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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** February 14, 2007

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### **CKSD School Board of Directors Decides to Close Two Elementary Schools**

**Silverdale, WA** The Central Kitsap School District Board of Directors voted Wednesday evening to close Seabeck and Tracyton Elementary schools. This decision was reached after studying school closure for nine months.

The decision by the School Board is likely one of the most complex, difficult, and emotional decisions ever made in the history of CKSD. The children, staff, parents and community members in the Seabeck and Tracyton neighborhoods will be most significantly affected by the Board's decision but the impact will be felt across the entire District. The Central Kitsap School District team, partnering with our families and community members, will develop and execute a plan to make these profound changes as smoothly as possible.

The Central Kitsap School District began to study school closure in earnest in Spring 2006. This was necessary as a result of mounting budget challenges and declining student enrollment. CKSD projects a \$3.9M to \$8.9M deficit for the next school year and following school years. Additionally, there are currently approximately 1800 open elementary seats in 14 elementary schools. Demographic projections show excess seat capacity will exceed over 2000 seats in the next 24-36 months unless infrastructure is reduced.

The School Closure Subcommittee, comprised of a dedicated and caring group of staff, parents and community members, worked diligently through the summer and fall developing and evaluating decision criteria. Ultimately, the committee prepared a recommendation for the Superintendent and Task Force Resource.

Developing the recommendation to close two elementary schools was not done quickly and without the collection and thorough evaluation of measurable data. It has been an arduous and complex process involving countless hours of research and study by the School Closure Study Subcommittee, the Task Force Resource Steering Committee, the District Leadership Council, and the Board of Directors.

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On November 8, 2006, Superintendent Greg Lynch presented an update to the Board of Directors regarding the elementary school closure study process. Then, based upon the School Closure Subcommittee work and the Task Force Resource Steering Committee recommendation, he recommended Seabeck and Tracyton Elementary Schools for further study and possible closure. The Board unanimously decided to move forward with the study to close those two schools. Subsequently, the District conducted three Public Forums, three Staff Forums, two Public Hearings, and a Special School Board Study Session.

Throughout the process of the study, the School Board's number one criterion for school closure was to maximize student achievement, looking at what is best for all children in the District.

The School Closure Study Subcommittee, planning for the possibility of school closures, began working on required attendance area adjustments last month. As a result of the closure of the two schools there will be students across the District who will be attending a different school next year. There will be two Public Forums to allow public comments on boundary adjustment options. There will be a Westside Forum on March 1, 2007 and an Eastside Forum on March 5, 2007. Times and details will be publicized and posted to the District website as soon as they are available.

Notice of the Board decision is posted on the District's website [www.cksd.wednet.edu](http://www.cksd.wednet.edu). The community is invited to sign up for E-news to receive electronic updates and additional information. On-line registration is located at <http://www.cksd.wednet.edu/email.asp>.

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