

**Lisa Clausen**

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**From:** Public Council Inbox  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 08, 2011 3:49 PM  
**To:** 'Astha Tada'  
**Subject:** RE: Happy Holidays from Highline Schools Foundation

Thank you for your message to the Burien City Council. It will be forwarded to the Councilmembers because the agenda materials for the next Council meeting are already finalized. Your message will be included in the Correspondence for the Record for a future City Council meeting.

L. Clausen  
City Manager's Office

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**From:** Astha Tada [mailto:ratcity@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 08, 2011 1:48 PM  
**To:** kcexec@kingcounty.gov; joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov; Public Council Inbox; Barbara Dobkin; Balahadia, Aileen  
**Cc:** Levine, Rachael and Phillip  
**Subject:** Fwd: Happy Holidays from Highline Schools Foundation

At White Center Library Guild President Rachael Levine's request, I am forwarding my response to the Highline Schools for Excellence Foundation holiday note recently sent to me.

Let's continue the fight to keep the White Center and Boulevard Park libraries open. It would be one of the best holiday gifts we can give to our communities.

My best to all and thank you for doing your part to improve and serve our citizens.....Astha Tada

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** P Levine <levinepr@comcast.net>  
**Date:** December 8, 2011 11:58:37 AM PST  
**To:** Astha Tada <ratcity@earthlink.net>  
**Subject:** Re: Happy Holidays from Highline Schools Foundation

Astha,  
Please forward this email to Executive Dow Constantine and Councilmember Joe McDermott. They also need these facts.

While you are "forwarding" information, please forward it to the Burien City Council and the NHUAC. Apparently, the KCLS Board only pays attention to our elected officials, "as a courtesy".

You are doing some great work, that needed to be done before the Holidays. Blessings on you!  
Rachael

On Dec 8, 2011, at 11:33 AM, Astha Tada wrote:

On Monday, December 5, 2011, i sent an e-mail to the leaders of the Highline School District seeking help for the White Center and Boulevard communities' effort to prevent their two King County libraries from closing.

CFTR; 01/23/12

More students qualified for free/reduced lunch at Mount View (86.2%) and White Center (87.1%) elementary schools in 2011 than in 2010. At Cascade Middle School the percentage was 83.6 %. This is a much higher percentage than the 69% overall district statistic you quoted in this holiday message. For them their community library is one of the only places to access professional library help, computers and other resources. Closing their community library is cutting off an essential resource for school success and educational excellence.

I am also asking for your support in persuading the King County Library System to keep our community libraries open and improve them for our highest need students.

Peace and aloha.....Astha Tada

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*I am forwarding this e-mail I sent to Interim Superintendent Alan Spicciati and other district leaders involved with our students:*

The White Center and Boulevard Park communities have been in a prolonged battle with the King County Library System to prevent the closure of their community libraries. The White Center Library Guild, the North Highline Unincorporated Area Council and the White Center Community Development Association have been especially active in supporting this cause. They have been at the Board of Trustee meetings in Issaquah testifying about the harmful effects that closing these two vital resources would be for our communities. If you go to the *White Center Now* and *Burien Blog*, you will see that the battle is now including very angry Burien Council members who are extremely unhappy with the one-sided decisions made by these appointed library officials.

About a year ago I learned of this struggle and decided to help the White Center Library Guild headed by President Rachael Levine. Guild members have been fighting this battle for years ever since a bond to expand the White Center Library and improve the Boulevard Park Library was unanimously passed by the citizens in 2004. For 12 years I worked with Cascade Middle School students as their school librarian and used the White Center Library as a strong ally in assisting my students to succeed in school. They would walk to this safe haven and find helpful staff, study spaces, computers and other needed resources absent from their homes. Many are now responsible citizens who pay taxes and give back to their communities. Today students continue to line up waiting to use the limited number of computers in the crowded library facility. It has been 7 years since the bond was passed!

Even after countering the King County Library System's slanted survey of 800 favoring closure with a 2000+ petition\* and numerous testimonies from community/political leaders and others, the King County Library System Board of Trustees and Director Bill Ptacek continue to blatantly ignore our needs and want to build a consolidated library too far away for our students to walk.

The Mount View, White Center, Cascade and three Evergreen High staffs have assisted in different ways. They realize how closure will negatively impact their students' learning progress. I want to recognize Joanne Glasgöw, Evergreen's librarian, and Dawn Lindgren, Cascade's librarian, for their extra effort in helping with this cause.

**I am asking the leaders of the Highline District to join us and tell the King County Library System leaders that closing libraries that serve high poverty students is unacceptable! Public libraries exist in a democracy to equalize opportunity!**

Respectfully,

Astha Tada

Community volunteer

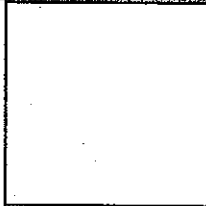
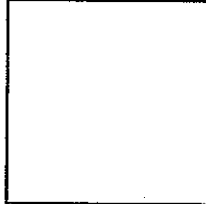
Former Cascade Middle School librarian-I retired in 2003 and volunteer at the Cascade Culture Club, a valuable after school program in which students learn to appreciate diversity in its many aspects and participate in projects that assist others.or  
2nd Vice-President of Beta Beta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International—a women's world professional organization focused on educational excellence.

\*Many students signed this petition and learned one way citizens can speak up.

On Dec 6, 2011, at 10:06 AM, Highline Schools Foundation for Excellence wrote:

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

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## During this Season of Giving - Celebrate Highline School District Students and Teachers!

Dear Astha,

During this holiday season the Foundation would like to thank **everyone** who has given their time, funds and energy to help all students and teachers in the Highline School District.

We have almost 18,000 students in our district: 69% receive free and reduced lunch and about 500 are homeless. A surprising number of students can't afford the \$30 fee it takes to participate in sports, or rent an instrument for their music class. **Our need is great** ... and we understand that you will receive a lot of requests this month for donations, but we rely on your generosity to help fund the many programs that help our teachers and students succeed in these hard economic times.

Below you will find **three** different ways how you can help our students this season. Please take a moment and read through each ... every little bit helps!

**Thank YOU** for being such wonderful community supporters, Foundation advocates, and friends!

