



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING
September 14, 2022

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

Student Advisory Council Officers: Aimel Rai, President
Josefina Jarillo Odegaard
Duvaekk Smith

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

ROLL CALL

President Taylor announced Director Iseminger was out of town and would not be attending the meeting. Director Hanson participated via Zoom.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Lund made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved.

Director Kirby made a motion to approve the August 24, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The Educational Service District No. 189 Superintendent, Larry Francois, was in attendance to recognize Lake Stevens High School for achieving its renewed accreditation status for the years 2022 through 2028. He explained the makeup of the AESD School Accred-

itation. He stated it provides services to all types of schools, not just public. The voluntary accreditation process is a researched-based, self-study program that has an ongoing focus on school improvement, with a "check in" every three years. It is data-driven and involves staff, students, and the community, and it is an external standard of equality and a statement of accountability to the public. On behalf of the high school, Principal Leslie Ivelia accepted the plaque. In addition, as part of the process, the AESD board members develop commendations. Mr. Francois mentioned the admiration of the data collected by the high school and the dedication of the staff.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Principal Tori Thomas, Dean of Students Katie Scott, Counselor Nicky Dunn, and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Specialist Kristen Smutz provided a presentation on Skyline Elementary School. Mrs. Thomas noted their report would focus on positive behaviors and supports, using a model built on teaching, modeling, practicing, and expecting. Mrs. Scott said the students are taught expectations that are consistently modeled for spaces such as the hallways and lunchroom. She mentioned at the end of last year the staff members met to discuss what kind of changes they wanted to see in their students' behavior and then chose character traits. Monthly themes are centered around these traits that are taught with fidelity in all areas of the school. Mrs. Smutz stated students are taught to be responsible and this is reinforced throughout the day. She stated the staff members realized the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) incentive system needed to be beefed up so they decided on a way to honor students at an assembly. She noted as behavior issues lessen, more learning will take place. Mrs. Dunn commented on Kelso's Choices, a program that teaches children conflict resolution. It empowers students to solve issues on their own or with support from an adult. Skyline also has a cross-grade level buddy system in place with four goals: to elevate reading buddies, reinforce character traits, have fun learning through shared experiences, and to be better together. This system helps give students a sense of belonging and community. Mrs. Dunn stated after winter break, a time will be found for everyone to get involved at the same time and teachers will receive ideas in order to support them. Mrs. Thomas stressed this work is all about the staff being better together and translating this to students. She said we can celebrate students when they are doing great things. Director Lund

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expressed his thanks to the team for teaching students how to solve issues on their own, noting this is so powerful. He added he wished this program was in place when he attended school.

Principal Leslie Ivelia reported the high school had a good start to the school year and will move forward with the common goals of a sense of belonging, equity, and inclusion. She shared the Data Teams and Department Heads held a meeting in August to review the goals for the upcoming year; a Viking Launch was held and 1,516 students had their picture taken; 800 students purchased Associated Student Body (ASB) cards; and the Student Store is open, already garnering \$13,000. The high school's Learning Improvement Day was spent focusing on PBIS and the three "Rs": Respectful, Responsible, and Ready. Mrs. Ivelia reported the teachers collaborated to create expectations for the lunchroom, restrooms, assemblies, and hallways and these expectations guided them in creating "Community Agreements" with their students. She said positive reports have been received and there is a contagious vibe on campus. Jaden Freeman, the school's Executive Public Relations Officer, commented on her involvement in leadership. She explained how the Executive Team and the school's administrators had been discussing impressions versus impact. She stated one of her goals this year is to make a positive impact on every student and hopefully others will be affected in a positive way by them. The Executive Team held a lunch for the staff in order to share its vision of having impactful moments. Jaden reported every new staff member who could participated in the welcome assembly and she believes others will volunteer at future events. Jaden said her seventh grade teacher, Mrs. Barnes, encouraged her to run for an ASB position and she has been in leadership ever since. In addition, she noted she has had a teacher such as Mrs. Barnes every year and the staff at LSHS has shaped her into the leader she is today for which she is grateful more than she can convey. In regards to the high school now being able to have two lunches, Mrs. Ivelia gave a shout out to Food Services Manager Mollie Langum; Kitchen Manager Michele Athey; members of the Facilities and Operations staff, including Robb Stanton, Scott Pattison, Ted Human, James Main, and several custodial employees; as well as the Board and community in providing the space in order to make this happen. Mrs. Ivelia noted data shows that having only two lunch periods is better for the students. She briefly commented on areas such as the court yard and quiet spaces and the ability to add a fourth service line. Mrs. Ivelia also gave a shout out to Chief Aca-

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demio Officer Gina Anderson who led the high school team in applying the academic acceleration policy. She shared the percentages of the students who opted in and out of taking Advanced Placement English. Two new sections have been added and she remarked on students who may not have seen themselves before as being able to participate and now feeling they can. She said they are already discussing social studies for next year. Mrs. Ivelia pointed out there are 12th graders in the Civics classes that are of age and registering to vote. She shared the play this year is "Catch Me if You Can" and 41 students auditioned for the 18-member cast. In addition, 20 students were chosen for behind the scenes work. Thirty students turned out for the Diversity Student Union and a new Interact Club has been formed, with thirty-five students attending the first meeting. This club is part of our local Rotary and participates in things such as cleaning up the streets, the Lake Stevens Triathlon, and the Green Bag Food Project. Kristen Odegaard is the advisor. Mrs. Ivelia was pleased to share an amazing experience of having a BBQ for the Bolt Creek firefighters. Approximately 4,000 firefighters were served and they very much appreciated the food and drinks. Mrs. Ivelia reported 126 students turned out for cross country and Team Captains Jakob Broadbent and Rachel O'Malley have already organized multiple get-togethers for the members. Mrs. Ivelia shared photos of athletes, "spirit days," and a "dress up" event and said all of this was driven by the senior leadership. In addition, she commented and shared a photo of the "best super fan section ever" of 75 students showing up for a volleyball game. Upcoming activities include "Connections Night," Breaking Down the Walls, and Homecoming on October 14 and 15. Director Lund congratulated her on the accreditation process and stated the team was brave to go into it when it did. He said it was a positive experience for everyone and well done. President Taylor was very impressed with Mrs. Ivelia's presentation.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Taylor explained the protocols for addressing the Board and called for community comments.

In regards to a display in the Cavelero library about banned books, a couple of parents, Jennifer McNaught and Katie Dosen, stated the display is inappropriate and illegal for the eighth and ninth graders and should be removed. Teacher and mother of the librarian at Cav-

elero, Kathy Theisen, informed the Board of online bullying directed at her daughter. She requested the Board take a stand and call out the bullying. Parents Paula Headland and Kim and Scott Yri were present to support the District and librarian. Mrs. Yri apologized for the disparaging remarks directed at the staff member and stated she and her husband's hearts and passion are for the schools and all employees. Teachers Kate Benson, Tina Kinnard, Emily Dykstra, and Jessica Olson commented on being against censorship, being respectful, and supporting the LGBTQIA community. Mrs. Olson spoke out that she felt some of the books in the display contained inappropriate content for the age group of the students at Cavelero, noting she would not read those books herself. Mrs. Kinnard stated the real target is the students in the classrooms. Mrs. Benson and a Student Advisory Council member, Hayden Lacelle, pointed out this is an opportunity to have conversations and that it is important to have representation in the schools so all students feel supported. Mrs. Dykstra pointed out parents should talk to their children about what they feel they should or should not read. Mrs. Benson, a strong supporter of the LGBTQIA community, shared a Lady Gaga quote, "Born this Way' is about being yourself and loving who you are and being proud."

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

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

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

1. Warrant Nos. 304834 to 305032 - \$2,761,708.65 (E:146/22) and Warrant No. 222300001 - \$2,188.02 (E:147/22);
2. the Personnel Report: certificated employment of Nicole Cruz, Tara Heist, Christie Lewis, Michael Moore, and Kyla Seek; classified employment of Sayury Alpizar, Katherine Appleton, Brenda Batchelder, Kathleen Batrack, Aaron Bolyard, Lovetta Downes, Janelle Dunham, Megan Eidson, Katie Gann, Sara Grandy-Lian, Marie Hoyt, Shruti Khanna, Charisa Mahinay, Shelby Maus, Kyntasha Pearson, Eli Phillips, Morgen Slomchinski, Kylar Sylvester, Kimber Taylor, Jamie Todd, Lauren Vance, and Alissa Wachtveitl; volunteers Trevor Allen, Ian Hanson, and Damon Matz; resignations of Tiffany Bell, Eyren Braaten, Roxanne Davis, Tari Hopkins, Icela Maldonado, Carline Owens, Lily-Claire

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Pins, Jackie Schmidt, and Samantha Thornquist; retirement of Ken Engman (E:148/22); the 2022-23 PSE Salary Schedule (E:149/22); the 2022-23 PSE Office Professionals' Salary Schedule (E:150/22); the co-curricular report (E:151/22); and the August 2022 payroll, Warrant Nos. 304781 to 304832, 304833, and 304520 - \$10,685,648.42 (E:152/22).

The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

Director Lund made a motion to approve the Final Acceptance of the following public works projects: install a fence connecting the new sound wall to the existing fence at Hillcrest Elementary School (Atlas Fence), repairs to the boiler firebox at Sunnycrest Elementary School (Cascade Boiler), replace a window in Room 23 at Mt. Pilchuck Elementary School (Glass by Lund), add a camera and card reader for HomeLink at Cavelero Mid High School (Long Building Technologies), replace the NAC fire alarm panel at Highland Elementary School (Pacific Fire), and replace aging ramps at Transition (Welcome Ramp). Service calls: correct the emergency intercom paging issues at Highland Elementary School (Dimensional Communications), repair trouble on the fire alarm panel at Glenwood Elementary School (Johnson Controls) (E:153/22). The motion was seconded by Director Kirby. Directors Hanson and Lund expressed appreciation that these projects are complete. The motion was unanimously approved.

Director Kirby made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 12-22: Authorization for the Superintendent, or His Designee, to Sign an Easement Agreement with the Snohomish County Public Utilities District No. 1 for a Water Line on District Property on Lake Drive (R:12-22). The motion was seconded by Director Lund. Director Kirby questioned the location. Superintendent Collins replied it is near the new roundabout and in the amount of \$1,000.00. President Taylor pointed out that the District is not able to donate public property. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Director Lund made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 13-22: Authorization for the Superintendent, or His Designee, to Sign an Easement Agreement with the Lake Stevens Sewer District for a Sewer Line on District Property on Lake Drive (R:13-22). The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Director Kirby made a motion to award a public works contract for the renovation of two former music classrooms into general education classrooms at Lake Stevens High School to J.C. Killin General Contractor in the amount of \$204,900.00 (E:154/22). The motion was seconded by Director Lund. President Taylor remarked she was surprised by the low bids. Executive Director of Operations Robb Stanton replied the bids were within available funds, there were four bidders, and the two good competitive bids were close. He added the District has worked with J.C. Killin previously and he is very pleased. The motion was unanimously approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Executive Director of Communications Jayme Taylor presented updated procedures for Policy No. 1410: Community Use of School Buildings, Equipment, Grounds. The changes include rental fees for the secondary auxiliary gyms, pricing for the elementary gymnasiums for several classifications, and a slight increase for custodial hourly fees.

Assistant Superintendent Teresa Main reported on the opening day enrollment, which was taken on the fourth day of school. The official count date is October 1. Projections are under by 43 students. Mrs. Main shared graphs of FTE enrollment by school and by grade with comparisons of the September counts from last year to this year, projected numbers, and annual averages. She reported it was necessary to move a teacher from Highland to Mt. Pilchuck and one from Stevens Creek to Glenwood to support the counts. Her projections for Sunnycrest and Highland included some students from the Whiskey Ridge area. The graphical charts depicted the growth at North Lake. Mrs. Main pointed out the recent elementary boundary changes affected North Lake's enrollment and this school may need more portables. She shared there was some growth at Cavelero and not much at the high school. Running Start numbers were not included in her report. She said kindergarten and 12th grade escalated last year but this is completely opposite for this year. Mrs. Main's report included the annual average elementary and secondary enrollment history. She noted Sunnycrest has continued to grow even with the boundary changes and moving students to Stevens Creek and Highland. She pointed out the count was taken the first day following the Labor Day weekend and it is possible families were still on vacation. Aimel questioned the stu-

dents attending Sno-Isle. Mrs. Main explained how the District could claim a student's FTE if attending the high school part time. President Taylor noted the dollars follow the students. Mrs. Main stated the elementary class sizes are low this year because of the available ESSER funding. She then explained the triggers for each level. For example, if there are 25 students in a third grade class, the 26th student would be a trigger and the teacher could receive additional funding. She stressed that the ESSER funding will be eliminated next year and the budget would not support the current class sizes. President Taylor told the Assistant Superintendent she appreciates her "sorcery," especially with the changing of the start of school. She looks forward to the October 1 count being better. The Assistant Superintendent responded she plans for the worse and hopes for the best.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Kirby shared her experience growing up in Istanbul during the coup when all kinds of books, including poetry, were banned. She mentioned the burning of books in the middle of the night and if caught with a book, friends who were jailed or worse. This was a very dark time and she does not want this for her own children. Director Kirby remarked students need to know about sexuality and if a student reads a book about gay people, that doesn't mean the student will become gay. She stressed it is all about safety, knowledge is power, and books shouldn't be censored but talked about. Director Kirby stated teachers are to teach students how to think, not what to think. She apologized to Mrs. Theisen whose daughter suffered hate messages and told her she would be making her her sourdough bread. She said that nothing comes out of censorship. If parents don't want their children to read a certain book they have the choice of opting out. Director Kirby congratulated the high school on its accreditation and stated she knew Dan Alderson worked hard on it. Director Kirby thanked the Skyline team for its presentation. She agrees with Director Lund's comment about giving students the skills to think for themselves and finding solutions. Director Kirby expressed her appreciation to everyone.

Director Lund expressed his appreciation for the board reports and stated he would like to be in the schools more often. Director Lund said he loves the meetings when there is a full house and opinions

expressed, as he appreciates hearing from the community. He wishes community comments could occur at the end of the meeting though so everyone could hear the really amazing things going on in the district. Director Lund thanked everyone who addressed the Board for sharing their thoughts and assured them they are taken under consideration. Director Lund said it is exciting to be back at school. He thanked the high school team for taking on the accreditation process when it did. He noted the Board had hoped the remodeling of the high school would allow students to use the spaces in a different way.

Director Hanson said she loved the Skyline Team and it is exciting to get to know the new Deans of Students. She appreciates the buddy system and remarked it did make a difference for her own children every week. Director Hanson thanked the high school team for its report and stated she is impressed with the impression versus impact approach. She appreciated the advanced placement work and said she is so proud of the clubs. Director Hanson thanked the parents and teachers who spoke regarding the library situation. She appreciates hearing the compassion and heartfelt comments. Director Hanson commented on students blossoming when given the space to learn and the partnership between teachers and students. Director Hanson thanked Mr. Stanton for sharing his insight and thanked Mrs. Main for her work.

Aimel said she liked the accreditation process, appreciated Skyline's presentation and the buddy system, and appreciated the community members for expressing their feelings. She stated as a person of color she believes representation matters.

Josefina wished Director Hanson a happy birthday. She stated she remembers being at Highland Elementary and the buddy system. She shared her experience with a fifth grader reading Good Night Moon. Josefina appreciated the high school's presentation and how much has been accomplished and it continuing to improve. She noted it is good to see the former band room will be renovated and used for a general classroom. She found the opening day enrollment report interesting. Josefina pointed out everyone was a teenager once and it is nice to have resources provided on topics otherwise not known about. Josefina said she is saddened about the harass-

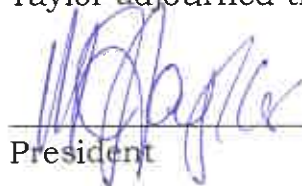
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ment the librarian has endured. She commented on it being 2022-23 and people still talking about certain topics. She appreciates teachers and parents standing up and being the backbone of the community. She added the students do not have to read the books if they don't want to and conversations surrounding this should be at home, not at school.

President Taylor commented on the two lunch periods at the high school and the amazing group of individuals who made it work. She mentioned her daughter was a fifth grade student at Highland Elementary when it first opened and now her daughter has a kindergartner there. She remarked on how the community has grown over the years. She commented on the students who are learning and growing and forcing the community members to do the same. She stressed it is not right to eliminate someone's humanity and people should lean into conversations to learn from one another. President Taylor is excited about the opening of schools and she feels it went smoothly.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:40 pm, with no objection by the other directors, President Taylor adjourned the Regular Session.



President



Secretary