

The Board of Directors of Burlington-Edison School District No. 100 met on October 28, 2019 in the Board Room of the Administration Office at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: President, Rich Wesen; Vice-President; Members, David Lowell, Bill Wallace and Roger Howard.

Staff Members Present: Laurel Browning, Superintendent; Superintendent; Dr. Bryan Jones, Assistant Superintendent; Executive Director of Student Support Services, Jeff Brown; Director of Finance & Operations, Valori Smith; Executive Director of Learning & Communications, Todd Setterlund, Director of Human Resources, Jen Whitney; and Deputy Board Secretary, Jennifer Dalton.

CALL TO ORDER

President Wesen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

This month the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Superintendent Browning.

President Wesen asked the Board if they had any comments.

Board member, David Lowell, commented on his school board tour of West View. He stated that the tour was enjoyable and there were great things going on there. Principal Skeen is very engaged and in charge of the school. He was pleased to see the positive public relations in the Skagit Valley Herald regarding our new K-3 literacy adoption. He would like to see more of that.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board member, Bill Wallace, also spoke about the West View tour and explained that these tours happen once a month and the board gets to interact with the principals, staff and students in the classrooms and he enjoyed getting in where the action was. He commented on the 5th and 6th grader that gave him an enthusiastic tour. There are several new staff at West View and he was impressed with the excitement and energy of this group. In one of the classrooms they observed a completely Spanish speaking math lesson that was going on, he commented on how impressed he was with the quick pace of the teaching and the participation of the students. He was pleased to have had immediate feedback from students and teacher, Lorli Medina, in 5th grade that had just returned from Mountain School. They had a great time and the kids were very excited about it.

He spoke of the K-3 literacy adoption article in the Skagit Valley Herald and complemented the article and the good feedback from this curriculum.

Mr. Wallace spoke to the audience that attended the board meeting in regards to Camp Orkilla and the thinking and decisions of the District regarding outdoor education. He thanked the audience and specific people, Sarah Bishop and Alyson Studley, for their interest and efforts in helping the District fund outdoor programming.

However, he wanted to clarify some misinformation that was out in the community. He stated that the Board had to look at the big picture as they tried to deal with all the programs at B-

ESD, but regarding outdoor programming they were trying to decide a path forward. Mr. Wallace commented that he'd been on the board for 12 years and that managing education priorities and funding from federal, state and local levels is a complex business. He complemented Superintendent Browning, the administration, the staff and teachers because it wasn't easy.

Mr. Wallace stated that the budget flyer went out earlier this year and that he was pleased that the district remained in the black while many other districts were in the red and had to make cuts. However, to remain fiscally responsible the district had to look at their priorities.

With this tight budget the District was pleased to be able to fund one of the two outdoor education programs. The decision was made after feedback from staff as to which program met the educational standards of the district. Mountain School was the choice. He outlined that the District sent 250 - 5th graders to Mtn. School. The program aligns with the Districts' curriculum and is a great program based out of Sedro Woolley.

Camp Orkila was different but also worthwhile program, but the District cannot afford to put any money towards a second program. There was a need in the budget for things such as nurses, counselors, resource officers, a new K-4 to K-8 literacy program.

Mr. Wallace stated that the District wanted to limit fees and financial obligations to their families because it has a higher than average free and reduced lunch program enrollment. He was pleased that the district would not have to ask for any costs from families or go to the community or service groups to cover the budget with the decision to support one camp. Another priority for making decisions for the District, is equity amongst the schools. In the past, some schools were granted grants for camps, while other couldn't go. The Board is firm on all schools having the same opportunities.

Sustainable funding for outdoor education and camps is another concern for the Board. This would not be able to happen by counting on school district funding. Mr. Wallace commented on possibly a non-profit 501-3C organization that could be an option. Possibly formatted similar to the Education Foundation that Mount Vernon has, but it is not associated with the School District and does rely on District money for school functions or supplemental activities. He stated that the Board is looking to find a path forward and work with the Camp Orkila advocates.

President Wesen commented on the misconceptions about the financing for outdoor education in the District in 2018-19. He stated that all the money that was donated went to the camps last year. He would also be willing to work with parents to form an outdoor education group. However, the Board wants to keep the cost per student at \$25. He stated that there would have to be a long-term program set up so that camp can be sustainable year after year. He offered to stay after the meeting to discuss further options with the advocates of Camp Orkila.

Mr. Wesen stated that at the West View tour they meet with the principal and staff and talked with three of new teachers who stated that they really appreciated the culture at West View and that everyone worked like a family. They observed two different teachers working on the new literacy program and were really excited about it. He was pleased that this quickly into the new school year teachers were really liking the new curriculum.

President Wesen opened the floor to any members of the audience who wished to address the Board

Brandon Kerley

Mr. Kerley was concerned about the physical violence and classroom evacuations at Allen and would like the District to contact a parent when these evacuations occurred.

Carmen Andrew

Ms. Andrew's is an Edison parent and was concerned over the Board's decision to cut Camp Orkila. She stated that she wanted the opportunity to raise money and make camp a sustainable long-term opportunity for the students. She had spoken with Camp Orkila and they have made available March 18-20, 2020 for the District's students to attend the camp.

Sonny Andrew

Mr. Andrew supported his wife's comments regarding Camp Orkila and stated that Orkila was a bonding experience. He addressed the Board about their decision to cut Camp Orkila and not tell parents until late September.

Ashley Gonzalez

Ms. Gonzalez addressed the Board about her daughter with type 1 Diabetes. She was concerned that the District did not have enough nurses to address the growing problems and needs of Diabetes at each school. She asked the Board to consider hiring another nurse to help with this problem.

Michelle Miller

Mr. Miller stated that he was there to offer support and a voice for the Camp Orkila campaign.

Ivy Andrew

Andrew is a student in 6th grade and was asking the Board to give his class a chance to attend Camp Orkila.

Denise Hawkins

Ms. Hawkins is an Allen parent and she is heavily involved in the Booster club. She stated that Camp Orkila was the only camp that brought all 6th graders from the District together, like a middle school experience. She felt this helped the students to feel included and equal. She was surprised at the Board's decision to cut this camp when it aligned with their middle school inclusion priority

Sarah Bishop

PUBLIC
COMMENT

Ms. Bishop, Edison parent, and was very involved with the outdoor education program. She appreciated Mr. Wallace’s and Mr. Wesen’s opening comments and was glad to hear they were willing to look at options to support fundraising and creating a sustainable outdoor education program.

She expressed her concern over the letter that was sent to parents in September outlining the cost and reasons for cutting Camp Orkila.

President Wesen called a 5-minute recess at 8:05 p.m.

RECESS

At 8:12 p.m. the regular meeting was called back to session.

REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Lowell moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 23, 2019 and the minutes from October 14, 2019 work session. Mr. Howard seconded; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Mr. Wallace moved to approve the Consent Calendar/ Personnel Actions. Mr. Lowell seconded, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL
OF
CONSENT
CALENDAR
PERSONNEL
ACTIONS

Items approved on the consent calendar are as follows:

Approval was granted for payment of warrants subject to review by the Board member designated by the Board President at the end of the month. Items covered are the October 2019: General Fund Warrant Nos. 347629 through 347745; 347747 through 347901, 347980 through 347980, 347928 through 347971, and 347982 through 347986. Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 347746 through 347746; and 347972 through 347979. Associated Student Body Fund Warrant Nos. 347902 through 347926; and 347981 through 347981. And Trust Fund Warrant Nos: 347927 through 347927.

APPROVAL OF
WARRANTS

The Board approved the following travel items:

APPROVAL
OF
TRAVEL

1. B-ESD staff member, Heidi LaMare, to Albuquerque, NM, on November 13-16, 2019 to participate in a Dual Language Conference. Costs for the trip will be paid by Title III. Transportation will be via airplane.
2. B-ESD staff member, Heidi LaMare, to San Diego, CA, on November 11-13, 2019 to participate in an Avid Excel Training Workshop. Costs for the trip will be paid by the Gear Up Grant. Transportation will be via airplane.
3. LU and WV staff members, Elizabeth La Fever, Dena Burnett, Helen Holister, Jesus Perez, to Albuquerque, NM, on November 12-16, 2019 to participate in a Dual Language Conference. Costs for the trip will be paid by New Dual Language Expansion Grant from OSPI, Transportation will be via airplane.
4. Student Support Service Administrator, Kim Welling to Washington, DC, on November 1-6, 2019, to participate in the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. Costs for the trip will be paid by professional development funds.

APPROVAL
OF DONATION

Transportation will be via airplane.

The Board approved the following donations:

1. The cash donation of \$2,000.00 from Bay View PTA to Bay View building budget to be used to fund field trips/experiences that support grade level unit field trips.
2. The cash donation of \$832.00 from the State of Washington, Department of Revenue, Unclaimed Property. It was a donation from a company that collected a percentage of their sales to donate to local FFA chapters. Donated to the high school to be used for FFA activities.
3. The cash donation of \$500.00 from Nuevo Foundation to the B-ESD for the Gear Up Grant to help offset transportation and other miscellaneous items.
4. The cash donation of \$500.00 from Burlington Automotive to Allen school to be used for the Allen Music Program, supplies and instruments, etc.

The Board approved the 2019-20 HiCap iGrant.

The Board approved the 2019-20 NWESD ELL Cooperative Agreement.

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Jones asked the board to adopt the following amended eleven policies and asked the Board to entertain one motion for all policies.

Mr. Howard moved to adopt the following amended Board Policies:

1. 2410/High School Graduation Requirements
2. 2413/Equivalency Credit for Career and Technical Education Courses
3. 3115/Students Experiencing Homelessness
4. 3120/Enrollment
5. 3207/Prohibition of Harassment
6. 3211/Gender-Inclusive Schools
7. 3231/Student Records
8. 3416/Medication at School
9. 5201/Drug Free Schools Community and Workplace
10. 6100/Revenues from Local State and Federal Sources
11. 6222/Procurement of Federally Funded Services

Mr. Lowell seconded and the motion carried.

FISCAL
REPORT

Director of Finance and Operations, Valori Smith, presented the monthly fiscal report. She stated that she was still finalizing the 2018-19 budget and that by next month she would have the final numbers.

She stated that there had been more expenditures every month than revenue and that this will use up most of our 4% fund balance this year. Ms. Smith stated that the staffing FTE was up 15.5 more than this time than last year. This was due to new K-3 teachers at all elementary

RESOLUTION/
NO. 849
REPLACEMENT
LEVY

schools, a high school security officer and additional Para Educators. The enrollment numbers were projected to be 49 students over budget this year.

Mr. Howard moved to approve Levy Resolution No. 849 will provide for submission to the qualified electors of the District a special election on February 11, 2020 a proposition of whether excess taxes should be levied to pay part of the educational programs and operations of the District in the years 2021 and 2022 at a rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 assessed value. Mr. Wallace seconded and the motion carried. This levy will help cover the day to day functions and 18% of our operations and programming budget.

Mr. Wallace moved to approve Bond Resolution 850 to provide for submission to the qualified electors of the District a special election on February 11, 2020 a proposition for the issuance of its general obligation bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$89,000,000 for the purpose of providing funds to acquire, construct, equip, modernize and make other capital improvements to the facilities of the District. Mr. Howard seconded and the motion carried.

President Wesen stated that the bond would help all the grade schools in the District by reducing class sizes, enriching programming opportunities, and to reduce the number of kids in portables at each school site. The LU kindergarteners won't have to start at West View. There would be increased programming opportunities in math than the general math class, extra core classes, band and choir would not have to be before school. A middle school would offer equal learning opportunities and help prepare students for high school. The District has had concerns about the high failure rate in 9th grade first semester. A middle school should help with this transition. The District has worked on the middle school process for 6 or 7 years and it would be the community's second time to vote on this.

Superintendent Browning stated that it was prudent for the District to run a levy and bond all on one vote. The success rate is hardly impacted by doing this all in February and that it would be \$30,000 more to put the bond on April's ballot.

President Wesen stated that communication has to start immediately and that each elementary will benefit and students will be better prepared for high school. There will be more choices at middle school, similar to when the high school went to a block schedule and were able to offer more classes. Plus, there would be a community benefit of extra gyms to rent, a performance room and even the new motels that host families for soccer tournaments could benefit from an extra school field to play on.

Due to the Veteran's Day Holiday the next work session is scheduled for Monday, November 18, at 4:30 p.m. in the District Office Board Room.

Next regular meeting scheduled for Monday, November 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office Board Room

There is no work session in December.

The next Board Tour will be at Edison on Monday, December 9, at 8:30 a.m.

BOARD
TOUR - EDISON

The December Board meeting was changed to Thursday, December 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office Board Room. Edison will have a school report.

DEC.
REGULAR
MEETING

Mr. Bill Wallace will do the warrants.

WARRANTS

At approximately 8:40 pm there being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURNED

Board President

Board Secretary