Questions and Answers Regarding the Pool

Note: This information is being posted in response to a variety of questions and comments pertaining to the Shelton Pool Closure. Additional questions and answers may be added as needed.

Repurposing the pool?

The pool is to be closed as of July 1, 2015. That sets the stage to explore repurposing the space. That process is just beginning and may provide answers to the questions. It may prove to be the case that any repurposing of the space is unreasonable or too expensive to be undertaken at this time. In that case, nothing moves forward except the closure.

Another possibility is that a plan for repurposing is seen as reasonable or attainable. Any recommendation for funding those changes would then be recommended to the Board for approval. There are no current estimates.

The state grades districts on how they interact with their community. I’m wondering how that will work out?

There is no mechanism for grading schools on how they interact with their community.

We are asking that you give the community an opportunity to find ways to keep the pool open.

Considerations regarding what to do with the pool have been going on for over a decade. Most recently, a report to the Board by the Swimming Pool Advisory Committee was delivered on May 29, 2014. The short-term recommendations suggested keeping the pool open and spending more money. Long-term recommendations included avoiding deferred costs, avoiding delays in spending, begin spending on updates, budget for additional expenditures, adding meters to more accurately report expenditures, and begin discussions with the County for a Parks District. These opportunities for the community did not result in any useful ways to keep the pool open.
Did the school board reach out to the community to find a solution to keep the pool open?

See previous question.

If our football field was in disrepair, would we be having this discussion about shutting it down?

If the only source of funding was to take money from the general fund to pay for the football field at the same costs the pool necessitates, the recommendation would be the same.

What effort has the district made to keep the pool as a part of the curriculum and community?

The district has repeatedly put millions of dollars into the pool facility. The district has provided both capital funds and general funds for the pool.

The district is planning to continue to provide swim lessons to third grade students. The district will continue to provide interscholastic athletics including swimming for the students.

How are we as a community to communicate with the board if we get no response?

Board members receive communications in a variety of ways. Individual board members may choose to respond or not respond to communication directed at them personally. Civil, courteous letters build relationships, and are conducive to getting a response.

We need to work together. (The community) is asking for a chance. They want you to listen and they want you to respond.

See last question.
It is alleged that he Board violated policy 4355 and policy 1310.

The Board has consulted with legal counsel. There is no violation of either policy.

If grant money was (found) and used to repair the pool, would the district accept an outside group to come in and run the facility and swim costs?

If a proposal were submitted prior to closing the pool the board would consider that proposal. Note: the Board has notified our legislative representatives of its intent to close the pool. The community or other agency would need to make a request of the legislature or other body.

Do we ask the non-high school districts to help pay for the pool?

For capital expenditures, non-high districts must share a portion when the Shelton district submits a bond issue or capital levy to its community. There is a process by which the districts that do not pay taxes to Shelton are billed for their share based on the number of secondary students attending Shelton.

For general fund expenditures, the non-high districts pay fees annually to Shelton to compensate for the local levy dollars expended by Shelton over and above state basic education dollars.

If we remodel/repurpose the pool, do we have to bring it up to code, including fire safety, ADA and electrical codes?

Any building being modernized must be brought up to code if the value of the modernization exceeds a percentage of the total cost of replacing the building. Cost estimates would be developed as part of the planning this spring. There are no capital funds to do major reconstruction of the facility.

Regarding the repurposing of the facility, shouldn’t classrooms have windows?

Generally, yes. Exceptions might include physical education facilities, for example.

Why do we need more classroom space? SHS and OBJ have extra space.

There are currently ten portable classrooms in use at SHS and there is no extra space on campus. SHS is currently storing furniture in a space off the library but there are multiple requests now requesting the
space and not enough classrooms. Choice HS has restrictions on using the old spaces which was technically abandoned in order to build more space at the new Evergreen facility.

As the OBJH principal said, “I wish that was the case (having extra space).”

**After this is done are we going to again talk reconfiguration?**

There are no capital funds to rebuild SHS or any other facility at this time. Reconfiguration to 9-12 would necessitate additional space.

**What is your hurry? Why not wait?**

The budget building /decision processes are already underway. Summer maintenance projects have already been determined and necessary preliminary steps are being taken now. The district cannot wait until June or July to make decisions on major expenditures. Staffing and program determinations are made in the spring and hiring is concluded as early as this spring and summer for the next school year.