

HSD Statement to Port of Seattle Commissioners re: 3.16 acre parcel

My name is Peter Folkins and I am speaking on behalf of the Highline School District. The District has been working on this transaction with Port staff for several years and we are very pleased to see it nearing completion.

The undeveloped 3.16 acre parcel is at the south end of the Highline School District's Transportation, Maintenance and Operations campus. By purchasing this land the School District will be able to extend its campus to Des Moines Way, create a formal entrance to the campus, and begin planning for a critical expansion to the Puget Sound Skills Center.

The Puget Sound Skill Center is one of 14 skill centers in Washington, all funded by the State Legislature. It is also the oldest skills center in the state and the only one in King County. The PSSC is an academic, career, and technical school that provides career training in such areas as Criminal Justice, Fire and First Response, Automotive Mechanical and Auto Body, Culinary Arts, Dental Assisting, Computer Networking, and so on. The programs draw students from 14 different high schools and 5 different School Districts. Graduates of these programs have the skills to be productive in the workforce immediately

Pre-design of the 3.16 acre site envisions parking, allowing for the expansion of the existing facility into a two-story building to accommodate several high-growth programs, including criminal justice, fire service, and medical. The Highline School District plans to construct an attractive entryway, acknowledging that this property also serves as a prominent gateway into the City of Burien.

The Highline School District is very excited that the skills center expansion may soon be a reality. The property will allow the PSSC to attract, train, and graduate additional skilled workers annually in areas of the workforce where there are job openings. It is another example of the strong partnership between the Port of Seattle and the Highline School District and a win/win for both agencies, as well as the citizens of King County