

LAKE STEVENS
School District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING
March 22, 2023

**Board
Members:**

Mari Taylor, President
Nina Hanson
David Iseminger
Vildan Kirby
Paul Lund
Ken D. Collins, Superintendent/Board Secretary

**Student
Advisory
Council
Officers:**

Samuel Orduna
Riley Boerger
MacKenzie Conniff
Hayden LaCelle

The Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors met in a Regular Session at Sunnycrest Elementary. A Zoom option was available for this meeting that President Taylor called to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

President Taylor wanted to begin the evening by having the School Board members introduce themselves. Director Hanson introduced herself and said she is a mom of three wonderful children. She stated this is her first year as a board member. She has an educational background and enjoys watching the students present at the board meetings. Director Iseminger has been on the School Board for 15 years and works with software. He has had two children who graduated from Lake Stevens High School and has two children attending North Lake Middle School. He loves coming to the schools for the board meetings and said he was happy to be there. Director Lund has been on the board for 13 years and is retired from Boeing after 34 years. He and his wife enjoy their three grandkids and he loves the opportunity to be at Sunnycrest and get to know the kids in the school. Student Council Advisory Sam Orduna introduced himself stating he is a sophomore at Lake Stevens High School and he is the Student Advisory Council President. He said he was very excited to be there. Sophomore Student Advisory Council Vice President Riley Boerger said she has been in ASB since seventh grade and is very happy to be there.

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Student Advisory Council Secretary MacKenzie Conniff said she wanted to serve on the Student Advisory Council because she wants to have a voice for her brother. Ms. Conniff is a junior at LSHS. Superintendent Collins said he has had three children attend Highland, North Lake, and Cavelero and graduate from Lake Stevens High School. He has worked in the LSSD for 33 years and 39 years in education as a teacher, Associate Principal, Principal, and now Superintendent. President Taylor stated she has been on the School Board for 24 years. Her kids started at Sunnycrest Elementary. She has a grandchild in the LSSD and grandchildren in the Shoreline School District. She is the Transition Specialist at the Washington State Department of Children, Youth & Families. President Taylor stated this is a fun night and she was grateful to be at Sunnycrest.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Lund made a motion to approve the March 22, 2023 agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Hanson and unanimously approved.

Director Iseminger made a motion to approve the March 8, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Sunnycrest Elementary Principal Michaela Trexel welcomed everyone to Sunnycrest – Home of the Screamin' Eagles. Principal Trexel started by introducing Dean of Students Chanel West. Dean of Students West said she has taught at Sunnycrest Elementary for nine years and that this is her first year as Dean of Students. She expressed that she is very passionate about Sunnycrest. Dean of Students West talked about the Golden Spatula and how it works for cafeteria incentives. The cafeteria expectations are to eat quietly, clean up after yourself, and go outside to enjoy recess. Staff checks the tables and when students are quiet and have cleaned their area they earn a fork to place under their teacher's name. At the end of the week, they celebrate the classroom that has earned the most forks. If they earn a Golden Spatula with a blue ticket on it they earn a piece of pepperoni on their pizza slice. When completed the class then gets to celebrate with a pizza party. Dean of Students West says

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it is fun to see the students work as a team. She said in the office they are keeping friendship goal sheets and merging their character traits. Every month each teacher gets a new goal sheet. March is friendship month. They have a friendship basket where students can earn tickets when they show friendship and S.O.A.R. (show your power with safety, ownership, attitude, and respect). If their class wins they get to have a pajama or dance party. Principal Trexel spoke about SWIS Data. They enter office referrals through the SWIS program and have been mapping where the hot spots are located. She stated their campus map is updated based on the data. From the data they can tell where the hot spots are such as the playground or the restrooms. They also noticed that Wednesdays seem to have the highest number of incidents. They are also addressing bullying and harassment. They are approaching challenging situations and are trying to find ways to foster some more learning and research the bigger issues while building empathy. They created some scenarios for older students, quizzes, searching through policies, and one on one to see what they take away from this and what they struggle with. They have them read through the victim's stories so they can feel empathy. Principal Trexel spoke about SEL (social, emotional learning) on character trait work, girls' group, and Taproot Theater. Principal Trexel spoke about working with teachers on new resources to add character traits. She sets up videos and links for resources for teachers and their morning meetings with students. Principal Trexel met with a group of fourth-grade students on recognizing stopping, walking away, and working through issues. They talked about Growth Mindset – the belief that we can work hard and improve. I want to learn from criticism; I am comfortable making mistakes; I have a positive internal dialogue; I find lessons and inspiration in others' success. The students committed to a four-week book study on Confessions of a Former Bully. This book was about physical aggression, name-calling, and exclusive behavior. Every student had their own journal and learning tools. After meeting with the students, the classroom teacher said they had grown and used the skills they learned. The students celebrated with a certificate of completion, cookies, and UNO. Taproot Theater came to perform an excellent assembly at Sunnycrest regarding bullying and harassment. They taught the students how to recognize, refuse, and then report it to a grown-up. The Big F.I.V.E. Teacher Surprise Box – Spreading Happiness in our Community. Sunnycrest Elementary students from Mrs. Kendall's fifth-grade class presented their outstanding slide show. This team included Caleb, Anaya, Aaron, Amelia, Bryce, Alina, Bhumika, Gavin, Zyleia, Iris, Ellie, Kaylee, and Chezney. The students spoke on Philanthropy Club, its motto, the purpose behind

the name, friendliness, intelligence, versatility, and empathy. When they started their project, they created two teams because they had different desires. One of their projects was completed thanks to one student in the class and the other project never made it past production. They were left frustrated and without a plan. They learned that they lacked teamwork, inclusivity, time management, focus, and leadership. They came up with a new project and a new plan. They picked one project, created a plan with departments, and started production. They faced obstacles which were focusing, a missed deadline, and planning. They became a team together and learned that teamwork is necessary, stick to a timeline, and how their actions can affect other people. A few other things they learned together were that they were capable, leaders, skilled, good with time management, and more confident overall. The students thanked everyone for coming to see their presentation. Director Lund told the students how impressed he was with them and how becoming a team and recognizing what isn't working is difficult to do. He thanked them for sharing their presentation. Director Kirby echoed Director Lund saying how extremely impressed she was at how they worked as a team. It was an amazing accomplishment. President Taylor asked when the Big F.I.V.E. students had met. They said they met and became friends when they did this project. Student Advisory Council Vice President Riley Boerger told them they were so good they could do her job. She also stated she was in a similar group in fifth grade. Student Advisory Council President Sam Orduna told the students they had a strong team and told them they deserve a round of applause. Superintendent Collins thanked Mrs. Kendall for sharing her students tonight. Director Hanson told the students that she loved how engaged, happy, and supportive of their teammates during their presentations.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Taylor called for any community comments. Hearing none, she closed this portion of the meeting.

A break was held approximately from 7:20 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

Director Hanson made a motion to approve the "Consent Agenda" items:

1. Warrant Nos. 307314 to 307523 - \$955,758.26 (E: 62/23);
2. Personnel Report: classified employment of Wyatt Blankenship, Kristen Edmonds-Hagen, Amie Johnson, Michele Koziol, Madelyn Mcnamee, and Angela Robinson; resignation of Collin Cassady, Sarah Dominick, Robin Giuliacci, Michelle Morris, Preciosa Pierson, Douglas Seaton, and Ashly Sonnevile; retirement of William Angdahl and Kathleen Doser (E: 63/23); and the Co-curricular report (E: 64/23).
3. A donation in the amount of \$3,000.00 from the Lake Stevens Education Foundation (E: 65/23); a donation in the amount of \$84,000.00 from the Skyline PTA (E: 66/23).

The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved.

Director Kirby made a motion to adopt the added, missed day on February 28, 2023, due to inclement weather to the 16th of June. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and was unanimously approved (E: 67/23).

Director Lund made a motion to approve the final acceptance of the public works projects. The motion was seconded by President Taylor and was unanimously approved (E: 68/23).

Director Iseminger made a motion to adopt Resolution 2-23, to accept the K-3 Class Size Reduction Grant Projects. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

Executive Director of Operations Robb Stanton updated the Board on residential development activity in our community and growth projections from the jurisdictions within our boundaries. After a period of strong residential development growth, economic concerns

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briefly paused new home construction within the District in the last six months. However, economic forecasts are changing, and a backlog of permitted and developable parcels are starting to show the potential for significant expansion. At the same time, buildable lands within the District are beginning to reach capacity. This will not only change the nature of residential development in our area but will eventually lead to a much slower growth rate in new developments in the District. These competing factors will be presented, along with information from our local jurisdictions of Snohomish County and the cities of Lake Stevens and Marysville on how they see growth occurring in the next several years. Finally, new housing projections and student generation rates will be used to shed light on how and where growth will occur in the District in the next decade. Director Stanton presented the board with a presentation on new developmental phases. The phases for construction are planning (permits and clearing), site work, construction, sale of the home, and occupancy. He compared the housing pipeline from June 2022 to March 2023. He said the number of units in the pipeline is 5% more now than in the June 2022 report. Director Stanton stated 190 new units in one development have been added to the pipeline and 87 new units have been occupied most being single-family detached homes. He said the area they have been focusing on is the Whiskey Ridge area in Marysville with 71% of developments in the pipeline in this area. Southwest Lake Stevens has a few small projects with little growth in the northeast, and southeast quadrants of the district. Director Stanton then showed maps of new developments in the district. He shared a development report from the school area and shared on marketing conditions. He stated home prices have fallen, but an equilibrium is being reached between prices and the cost of borrowing. Regional and national homebuilders are attached to projects again and homes are being built without a buyer under contract. The developer outlook is trending positive for 2024 and beyond. The timeline from permitting through occupancy is between 1.5 and 4+ years. Director Stanton showed charts on student generation by new housing and school area. He talked about enrollment drivers which are existing home sales, current residents not yet of school age, and birth rates. Director Stanton talked about longer-term planning and future growth. He stated unincorporated Snohomish County has little area with little growth potential. In the city of Lake Stevens, most of the developments are outside school district boundaries. He also stated large assemblages are hard to find so it will be smaller parcels and projects with a shift to multi-family developments (apartments, townhouses) and infill. The city of Marysville will be single-family detached with a focus on

infrastructure and commercial buildings. Director Stanton stated he would present an update in June 2023 while continuing to check in with homebuilders, developers, and city planning departments while monitoring monthly school enrollment changes.

Assistant Superintendent Teresa Main stated as part of the 2023-2024 budget process, she talked about their preliminary enrollment projections and preliminary staffing allocations at the elementary and secondary buildings in K-12 basic education classrooms. Though enrollment projections are for the entire district population, this initial review will not include staffing for Special Education, HomeLink, Secondary DLA, or Open Doors. Every year during the budget process, they review student enrollment, which drives their staffing allocation, which in turn will make up about 85% of their budgeted expenditures in the General Fund. These are the first steps in the budget process. Enrollment projections are conservative with some room for potential growth. District-wide, they are projecting a 1.3% increase in student enrollment. This year with the impact of budget reductions, they are increasing class sizes while still maintaining their K-3 class size compliance. Staffing at the level they are will maximize the state allocations and minimize the level of support needed from the local levy. This will also help balance their budget for 2023 - 2024. The class sizes will be larger than they have been in the past three years. Class sizes will be back to where they were pre-pandemic. Assistant Superintendent Main stated they are still seeing a small growth in enrollment and they do plan on seeing higher growth in a couple of years. She presented an FTE (full-time equivalent) student graph showing grades K-5 based on the roll-up method and secondary enrollment based on a 5-year Cohort Survival method. Assistant Superintendent Main then showed a student headcount (the number of bodies enrolled) graph showing projected student numbers for the 2023 - 2024 school year. She then presented enrollment and staffing FTE comparison on basic education classroom teachers only. She stated they are looking at Kindergarten registration and they compare this to registration at the same time last year. She also said birth rates are down over the last couple of years. Assistant Superintendent Main stated they have a phenomenal increase in special education enrollment due to such a great program. She also stated that with certain areas feeling the bulk of the growth they will need to discuss boundaries to balance the schools. They look at a collection of the entire population because this is the first step in building their budget. Assistant Superintendent Main stated neighboring districts have been in the newspapers with some level of disarray. They are seeing the benefits of this in people looking for homes in the LSSD. She said

elementary class sizes K-5 average has been at 22 which has been a luxury. Unfortunately, they can't live under that model anymore and they will need to increase class sizes. Director Taylor stated she feels better after seeing the projections presented by Assistant Superintendent Main and thanked her for her insightful presentation.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Lund said it was an absolute delight to be there and he wanted to thank Principal Trexel, Dean of Students Chanel West, and Mrs. Kendall and her fifth-grade class for making them feel welcome. He wanted to thank the wonderful students for their outstanding presentation and leadership. He stated it is always a pleasure to be in the schools for the board meetings. He also wanted to thank Director Stanton and Assistant Superintendent Main for their reports.

Director Kirby expressed it was a great night to be at Sunnycrest Elementary. She said Sunnycrest was one of the first schools she worked at when they moved to the area. She thanked Principal Trexel and Dean of Students Chanel West for hosting the school board meeting. Mrs. Kendall's fifth-grade class won her heart. She stated kids give her so much hope. Director Kirby wanted to thank Executive Director of Operations Robb Stanton and Assistant Superintendent Teresa Main for their presentations. She also wanted to say that today is the beginning of Ramadan. Director Kirby grew up in a Muslim family and said it is such a good culture and is very special to her.

Director Hanson said how wonderful it is being at Sunnycrest Elementary. She loved watching the student presentation and enjoyed seeing all the parents at the board meeting supporting their students. Director Hanson asked if the Screamin' Eagles is an actual sound. Principal Trexel said staff uses it in the cafeteria when it is noisy. It is a cue to be quiet. Staff will say screamin' and students answer eagle. Director Hanson also thanked Executive Director of Operations Robb Stanton and Assistant Superintendent Teresa Main for their presentations and all of their work.

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Director Iseminger thanked Sunnycrest Elementary and stated how it is always great to see what is happening in the schools. He also wanted to thank Executive Director of Operations Robb Stanton and Assistant Superintendent Teresa Main for their informative presentations.

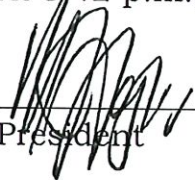
Student Advisory Council President Sam Orduna said thank you to Sunnycrest Elementary for hosting the school board meeting. He commented on how the Big F.I.V.E. student presentation was amazing. Mr. Orduna stated how professional the students were. He thanked Executive Director of Operations Robb Stanton and Assistant Superintendent Teresa Main for their board presentations.

Student Advisory Council Vice President Riley Boerger thanked the school board members and Sunnycrest Elementary for hosting the meeting. Ms. Boerger wished everyone a safe drive home.

President Taylor said thank you to everyone for a great night. She said her favorite part was the awesome student presentation and the fact that when their plan wasn't working they figured out how to fix it as a team. President Taylor stated how Mrs. Kendall and her students gave a fantastic presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:42 p.m., President Taylor adjourned the Regular Meeting.



President



Secretary