



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2023
5:15 P.M.

Members Present: Mari Taylor, President
 David Iseminger
 Nina Hanson
 Vildan Kirby
 Paul Lund
 Ken Collins, Superintendent

Student Advisory Council: MacKenzie Conniff
 Hayden LaCelle
 Riley Boerger
 Samuel Orduna
 Aashisri Bendalam
 Yostina Mosa
 Muhammed Ceesay
 Laila Njie

The Board of Directors of the Lake Stevens School District No. 4 met in a Special Meeting at Skyline Elementary. The purpose of the Special Meeting was to introduce the newly elected Student Advisory Council to the Lake Stevens School Board Members. This meeting began at 5:15 p.m. Laila Njie was unable to attend.

Superintendent Ken Collins introduced himself and talked about the new Student Advisory Council members. He stated that everyone was so excited to meet them. He thought it would be beneficial for the Student Advisory Council to meet the board members. Superintendent Collins thanked them for coming and being a part of the Student Advisory Council. He stated that he wanted the students to talk about themselves, tell us what motivated them to apply for the Student Advisory Council and what they would like to achieve while they are on the Student Advisory Council.

Hayden LaCelle, a junior at Lake Stevens High School said he is an ASB Officer and a returning Student Advisory Council member. Hayden said he has always had a thing for leadership. He stated he gets this from his family, they like to help others and lift people up. Hayden said his family has had incredibly unique experiences and stated that everyone can thrive. He said last year the Student Advisory Council focused on student voice and reaching out to students. Hayden is looking forward to doing that work again.

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MacKenzie Conniff, a junior at Lake Stevens High School introduced herself and talked about how she works at the Little Gym helping students with gymnastics. MacKenzie has been working at the Little Gym for six months. It is her first job and she stated she loves working with kids. Nothing is more magical than being in a room full of children's laughter. She said this applies to her brother who is dyslexic. She states she has been his safety person. MacKenize is in AP classes, and she said that works for her, but it doesn't come as easy for her brother. She said even now her brother will call her when he does not want to attend school. She said she wanted to be on the Student Advisory Council to have a voice and to make everyone more aware of acknowledging disabilities like dyslexia.

Riley Boerger, a sophomore at Lake Stevens High School stated she has been in Leadership since the 5th grade. She said she started as a conflict mediator and now is an ASB Senator. Riley would like to begin the Running Start Program and after she graduates, begin Pre-med with her end goal of becoming a doctor. Riley said in her free time she loves musicals and plays. She said she is a huge theater nerd. Riley has published a new book regarding her struggles with health issues. She said she loves to read and is the youngest of six siblings. She wanted to be on the Student Advisory Council to work on diversity training.

Sam Orduna, a sophomore at Lake Stevens High School introduced himself and said he is in FCCLA and the creator of the LSHS Eco Club which is a club that focuses on community service focused on bettering the environment. He said he is determined to be a better student and leader. Sam has moved quite a bit and has attended seven different schools. He said he has an amazing mom and two sisters. He applied for the Student Advisory Council so he could have a voice, obtain more information at a district level, and work with more LSHS students.

Aashisri Bendalam, a ninth-grade student at Cavelero Mid High School said she has lived in three countries and has moved several times. Aashisri was born in India, moved to England, and moved to the United States six years ago. The Cavelero Librarian, Ms. Hermes told her that she had great listening skills and that she should apply for the Student Advisory Council. She said she is so happy that she applied and is excited to express her ideas to the school board members.

Yostina Mosa, a ninth-grade student at Cavelero Mid High School stated that Egyptian culture and religion are a big part of her life. She said the American culture is so different and stated that most of what people do in America would be illegal in Egypt. Yostina said she applied for the Student Advisory Council because of her friend Aashisri. She said she is happy to be a part of the Student Advisory Council and said she wants to make a difference. She

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stated she can plant a seed for future students, and she hopes what she does will affect future generations to come.

Muhammed Ceesay, an eighth grade student at Cavelero Mid High School introduced himself and stated that he is Vice President of the Diversity Student Union and he is rejoiced to be a member of the Student Advisory Council. He said he has always had a keen eye for leadership as he wants to see excellence prevail and the most plausible way to achieve this is by creating opportunities, addressing issues, and assuring that our environment is nourishing.

Muhammed stated the Student Advisory Council is a superb tool to achieve this. His current objective as a member is to address conflicts, render new opportunities, create a stimulating environment, bridge the disparities within our school district, and amplify his leadership skills.

Aimel Rai is a senior at Lake Stevens High School and a former member of the Student Advisory Council. Aimel stated she is waiting to hear from the University of Washington on her acceptance. Aimel stated the Student Advisory Council was her baby and it is hard for her to give it up after being on it for two years. She also said she is very proud of the new Student Advisory Council.

Josefina Jarillo-Odegaard, a senior at Lake Stevens High School and previous Vice President of the Student Advisory Council plans on taking a trip to Norway next year. She stated she is interested in a degree in early education but has not selected a college yet. She said it is so cool to see the idea of the Student Advisory Council be fulfilled.

Director Lund said how impressed he was with the young adults and what an amazing evening it has been. He stated he wants to be worthy of his leadership and he said this is his passion. Director Lund said it is so cool to volunteer for this position, as he retired from Boeing three years ago. He stated his wife volunteered in the classroom when their children were growing up. He said he has had three children graduate from LSHS and now he is enjoying being a grandpa. He said he is looking forward to getting to know the Student Advisory Council members.

Director Kirby stated she was so impressed with the Student Advisory Council members. She said she had the pleasure of meeting Muhammed from the Diversity Club and Josefina used to be her neighbor. Director Kirby was Turkish-born in Istanbul. She said education is a part of her heart. She stated she grew up with eight siblings and twenty-seven cousins. Director Kirby said that she and her sister were the first to graduate college. Director Kirby has two children attending Cavelero Mid High School and is so excited to work with the Student Advisory Council members.

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Director Hanson is a mom of three children including a four-month-old. She recognized MacKenzie Conniff from the Little Gym. She said she is a first-generation high school graduate. She stated that she graduated from Washington State University and received her Ph.D. at the University of Washington. Director Hanson is an Asian American and has taught English previously to being a stay-at-home mom. Director Hanson stated she is enjoying being a mom, cares about students, and is honored to be a part of the team with everyone.

Director Iseminger congratulated the Student Advisory Council members. He told the Student Advisory Council that it will be great to see how this creation will blossom into a voice for other students. Director Iseminger has had two students graduate from Lake Stevens High School and has two seventh-grade students at North Lake. Director Iseminger said if you have a strong education there is nothing that can stop you no matter your background or where you come from. You must dedicate yourself and be willing to do the work. He said he has been on the board for 15 years and is looking forward to seeing what the Student Advisory Council will do for this district. He stated this is one stop on a great journey. Director Iseminger is looking forward to interacting with the Student Advisory Council members.

President Taylor stated that even though they met during the interviews, she shared with them that this is her 24th year as a school board member. She said that they have had some good conversations about having students on the board. She stated when Kaitlyn came to us with this idea and then COVID hit little did we know that other people wanted to do this. She told the Student Advisory Council members that their dedication and their personal experiences were very moving and that they had great energy. She added that everyone was inspired. President Taylor said that her children graduated from LSHS and now she has a grandchild attending the district. She stated that this is amazing and she hopes they feel comfortable and encouraged to reach out and ask questions. President Taylor ended by saying it is a privilege to have you here. President Taylor also wanted to thank and honor Josefine Jarillo-Odegaard and Aimel Rai.

Superintendent Collins talked about the start of the Student Advisory Council and that there wasn't a model where students were more involved in the school board. They sat down with Aimel and Kaitlyn to construct the Student Advisory Council, collected some ideas from other districts, and started a plan. Superintendent Collins took the information to a board retreat and received some feedback so that students could be given an opportunity for input. The Student Advisory Council is about you and fellow students who will follow you for years to come. It is important to have students' voices and he said he is excited for them to have more opportunities. Superintendent Collins stated he is looking forward to working with all of them.

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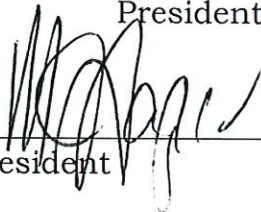
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Kerri Joseph, Director of Special Services said how excited she was to hear all of their thoughts and ideas. John Balmer, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, said he remembers when a few of the Student Advisory Council members attended Glenwood Elementary when he was the principal. He congratulated and welcomed everyone. Teresa Main, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, congratulated the Student Advisory Council members. Robb Stanton, Executive Director of Operations introduced himself and said he does the planning for future schools. He welcomed the Student Advisory Council and said he is looking forward to their ideas and input for the school district. Jayme Taylor, Executive Director of Communications & Community Services stated that she is happy to be working with the Student Advisory Council and is excited and proud of them. Dr. Meadows, Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion thanked everyone and is so grateful for the Student Advisory Council. She also announced that Samuel Orduna is the Student Advisory President, Riley Boerger is Student Advisory Vice President, and MacKenzie Conniff is Student Advisory Secretary.

President Taylor Adjourned the Special Meeting at 6:20 p.m.



President



Secretary