



LAKE STEVENS
School District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING
December 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

All board members were present. Aimel Rai was not able to attend the meeting.

AGENDA/MINUTES

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

Director Kirby made a motion to approve the November 3, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and approved, with Director Hanson abstaining as she did not attend the meeting.

Director Iseminger made a motion to approve the November 9, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and approved, with Director Hanson abstaining as she did not attend the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Principal Lisa Sanchez and Associate Principal Jamie Sinning intro-

duced the Lake Stevens Middle School Students of the Month for November: Nathan Haile, Hadley Bartkowski, and Dieumercie Yalala. Sadie Johnston was not able to attend the meeting.

Principal Brad Abels and Associate Principal Sara Mack introduced the North Lake Middle School Students of the Month for November: Molly Marques, James Eichert, Delany Gitonga, and Isabella Ii.

Principal James Sellers introduced the Cavelero Mid High School Students of the Month for November: Thoraesa Bartlett, Sofiia Shcherbyna, Riley Jo Bradstreet, and Ximena Paloma Quezada.

Principal Leslie Ivelia and Associate Principal Tonya Grinde introduced the Lake Stevens High School Students of the Month for November: Hailey Tsang, Riley Prah, Lucie Grimes, Gage Solomon, Riley Scherer, and Skyler West.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Balmer introduced the November APPLE Award recipients: Pam Damon, Heidi Scott, Julie Sewald, and Ernette Visitacion. Nancy Dickinson was not able to attend the meeting.

President Taylor and Superintendent Collins presented an inscribed vase and flowers to Daloris Waltz, Administrative Assistant, who is retiring at the end of December. They thanked her for her support and years of service and wished her well in retirement.

A reception was held from approximately 7:20 to 7:59 pm.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Executive Director of Special Services Miriam Tencate said she is honored to talk about special education services. She remarked in some ways last year was more difficult than during the pandemic. She stated the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and the School Improvement Plans are incredibly important to the special education program, as well as other programs such as food services and transportation. She reviewed the goals for the MTSS three tier levels and pointed out there is a strong desire to have a huge amount of special services provided in the general education programs. Mrs. Tencate shared the components for student qualifica-

tions for special services and the eligibility categories. She stressed they try as hard as possible to not over identify students. The Executive Director reported the State is phasing out the discrepancy model by 2028 for a variety of reasons. She pointed out after two years of the pandemic it was difficult to determine why students were struggling as it could be due to a disability or to a lack of instruction. She commented on trying different interventions that increased in intensity. Mrs. Tencate shared a chart of "Cultural and Linguistic Experiences Mediate Learning: Classroom Behavior and Performance." She reiterated the goal of not over identifying students. She mentioned six-year-olds who had never been to school, the obligation to look at a student's history of how well he/she performed before and after the pandemic, and attendance. She reported as of December there has been an increase in special education eligibility. She shared the general education, special education, and Developmental Disabilities Preschool enrollment numbers for the school years to 2017-18 to the present. The Executive Director stressed she is very proud of the phenomenal special education teachers. She called out the District's Compliance Secretary, Debbie Eichner-Hatch, for her work. Mrs. Tencate stated every person's role matters. She shared certificated and classified staffing figures, as well as revenues and expenditures. She reported student placement and services are based on what is right for each child in order to have him/her be prepared for high school and beyond. A brief discussion occurred on the possible elimination of the 13.5% funding cap. The Executive Director stated it is her goal for every child to have the very possible experience at each grade level. She expressed her appreciation to Dr. Collins for approving the hiring of Mrs. Sewald, Special Education TOSA. She mentioned the numerous legal pieces that she and the Director of Special Services Keri Joseph are involved in and having Mrs. Sewald's support for the teachers and students as being incredibly valuable.

Mrs. Sewald stated she would highlight her role to support the system. She is the one who is there to build bridges and connect the dots to develop meaningful programs. She has been in every school to build relations and to understand the lives, successes, and challenges of the students. She facilitates communication, collaboration, and alignment between the general and special education teams and specialists groups to support them both horizontally and vertically. She coordinates professional development and supports all individuals and groups. She mentioned being flexi-

ble and shifting her attention where needed. She commented on memory, the secondary SMARTS curriculum, and an elementary book study. She commented on the LETRS curriculum for all staff, learning how to serve children with dyslexia and providing the appropriate materials, and the FlyLeaf curriculum. Mrs. Sewald reported a meeting was held in August with all teachers to discuss critical elements and to review the guiding beliefs in the areas of academics, SEL, and behavior within the specialized programs. She will continue these discussions with the specialists next month. In addition, she discussed professional development on supporting students with autism in their own neighborhood schools at the elementary and middle school level, supporting the transition from the Early Learning Center to kindergarten, and encouraging students to be as independent as they can.

In closing, Mrs. Tencate told the board members we have an outstanding district and she gives a lot of credit to them. She shared the following quote by Alexander den Heije: "When a flower doesn't bloom you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower."

Director Iseminger asked about the assessments being used and if they had changed because of the pandemics and if referrals had increased. Mrs. Tencate commented on the standardized assessments, lack of instruction, and the real challenges. She noted she would need to examine the data and reply to his referral question in an email to him. Discussion followed regarding students who need extra assistance. Mrs. Tencate and Mrs. Sewald were thanked for their exceptional work.

Manager of Food Services Mollie Langum shared her department's new logo that was launched this fall: Lake Stevens Food and Nutrition Services "We Care." This logo is on all aprons and employee sweatshirts. She noted her staff wanted to create an environment where students would feel seen and valued. Mrs. Langum provided information on free and paid meals for the school years 2018-19 to present. She commented on having a Plan B and Plan C in place during the pandemic in order to pivot in the last minute as decisions were being made. Free meals were served nationwide for two and a half years and she said this was the best part of the pandemic as students could go through the lines with no questions asked. Families saved as much as \$266 per month or \$2,655 per year. She listed the many positive ways having free meals affected the students:

i.e., no stigma, no classroom impact, no pauses in lines. She pointed out that between 2018-19 and 2020-21 there were approximately 400,000 more meals served than normal over the course of the year. However, the footprint of the department did not change and the impacts were felt with longer lines, simplified meals, etc. Photos were shared of the kitchen and storage areas. She commented on the supply chain issue and the solutions within her department's control. The Manager thanked Assistant Superintendent of Business Teresa Main for the approval of a new food services delivery truck. She commented on the staffing impact and solutions, shared an article regarding Superintendent Reykdal's proposal for the 2023 legislative session to provide meals at no cost to all Washington students beginning with the 2023-24 school year; and what could happen during the session (bring back universal meals; expand the Community Eligibility Provision; or continue with free, reduced, and paid meals). However, the campaigns and lawmakers are working hard to ensure free meals for all students regardless of household income. Mrs. Langum reported a survey regarding meal preferences was given to all ninth grade students and she received 296 responses. Their choices were listed. Mrs. Langum shared the Lake Stevens High School "Café Concept" that allowed the transition from three lunches to two, an academic benefit that was researched by the administrative team. She extended her appreciation to Mrs. Main and Executive Director of Operations Robb Stanton for their assistance to launch this two-phase project. Positive comments from the students were shared. Mrs. Langum mentioned the meal charge policy adopted by the Board in August and the direct communication with families regarding unpaid meal balances. She commented on ongoing training provided by the Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and the prioritizing of student safety, inclusion, and equity. Mrs. Langum stressed she has a devoted crew of staff members who care deeply about the students and their work. Director Lund told her there is an obvious focus on students and he is so thankful she leads the Food Services Program.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

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

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

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

1. Warrant Nos. 305854 - 306035 - \$1,019,019.31 (E:193/22); Nos. 306094 to 306289 - \$918,262.10 (E:194/22); and Nos. 222300009 to 222300010 - \$2,543.69 (E:195/22);
2. the Personnel Report: classified employment of Tiffany Barquest, Nicole Beck, Tracy Branham, Darcie Cooper, Vennila Deivandran, Dawn Hiatt, Stephanie Hilmo, Stacie Jones, Katie Lemmon, Rae Luna, Barbara Ollivier, Vimala Rajagopalan, David Robertson, and Felicity Speirs; volunteers Sam Bryant and Erin Gima-Derrow; resignation of Cassandra McFarland; termination of Yvonne Carpenter (E:196/22); the revised Lake Stevens PSE Salary Schedule (E:197/22); the co-curricular report (E:198/22); and the Non-Contract Athletic Salary Schedule for 2023 (E:199/22); the November 2022 payroll, Warrants Nos. 306036 to 306091, 305668, and 305853 - \$11,730,121.67 (E:200/22); and
3. to surplus equipment (E:201/22); and a donation in the amount of \$662.50 from Benevity/Microsoft (E:202/22).

The motion was seconded by Director Kirby. Director Lund questioned the surplus of a wind tunnel and told Mrs. Langum he noticed the vehicle purchased for her program was included in the vouchers. Director Iseminger expressed appreciation for the generous, anonymous donation. The motion was unanimously approved.

Director Iseminger stated the Board has an obligation to discuss the arrangements for its reorganization. He pointed out Mari Taylor has done an exceptional job in her role as President and he nominated her to remain in the position for the next calendar year. Director Lund nominated David Iseminger to continue as Vice President. Director Kirby nominated Paul Lund as Legislative Representative and then Directors Kirby and Lund agreed to partner in this position. Director Lund made a motion to accept the slate of officers as discussed for the 2023 calendar year. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby. Director Iseminger remarked that not every board is so fortunate to have such a cordial relationship. He appreciates our board does not have a contested or specific vision, all students get what they need, and the board members are comfortable and confi-

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dent with each other. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Director Lund made a motion to approve the Final Acceptance of the following public works projects: repair skylight leak at Skyline Elementary School (Axiom Division 7), add an "On Air" light system in the video production classroom at Lake Stevens High School (Dimensional Communications), add a studio intercom system in the video production classroom at Lake Stevens High School (Dimensional Communications), and a garage door window replacement at Cavelero Mid High School (Glass by Lund). Service calls: monthly pool service at Lake Stevens High School (Aquatic Specialties), address card reader issues at Sunnycrest Elementary School (LONG Building Systems), service fire alarm issues at Cavelero Mid High School (Pacific Fire), kitchen drain trap cleaning at multiple district locations (Tandem Service), and fix door trouble at Stevens Creek Elementary School (Western Entrance) (E:203/22). The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger. The board members are pleased these projects are complete. The motion was unanimously approved.

Director Kirby made a motion to authorize the award of a contract to Coffman Engineers for the State Natural Hazards Assessment Grant Project (E:204/22). The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

Director Lund made a motion to award a contract for the high school pianos to Classic Pianos – WA in the amount of \$63,889.00 (E:205/22). The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved.

Director Iseminger made a motion to authorize the Superintendent to sign and easement agreement with the Snohomish County Public Utilities District for new water service to the modernized and expanded Lake Stevens High School (E:206/22). The motion was seconded by Director Lund. Director Iseminger questioned the connections. Executive Director of Operations responded that typically this type of easement would have been authorized earlier; however, there were a lot of surveys and another piece of the easement was included in Phase III of the project. The motion was unanimously approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Executive Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning Mike Snow and Principal Leslie Ivelia provided a presentation on the Guaranteed Admissions Program (G.A.P.). The District has partnered with the Washington State Council of Presidents from Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, Evergreen State University, Western Washington University, and Washington State University. Principal Leslie Ivelia pointed out the importance of recognizing the focus on the high school's "4 As" and the "3 Rs" as they are an important part of what is happening. She was pleased to report 700 students and faculty members participated in the "Beyond High School Night" held in October. She stated the purpose of the G.A.P. program is to support a college-going culture and guaranteed admission efforts throughout our state. She pointed out this program is intended for students who do not recognize in themselves that they could qualify and most students are overwhelmed in how to get started. Mrs. Ivelia commented on the mindset, requirements, and how to apply, and students connecting with counselors. She shared a list of districts that are participating, highlighting our district, and the members of the Lake Stevens G.A.P. Team. She commented on the team's collaborative efforts to support students. Mrs. Ivelia shared the efforts on how students and families were notified. She was pleased to report 203 seniors were introduced to G.A.P. and 383 juniors. Efforts will continue to involve more students. President Taylor stated she is looking forward to hearing more about this program.

Chief Academic Officer Gina Anderson and Alternative Learning Principal Vicky François presented the Youth Re-Engagement Program. Mrs. Anderson pointed out this is not a new partnership with the Everett Community College and that it had been managed by Monroe School District over the years. Monroe recently ended the partnership. Everett Community College reached out to the individual districts to find out their interest in the program. It was decided by our district to create a partnership with a new process and procedures. Mrs. François reported there are 16 to 20 students who are behind in credits and an Educational Team, involving counselors, reviewed profiles and determined what students would be successful in the program. Mrs. Anderson pointed out one of the requirements of receiving a diploma from the District involves community service hours. This requirement will need to be waived for

the students involved in the Youth Re-Engagement Program as it would be a barrier. Director Lund thanked the administrators for their energy and helping students who struggle in a traditional setting, adding it warms his heart.

BOARD COMMENTS

The board members and students congratulated the students and staff members on their recognition and expressed appreciation for the board reports. Director Hanson remarked she loves to see the students' families who also attend the meeting. Director Lund appreciates Ms. Sewald's hard work and filling the holes so all students can be successful. The board members and students again thanked Daloris Waltz for her years of service and wished her well in her retirement.

Director Hanson stated she is very excited about the G.A.P. She welcomed Ms. Francois to the district and told her she is happy she is here. Director Hanson is looking forward to the new year and being able to return to the board meetings in person. Director Kirby echoed these comments.

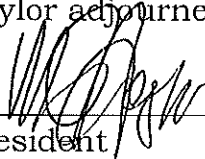
Director Iseminger thanked the audience for staying for the remainder of the meeting. He was pleased to report that the Lake Stevens High School Girls' Volleyball Team took second place at state and the Football Team won the state championship.

Director Lund thanked everyone for attending the meeting and told Ms. Francois he is glad she is here. Director Lund told Josefina she is absolutely delightful, the board members learned so much from her through the questions she asked during the meetings and her partnership provided and understanding in different ways, and he is excited to hear what she will be doing next. Director Lund added the SACo has been amazing.

President Taylor stated it was an amazing and inspiring night. She commented on the tone of tonight's meeting throughout the board reports, cherishing the students and helping them find their way.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:16 pm, with no objection by the other directors, President Taylor adjourned the Regular Meeting.



President



Secretary