School Capacity	School Name	Teaching Stations	Optimal Classroom Capacity	January 2015 RegEd +HiCap	Optimal Diff	95% Capacity	95% Diff
		Briarcrest	21	525	Briarcrest	21	525	491	34	499	8
		Brookside	22	550	Brookside	22	550	501	49	523	22
		Echo Lake	19	475	Echo Lake	19	475	465	10	451	-14
		Highland Terrace	20	500	Highland Terrace	20	500	477	23	475	-2
		Lake Forest Park	23	575	Lake Forest Park	23	575	566	9	546	-20
		Meridian Park	15	375	Meridian Park	15	375	380	-5	356	-24
		Cascade K-8	8	200	Cascade K-8	8	200	179	21	190	11
		MP Hi-Cap	7	175	MP Hi-Cap	7	175	167	8	166	-1
		Parkwood	18	450	Parkwood	18	450	443	7	428	-17
		Ridgecrest	18	450	Ridgecrest	18	450	413	37	428	15
		Ridgecrest Hi-Cap	6	150	Ridgecrest Hi-Cap	6	150	147	3	143	-1
		Syre	20	500	Syre	20	500	512	-12	475	-37
		Total	197	4925	Total	197	4925	4741	184	4679	-60