



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING**  
**May 24, 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

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 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

All board members were present.

Director Hanson made a motion to approve the May 24, 2023 agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved.

Director Iseminger made a motion to approve May 10, 2023, Special Meeting and Regular Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Hanson and unanimously approved.

**RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

Superintendent Collins informed the audience of the employees who have served the District for twenty-five years. Superintendent Collins delivered lunch to them this week and personally thanked them for their years of service. He spoke briefly about Colleen Aldrich, Lori Barlow, John Coe, Vicky Flanders, Renee Foudray, Debra Huber, Suzanne Kerker, Kim LaFortune, Mark McCoy, Bert Mecko, Jason Pearson, Kelly Snow, Brenda Tieken, Tom Tri, Jami Valadez, Dave Westendorf, Shannon Wyant, and Beth Yeutter.

On behalf of himself and the Board he again thanked the employees for their dedicated years of service. President Taylor stated she would love information on the longevity of teachers, administrators, and classified staff.

### **REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS**

HomeLink Principal Vicki Francois talked about HomeLink and parent partnerships. She spoke about the current enrollment which is 55 students, including three classroom teachers, and two support staff. Principal Francois talked about grade bands, class schedules, enrichment opportunities, and their parent advisory committee. She thanked the Board for their new location at Lake Stevens High School. Principal Francois introduced teacher Ellen Gradwell. Ms. Gradwell spoke about a variety of ways she teaches in the classroom. She enjoys teaching through stories since classes are longer which allows her to explore the text. One example was the story Goldilocks and the Three Bears. She had the students debating if Goldilocks was in the wrong by entering the house uninvited. Another debate was whether Kevin from Home Alone should be put on trial. Students cared about what happened to the thieves and their well-being. During these debates the students are getting lessons on ethics, law, and how these things translate into everyday life.

Principal Francois talked about Secondary Distance Learning. She presented a chart of the students who applied for distance learning, those who were denied, and the waitlist for LSHS, CMHS, NLMS, and LSMS. Distance learning provides academic service to students not successful in a traditional school setting. The most common reasons their students are choosing distance learning are mental health, having a full or part-time job, and word of mouth because of success from their peers. Principal Francois talked about how they keep their online students connected through Mentor Mondays, Mentor Connect, and Community Service. She also stated they have a 91.4% passing rate in Secondary Distance Learning. Principal Francois spoke about credit retrieval. The number of classes students have retrieved through Credit Retrieval is 432! One hundred and two seniors (43%), fifty-five juniors (22%), fifteen sophomores (6%), and sixty-eight freshmen (25%) earned credits through Credit Retrieval. Other ALE (Alternative Learning Experience) programs through the Lake Stevens School District are Open Doors/EvCC and Crossroads in Granite Falls. They partner with Everett Community College for Open Doors which includes Youth Re-Entry. Twenty-nine students attend Open Doors.

They also partner with Granite Falls/Crossroads which has seventy-three students that attend. Principal Francois talked about expanding ALE in the future by continuing the promotion of programs, increasing their social media presence, and alignment of Credit Retrieval to their current LSSD scope and sequence. Director Lund stated what they do with the diversity of the students they are supporting is wonderful and he loved the creativity they put into their assignments. President Taylor said 91.4% passing is impressive. These are students that struggle in a regular environment. Presidents Taylor also said Credit Retrieval is amazing. Director Iseminger asked if the credit retrieval classes are a class the students have already taken. Principal Francois stated it is not aligned with the current scope and sequence that they have at Lake Stevens High School. Her goal is to match Stride with what Lake Stevens High School does. Director Hanson said she loves the parent partnership program and sees the passion they have for what they are doing. Director Kirby stated the students are so lucky to have Ms. Gradwell as a teacher and so thankful for HomeLink and what they do for the students.

### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

President Taylor called for 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. 308169 to 308325 – 1,230,613.58 (E:93/23)
2. Personnel Report: classified employment of Hyeon Choe, Angela O'Connor, and Terri Smith; volunteers: Nick Clovsky, and Brien Elliott; resignations of Vennila Deivandran, Jack Donley, Mara Edwards, Brendan Greenstreet, Jerry Grisham, Maya Kroll, Martin Mainer, Katherine Nelson, Roland Roth; retirements of Robert Bolyard, Lisa Riecks, Sarah Summers, and Kay Topp (E:94/23); the co-curricular assignments (E:95/23); and the 2022- 2023 office professional salary schedule (E:96/23)

3. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$15,000.00 from the Hillcrest PTA (E:97/23), the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$15,000.00 from the Sunnycrest PTA (E:98/23), the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$2,452.25 from the Hillcrest PTA (E:99/23) the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Stevens Creek PTA (E:100/23), and the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$3,983.26 from Mt. Pilchuck PTA (E:101/23).

The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved.

Director Iseminger made a motion to adopt the amendment changes of the February 2023-24 Board dates and the adoption of the 2023-2024 School Board Meeting Dates with the date changes of February 14 and 28, 2024 to February 7 and 21, 2024 with the other dates remaining the same as the May 10, 2023, School Board Meeting request. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and was unanimously approved. (E:102/23)

Director Lund made a motion to approve the request to go to bid for the yearbook publication for Lake Stevens Secondary Schools for 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26 school years. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and was unanimously approved (E:103/23).

Director Kirby made a motion to adopt the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) into Literature English with Writeable as the core curriculum in grades 9-11. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved (E:104/23).

Director Lund made a motion to adopt the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) as the core Language Arts curriculum for elementary schools. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and was unanimously approved (E:105/23).

Director Kirby made a motion for the approval of the final acceptance of the public works projects. The Operations Department has reviewed the work of the contractors listed below on the following public work projects for adherence to contract documents and specifications.

Projects

District-wide network storage refresh project (Ednetics)  
Install displays in the new weight room at Lake Stevens HS  
(Dimensional Communications)

Service Calls

- Repair wall plate in room 26 at Sunnycrest ES (Dimensional Communications)
- Service lockdown intercom issues at North Lake MS (Dimensional Communications)
- Relocate the projector in room N145 at Lake Stevens HS (Dimensional Communications)
- Replace the amplifier in the gym at Lake Stevens MS (Dimensional Communications)
- Service dishwasher at Lake Stevens MS (3Wire)

All items on the construction punch list have been completed and all the necessary paperwork to accept the projects has been received.

The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved (E:106/23).

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

Executive Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning Mike Snow talked about the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Core Novel and the consideration of adopting the following fiction novel with our Savvas *myPerspectives* English Language Arts curriculum: *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse. Executive Director Snow introduced teacher Ben Everett to go into detail on this proposal. Mr. Everett spoke about the text for our eighth-grade English Language Arts classes at Cavelero Middle High School. He stated the Curriculum Commission is unanimously recommending its adoption. Mr. Everett said they believe their students should not only see themselves in books but also see and learn about those different from themselves. Our educators are responsible for making student-centered, intentional, informed, and collaborative decisions about the texts we include in our curriculum and are committed to selecting texts with diverse representation across grade-level bands that support students with personal growth, empathy, and responsibility – the heart of social-emotional learning.

With the adoption of Savvas *myPerspectives*, they have agreed to align two whole-class novels to select units at each grade level. Their decision-making for the selection of these novels is informed by the scope and sequence of our curriculum, the units' essential

questions and related themes, and the desire to adopt texts that support equity, diversity, inclusion, and SEL learning while ensuring we are making thoughtful selections across the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade-level band. Mr. Everett stated the process for the unit-aligned novel selection process was that they gathered input, had team discussions, did individual research, had department discussions, and gathered insights. They also did a student voice survey and based on the data they concluded that 89% of students would recommend this book to other eighth-grade students. Mr. Everett presented a snapshot view of their novel considerations. This novel is a powerful example of a coming-of-age story. The main protagonist deals with overcoming the loss of her mother and the strained relationship with her father. She journeys on a rite of passage dealing with those issues and reflects on her growth from one stage of her life to the next. Ultimately, the team decided to propose *Out of the Dust* as the text aligned to the select unit due to its high level of student engagement and interest in the previous years teaching the text. By adopting this novel, they will be able to examine a historical time often overlooked in the English Language Arts and Social Studies curriculum, make connections with the Social Studies curriculum, and expose students to a prose narrative is a style of writing that receives less coverage in our curriculum, use the mentor text as a model for culminating task, and evoke thoughtful and meaningful conversations about the struggles of growing up with our students. This would also allow students to explore content, identities, and perspectives beyond those already familiar to them and it allows teachers to guide students to examine various perspectives of the period beyond those covered in the novel. Director Iseminger thanked everyone for their work and asked how they address a situation where a student has had a loss. Mr. Everett said they partner with the mental health specialist and have a dialogue before presenting the novel to the class. President Taylor stated every human faces trauma and it is helpful to talk about challenging things in our lives. President Taylor said she loved the book. Director Lund said he was impressed with the incredible analysis and the collaboration was phenomenal. SACo Vice President Riley Boerger said she appreciates the novel. Director Kirby stated this presentation was amazing and she considers her kids privileged to have this opportunity.

Executive Director of Operations Robb Stanton presented the 2016 Bond Campaign Summary of the construction and facilities improvement projects performed as part of the 2016 Capital Improvement Campaign. As they complete the final projects funded

by the 2016 Capital Bond, Director Stanton wanted to reflect on and summarize the work performed during this campaign. He revisited what the district told the community it would do at the time of the February 2016 bond election, what was accomplished to deliver on these promises, and how the district leveraged the resources provided by the community to complete over \$200 million in school construction and improvement projects over the past seven and a half years. Executive Director of Operations Robb Stanton presented the information by category and facility. The new construction included Stevens Creek, the Early Learning Center, and kindergarten additions at Glenwood, Highland, Mt. Pilchuck, Skyline, and Sunnycrest Elementary Schools. Director Stanton explained modernization and expansion at LSHS were completed in phases. Phase I included the new academic building, athletic building, new entry, and interior connections (Viking Hall) were added. Modernizations of the former 400 building into West Hall (CTE and special education classrooms) were completed. Phase II of LSHS involved the modernization of the Lake Stevens School District pool with new locker rooms and staff spaces. Phase III A on the south campus included the conversion of the former gymnasium into the music education suite and new weight room, modernization of the men's and women's locker rooms, and staff spaces. Phase III B on the north campus included the modernization of the former 100, 200, and 300 buildings, the conversion of former science classrooms into general education classrooms, new landscaping between buildings, and perimeter fencing and security gates. Phase IV included the Performing Art Center with a new light control board, a new audio system, speakers, a new video distribution system, and a mounted projector. Phase IV also included the conversion of former music classrooms into general education classrooms, the conversion of a former health room/conference room into a student support room, entry plaza bollards, and an ASB roll-up door. Phase V included the conversion of former CTE classrooms into spaces for HomeLink, district warehouse space, conversion of the former weight room into district furniture inventory and surplus storage, and modernization of the former Early Learning Center into Hillcrest West. Executive Director of Operations Stanton also spoke about the new modular classrooms at Glenwood and Skyline Elementary Schools, portable removals at Lake Stevens High School, and new portables at Cavelero Mid-High, Lake Stevens Middle Schools, Glenwood, Highland, Hillcrest, Stevens Creek, and the Educational Service Center. The infrastructure improvements that have been completed are roof replacements at LSHS, LSMS, NLMS, and the ESC, with roof repairs at LSHS, NLMS, Glenwood, and Skyline. They also completed track replacements at LSHS, CMHS (refurbished), LSMS, and NLMS with

field replacements at LSHS and CMHS receiving artificial turf football fields, a grass ballfield at Glenwood, and track-related field improvements at LSMS and NLMS. Executive Director Stanton stated exterior painting was done at LSHS, CMHS, LSMS, and the ESC with interior painting at the LSHS Performing Arts Center. Parking lots were completed with a satellite bus parking at CMHS and asphalt replacement at Transportation. Miscellaneous items were bleacher replacements at LSMS, connection to sanitary sewer and abandonment of septic system at Glenwood, data room cooling at CMHS, NLMS, and Stevens Creek, cabling replacement and addition project at Transportation, fuel tank replacements, and paving replacement at Transportation. Executive Director of Operations Stanton stated security improvements were also completed in phases. Phase I was standardizing access control at LSHS, CMHS, LSMS, and NLMS including video security at LSHS and LSMS, and NLMS. Phase II was the new security camera at the LSMS and NLMS, Veradaka security cameras at Glenwood, Highland, Hillcrest, Mt. Pilchuck, Skyline, and Sunnycrest. Phase III security improvements were entries to CMHS, LSMS, NLMS, Glenwood, Highland, Hillcrest, Mt. Pilchuck, Skyline, and Sunnycrest with additional access controls at LSMS and NLMS. Phase IV included additional access controls and video security at CMHS, Glenwood, Highland, Hillcrest, Mt. Pilchuck, Skyline, Sunnycrest, the ESC, Transportation, and Maintenance. The property completions were the 79<sup>th</sup> Street SE emergency access easement at CMHS, the sale of Quehrn property at CMHS, the 20<sup>th</sup> Street SE right-of-way at CSMH for the city widening project, 29<sup>th</sup> Street NE road establishment and connection at Stevens Creek, and 24<sup>th</sup> Street SE and 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SE road establishment at CMHS.

Director Lund told Executive Director of Operations Robb Stanton he deserved a round of applause. Director Lund said what an accomplishment. He thanks the Lake Stevens community for trusting them to commit their money to the bond effort. Director Iseminger stated their effort to find the money for the K-3 class reduction and implemented it with such fidelity is just remarkable. He stated exceptional work and it is not a coincidence that the levies pass. The projects are done on time. Director Iseminger stated that he would call this a celebration. Director Hanson wanted to thank the community and she hoped they have earned the trust of the community.



Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations Teresa Main presented information on the 2023-2024 General Fund Budget - Preliminary. Assistant Superintendent Main presented a graph showing the levy information and calendar year collections. The graph showed collections, 2023, 2024, and 2025 rate/thousand and amount certified on enrichment, CPF Tech. Levy, Capital Projects Bond, and Total Rate/\$1,000 AV. She compared Levy and LEA school year comparison. Assistant Superintendent Main stated up until 2019, Levy collections were based on a Levy Lid that was 28% of all State and Federal Revenue. Beginning in 2019 Levy collections changed to the lessor of \$1.50/\$1,000 AV or \$2,500/FTE. Beginning in 2020, Levy collections changed again to the lessor of \$2.50/\$1,000 AV or \$2,500/FTE. Current Levy collections began in 2023. In 2022/23 through 2025/26 representations of the newly voted levy projected at \$1.92 - \$1.98/\$1,000 AV. When AV grew 32%, the rate/\$1,000 dropped to \$1.60/\$1,000. She stated they are no longer eligible for LEA from the State. Assistant Superintendent Main spoke about the ESSER Cliff. The grant period for ESSER 1 was 3/13/20 to 9/30/22, ESSER II was 3/13/20 to 9/30/23, ESSER III - 80% is 3/13/20 to 9/30/24 and ESSER II - 20% is from 3/13/20 to 9/30/24. ESSER II is for certified staff - continuity of services for students, curriculum, professional development, and PPE - protection for staff/students. ESSER III (80%) is for certified staff - continuity of services for students, DLA Staff - Alternate option of instruction for students, Dean of Students - student support, counselors - student support, and PPE - protection for staff/students. ESSER III (20%) is for summer enrichment programs for students, professional development - instructional supports, and Special Education Recovery Services – proactively addressing the lack of appropriate progress on IEP goals as a result of the pandemic. The 2023/24 budget factors include enrollment at 9,481.9 FTE this also includes HomeLink, Secondary DLA, and Open Doors. Enrollment drives funding for staff through the Prototypical Funding Model. Staffing is 83.5% of the budget. Material, supplies, and other costs are also a factor. Positive impacts on the budget are class size compliance (17.1) which is additional revenue, Special Education, and regionalization offset which is what the district already pays with local levy dollars. Negative impacts are loss of equalization assistance – LEA and ESSER funding exhausted with no replacement resources. The Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) was forecasted at 2.8% for this period, but the State budget funded 5.5% to catch up to IPD inflation since the 2017-18 school year.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
LAKE STEVENS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Assistant Superintendent Main stated the 23-24 Recommended Budget Reduction Plan includes the District-wide - Central Office Health Services supplies and equipment, a reduction of over hours (20%), software and other IT services, and 22/23 + 23/24 Administrative Retreat. At the Secondary School levels reductions would be certified classroom staff - basic education, and CTE at Mid-High and LSHS, building budget reduction, reduce carryover budget, and classified staff. Assistant Superintendent Main presented a graph on Revenue by Source, Expenditures by Program and Expenditures by Object. Assistant Superintendent Main finished her report by discussing the General Fund Preliminary 4-year outlook. She stated they continue to put budget information on the website during the planning process. Director Iseminger commented on the great job of managing funds.

Executive Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning Mike Snow spoke about the adoption of the following textbook and aligned support and guidance resources and nonfiction books: 1) Bedford Freeman & Worth's *Ideas in Argument*, 2) *UnSpun: Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation* by Brooks Jackson and Kathleen Hall Jamieson and 3) *World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments* by Aimee Nezhukumatathil. These texts are for our Advanced Placement Language and Composition (AP Lang.) / EvCC College in the High School ENGL& 101 classes at Lake Stevens High School. The Curriculum Commission is unanimously recommending its adoption. Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Snow introduced AP teacher Katie Tilley. Ms. Tilley stated the current textbook (*The Language of Composition*) is outdated and not fully aligned with the new College Board course standards. The new academic acceleration policy (RCW 28A320195) means that they need greater support in place for students from a wide range of backgrounds, abilities, and experiences. This new curriculum will help meet that need. Additionally, many copies of the current textbook were reported as "lost" during remote learning. Instead of replacing these texts with outdated materials, they requested an immediate review of the curriculum and adoption of materials in compliance with College Board standards. Based on their Culturally Responsive Curriculum Audit, they found that a majority of the text used in AP Language was authored by cis-gendered, caucasian men and similarly featured their perspectives. Their goal has been to ensure their AP Lang. curriculum better aligns with the needs and interests of the diverse students. To achieve this, in addition to an updated textbook, they wanted to consider nonfiction books to meet this goal.

Some additional considerations for their current textbook include no digital access or platform, no teacher's guide provided, no guidance for supporting students with diverse needs (one size fits all), and the textbook functions more like an anthology (collection of readings) than a comprehensive textbook with detailed lessons and guidance. By adopting BFW's *Ideas in Argument*, *UnSpun*, and *World of Wonders* as the core curriculum for AP Lang. they will be able to increase diversity and relatability in texts as it relates to several demographic factors, thus allowing them to ensure that students' identities and life experiences are reflected in the works they experience. Students will also have additional opportunities to explore content, identities, and perspectives beyond those already familiar to them. They will also be able to teach a curriculum aligned to the new College Board standards for AP English Language and Composition (reading & writing), including lessons, activities, assessments, and a teacher's guide. They researched all currently available AP Lang. textbooks; only two textbooks are aligned with the new College Board course standards. They piloted both these textbooks extensively as well as five nonfiction books to support a comprehensive approach to the curriculum. The pilot teachers and students found the selected textbook and nonfiction books to be highly informative and engaging and added diversity to their core texts for the course. Ms. Tilley defined AP English Language and Composition as AP Language focuses on non-fiction texts except supplemental poetry. Students learn to critically analyze an author's rhetorical situation, as well as their rhetorical choices when making claims and crafting arguments. From there students learn to craft their own rhetorically effective arguments - submitting their work for publication in the spring. Ms. Tilley explained what they observed during their pilot process. They did a student survey on the two finalists and ended with *Ideas in Argument*. They recommended adopting BFW's *Ideas in Argument* due to its more diverse text selections. Students showed a clear preference for this curriculum. They are not interested in adopting the digital platform since it was difficult to use and did not add value for students or teachers. Research suggests that reading on paper (versus) screens is more valuable for student learning. Ms. Tilley stated the reason for adopting a nonfiction book was to learn the structure and strategies of sustained argument and to encourage grit.

Their two choices were *World of Wonders & unSpun: Finding Facts in a World of Disinformation*. They recommended *World of Wonders* because it gives an innovative example of arguments on a range of social and scientific topics and adds diversity to the core texts for the course. Students found it engaging and were eager to discuss it.

They recommended *unSpun* because it gives an innovative example of arguments on a range of social and scientific topics and adds diversity to our core texts for the course. Students found it engaging and were eager to discuss it.

Director Lund stated the presentation was an absolute pleasure and he appreciates the process they go through. He also said it is nice to be able to adopt the curriculum when we need it. Director Hanson said, students aren't living in a bubble and she is not surprised they selected something different from the teachers. SACo Vice President Riley Boerger stated that she was very happy about what was chosen.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Director Lund stated what a full and rich night. The retirement celebration was wonderful. The reports were fantastic.

Director Iseminger congratulated the staff for their 25 years of service and the retirees. He said the presentations were great. The Foundation for Excellence permeates everything we do. Thank you for everything you do.

Director Hanson echoed all the congratulations to the staff for their 25 years of service and the retirees. She stated how proud she is of the district and all of the successes on so many projects. Director Hanson said as a former professor she loves the work on the curriculum and seeing students enjoy it.

Director Kirby echoed everyone and what a great night for celebration. The words from the retirees state how wonderful this district is. Thank you, everyone.

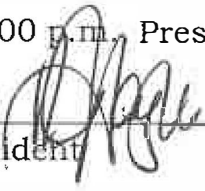
SACo President Sam Orduna congratulated the retirees and wished them well in their new chapter of life. He stated all of the modifications at LSHS are very cool.

SACo Vice President Riley Boerger wanted to reiterate what Sam said. She thanked Ms. Tilley for her work on the curriculum and wished everyone a safe trip home.

President Taylor thanked everyone for their incredible work.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:00 p.m. President Taylor adjourned the Regular Meeting.

  
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President

  
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Secretary