



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING October 11, 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. SACo President Sam Orduna and SACo Secretary MacKenzie Conniff were unable to attend.

Director Lund made a motion to approve the October 11, 2023 agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Hanson and unanimously approved.

Director Hanson made a motion to approve the September 27, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes and Special Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Principal Lisa Sanchez and Associate Principal Jamie Sinning introduced the Lake Stevens Middle School Students of the Month for September: Amare King, Bailey Lundquist, Jett Benson, and Elena Benavente. Jett Benson was unable to attend.

Principal Brad Abels and Associate Principal Sara Mack introduced the North Lake Students of the Month for September: Zoey Green, Siena Rytting, Jane Vellinga, and Joseph Holler.

Our students will be contributing members of society and lifelong learners, pursuing their passions and interests in an ever-changing world.

Principal James Sellers and Associate Principal Becca Faheem introduced the Cavelero Mid High School Students of the Month for September: Redha Nagoori, Emily Smith, Amayah Pennon, and Crew Vellinga.

Principal Leslie Ivelia and Associate Principal Jason Pearson introduced the Lake Stevens High School Students of the Month for September: Sara Scherer, Gabriel Allinson, Freddy Carmona Cruz, Elijah Galiza, Natalie McCullough, and Cole Sofie.

Executive Director of Communications Jayme Taylor introduced the APPLE Award recipients for the month of September: Kim Grennan, Julie Henggeler, Angie Husseman, Rick Odom, and Diane Sanders. Angie Husseman and Diane Sanders were unable to attend.

A break was held approximately from 7:37 p.m. until 7:45 p.m.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Principal Ryan Henderson presented information on Highland Elementary. He spoke about inspiration and his annual start-of-the-year school poem. Principal Henderson read the poem Gather Round.

Colleagues and friends, let's gather round.
The one and only you joining with the dozens of other only-themes
To create one big circle
One big table
One big round gathering
360 points of entry and a spirit of *come-on-in!*

Let's gather round students.

One at a time.
Laser-focused, eyes wide open.
Let's gather round students like doctors around a patient.
Let's gather round students like a Nana adoring her new grandchild,
awestruck at the beauty and possibility.
Let's gather round students like engineers building a bridge.
Let's gather around EACH of them like they were our own.

Let's gather round data.

Let's gather round these numbers and colors that tell the story of a Dear One.
Let's gather round and look for growth.
Let's gather round how our students did without excuse; without assumptions.

Letting the numbers be what they are, saying what they say, even when it hurts.

Let's gather round data like a team in a huddle, thinking offense and defense, each doing our part to get toward the end zone of learning that sticks.

Let's gather round content.

Let's teach some stuff, and let's learn some new stuff ourselves.

Big things, new things. Rigorous things.

Let's immerse our students in this big, wide gathering called Earth.

Let's be brave enough to let go of some things we hold precious - in order to level the playing field for our kids.

They are worth the sacrifice, worth the trying, worth the risk.

Let's gather round things worth gathering around, building some knowledge in these little brains.

Perhaps most importantly of all, in these times:

Let's gather round one another.

As colleagues and as people.

Let's gather round to celebrate the good.

Let's gather round in the hard times, letting our presence say enough.

Let's gather round when we feel under attack by unexpected behaviors and folks who seem unreasonable.

Come what may, let's gather round for these 180 days.

Let's gather round when we feel like it, and when we don't; like a family at the holiday table who all showed up from everywhere because that's what family does.

I'll be there, and I can't wait to see you across the circle.

Principal Henderson talked about strengthening the Multi-Tiered System of Supports. Each student will benefit from a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), a framework for improving outcomes in academics, social and emotional learning, and behavior through a flexible system of instruction. Gather Round Students includes a revised intervention team process, WIN (What I Need) Time for Literacy and Math to assist with challenging behaviors, particularly in primary grades. Gather Round All Students includes a Structured Learning Center with a strong start, a stable team, and a dramatic increase in general education integration. Teacher Ms. Ragen introduces her students to each classroom so her students can share common experiences that help build bonds.

General education students benefit from the contagious enthusiasm the students coming from Ms. Ragen's class have for learning the subjects that they are joining them for. Gather Round Data consists of collaborative teacher teams – inclusive of Intervention Team representatives joining "grade level teams". They have eight designated sessions in their professional learning calendar, and they are using data to help determine WIN intervention time. Gather Round Content is implementing Amplify CKLA, aligning teacher observations and evaluations establishing a culture for learning, communicating purpose, engaging students in learning, protecting Tier 1 instructions, increasing push-in services, and ten designated sessions in their professional learning calendar. Gather Round Community includes updated school-wide rewards, a recess volunteer program, and a strong use of SWIS to guide interventions. Principal Henderson introduced Dean of Students Ben Cruz to talk about Gather Round Attendance. Gather Round Attendance includes Tier 1, 2, and 3 interventions. In 2021-2022, they had 41.82% chronic absenteeism which is more than 18 days a year. They have been changing their mentality and focusing on relationships. Research shows when teachers, families, and paraprofessionals come together it has a huge impact. They have had an attendance competition which will earn the class a pizza party. They have reduced chronic absenteeism by 14.38%. Principal Henderson talked about Gather Round One Another which is team norms and roles for both data conversions and implementing Tier 1 curriculum. He stated staff had a roundabout challenge, which was a weeklong staff morale-boosting game. They had a great time and this helps keep everyone connected. He said he has an amazing support team. They gather around each other. Director Lund thanked Principal Henderson for sharing the poem and loved the "gathering around each other".

Lake Stevens Middle School Principal Lisa Sanchez presented information on Inclusive Classrooms at LSMS including Designated Supports for Multilingual Learners. She talked about following the Pirate Code: Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Safe while upholding their Guiding Beliefs:

- We are a team
- We are positive and caring
- Our diversity makes us strong
- We are all important

Principal Sanchez shared that the represented staff languages at LSMS are Hindi, Spanish, French, Russian, Ukrainian, Italian, Chinese Mandarin, Hokkien Chinese, Bahasa Malaysia or Indonesian.

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Principal Sanchez talked about Literacy Skill Building with MTSS. 7th-grade teachers Brittany Kinney, Lisa Lentz and 6th-grade teachers Sarah Hirsh and Debbie Stalder work as a team with real-time charting, color and shape coding, collective efficacy, sentence stems, an annotation guide, share/respond stems, and word work. Principal Sanchez stated inclusion has expanded this year. Principal Sanchez said the support model used by ELA co-teachers Mrs. Adrienne Smith and Miss Grace Meno is to push for support for all students especially those who are Level 1 and Level 2 Multi-Language Learners. They stated the types of support provided for 6th Grade ELA are assignment modification, small groups, 1:1 check-ins and support, breakdown of directions, differentiated instruction for language levels, and color-coded visuals. Their anticipated outcomes for Multi-Language students are a higher sense of belonging (as measured on the Panorama survey), growth of one or more reading levels on the STAR Reading English assessment, level advancement on the test (overall proficiency), confidence in English language abilities, and language to advocate for themselves.

Principal Sanchez spoke about their New Student Welcome process - transitioning to LSMS after the first day. "They are positive and caring." Upon registration, Dean of Students Billy Ojeda contacts multilingual families to determine the level of support that is needed for family engagement. The first stop is the office where they check out their Chromebook, purchase their PE shirt, have their photo taken, and pick up a Pocket Talk device for translation if a teacher needs to have a longer conversation with the student. The leadership students greet and give a tour of the school, including the route of the schedule. Then they meet the Counseling Center Staff and Dean of Students, Mr. Ojeda to go over the student handbook, PBIS Rewards, and PBIS Assembly content. Before heading off to class they meet the Principal, Associate Principal, and the Student Support Specialist. They don't like to rush the welcoming process.

Principal Sanchez spoke about everyone progressing in math by providing various points of access. Math teachers Shelly Tennery, Lena Wagner, and paraprofessional Diana Poinaru work on goals for their math learners which are an increase in self-efficacy, exposure to mathematical language, increase in participation in math discourse, and collaboration with peers on solving problems. Types of math support are push-in support and one-on-one check-ins, discourse and collaboration with a variety of peers, color coding, and underlining vocabulary. Other math supports are copies of notes, breakdown word problems and instructions, visual supports, rephrasing math terminology into simple definitions, and teacher communication with ELL specialists.

Math and special education teacher Katie Olsen and math teacher Dina Brennan are growing a math community with continuing collaboration and building thinking classrooms.

They also have their science learning & instruction support from science teachers Beth Miller and Tricia Thorkildsen. Zullaylee Ascherl-Ramos is their Multilingual (ML) Specialist and is also science-certified. Principal Sanchez talked about the benefits of a class period dedicated to multilingual learners. The benefits are cultural relevance-inclusiveness, increased language exposure, targeted language instruction, confidence building, peer support and collaboration, assessment and progress monitoring, and preparation for academic success. Multilingual students often have diverse needs and varying proficiency levels. Having a period dedicated to Multilingual Learners allows for the full experience of being immersed in the culture, while interacting with other students with diverse backgrounds, time to provide more individualized attention, addressing specific language challenges, helping students progress at their own pace, and time to design activities and lessons that target key language skills. An intentional ML support class period also allows for positive and encouraging relationships, collaborative learning, assessing progress, and identifying areas for improvement. Focused goals are modifying areas of need, in or out-of-class support, creation of content in native languages to support language association and acquisition, and individual progress monitoring to identify student growth as well as areas for improvement.

Director Iseminger stated this is a lot of good work. Thank you, Principal Sanchez. Principal Sanchez said collaboration makes this possible. Director Lund said it was impressive that everyone is working on their ELL Certification. President Taylor commented on the way everyone had an input on the presentation made it easier to understand all of the strategies that go into the inclusion process.

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. 309717 to 309872 - \$1,710,526.44 (E:170/23);
Warrant Nos. 232400002 to 232400003 - \$4,457.46 (E:171/23)
2. Personnel Report: certified employment of Ericka Discher; classified employment of Katharine Appleton, and Lucas Cobrea. Anjelica Garcia Santos, Lynda Johnson, Katie Lemmon, Jessica Lipscomb, Gissell Melendrez, Mahabba Nasrallah, Matthew Ober, Nancy Sexton, Pamela Stime, Denise Warstler, and Jillian Zachry; Resignation of Leigh Schultz; retirement of Carrie Larson (E:172/23); Co-Curricular Report (E:173/23); September 2023 Payroll (E:174/23)

The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

Director Hanson made a motion to approve the Career and Technical Education spending of the annual Federal Perkins Grant. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and was unanimously approved (E:175/23).

Director Kirby made a motion to approve the final acceptance of the public works projects. The motion was seconded by Director Hanson and was unanimously approved (E:176/23).

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

- Add volleyball poles in the main gym at Lake Stevens MS
(Barclay Dean)
- Grind wall for new signs at Lake Stevens HS (BCN
Construction)
- Install playground-engineered wood fiber at Stevens Creek ES
(Buell Recreation)
- Install lockdown system at HomeLink (LONG Building
Technologies)
- Replace portable ramps at Lake Stevens MS (Welcome Ramp)
- Replace portable ramps at Sunnycrest ES (Welcome Ramp)

Service Calls

Replace window in 400 building at North Lake MS (Glass by Lund)

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Executive Director of Communications Jayme Taylor talked about the revision of Policy No. 1320: Distribution of Literature and its subsequent procedures. Director Taylor spoke about the updates being clearer and more succinct guidance, which benefits their employees and the community members.

Assistant Superintendent Teresa Main spoke about a new Policy No. 3830: Use of Electronic Signatures. WSSDA sets forth for school districts recommended school board policies. This policy will establish the scope, manner, and format of use of electronic signatures contributing to the efficiency and prudent stewardship of residents' tax dollars. The Superintendent and their designee are authorized to enter into binding contracts for the District. Currently, the only designee assigned by the Superintendent is Teresa Main, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations. Assistant Superintendent Main stated that they have been using this since the pandemic. This promotes efficiency. They are currently using electronic signatures for their payroll and accounts payable warrants and purchase orders. They are also obligating the District in contracts using electronic signatures. There are many restrictions or prohibitions to using electronic signatures that are listed in the policy. The District will see savings in the cost of paper, time, and labor. There's also the security of not having multiple copies printed or distributed unnecessarily.

Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Monica Meadows spoke about the revision of Policy No. 1500: Religion. She stated this has not been updated since 1985. As they strive to honor the increasingly diverse cultural and religious faiths of students and families in our district, they realized the need to update the policy that guides how they approach religion in the schools and system. Neutrality and balance encompass the broad changes they are suggesting to their policy and procedures. From the classrooms to the buildings, and the district as a whole, these updates align them with their values while still leaving room to honor the cultural traditions that shape our community.

The updated policy and procedures provide clear direction and guidance for building principals and guidance for classroom teachers. The inclusive practices embedded in our curricula and practices are more clearly articulated in these updates. Director Iseminger stated he certainly agrees with the quote but doesn't want the quote in the policy. Director Iseminger said there are good and thorough thoughts put into this policy. He said I can say Merry Christmas or Happy Valentine's Day. It is good to remind people it is okay to say these things. President Taylor said she appreciated their work and thoughtful approach. It is great when we can agree and have folks look at a policy and see that we don't promote or suppress it. Executive Director of Communications Jayme Taylor said once this policy is adopted they will work with staff to communicate to employees and families so they know the why behind this. Executive Director Taylor stated they need consistency and messaging is important. Director Kirby said it was very thoughtful and she loved the language and the inclusiveness. Director Lund thanked everyone. Executive Director Jayme Taylor said they would make the quote change and bring it back to the board.

INFORMATION ITEMS

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Lund said congratulations to the Students of the Month and the APPLE Award recipients. He loved the quote from one of the students "Like WOW" when they were describing their school and teachers. Director Lund said how important it is for these kids to be smiled at and feel welcome at school. He thanked Highland Elementary and Lake Stevens Middle School for their building reports. He thanked Principal Henderson for his poem and thanked everyone for their hard work on the policy revisions.

Director Iseminger congratulated the Students of the Month and the APPLE Award recipients. Director Iseminger stated how he enjoys listening to the SOM students because you never know what they are going to say. He thanked everyone for their presentations.

Director Hanson said she loves when it is time for the Students of the Month and the APPLE Awards. She loves seeing the SOM parents when their student is getting recognized. She said it was so nice to hear the poem from Principal Henderson. She thanked LSMS for doing such a great job and thanked everyone for their work on the policies. It is very much appreciated.

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Director Kirby congratulated Students of the Month and the Apple Award recipients. She stated the recognition night is so much fun. She thanked Highland Elementary and Lake Stevens Middle School for their building reports. She told Principal Henderson that she loved his poem and thanked everyone for the policy revisions and the Facilities Thoughtexchange survey results. Director Kirby told everyone to have a good night.

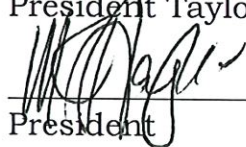
SACo Vice President Riley Boerger thanked everyone for coming out tonight and congratulated the Students of the Month. She said it was so fun to see all the students and the APPLE Award recipients. She thanked Highland for their presentation and loved seeing that LSMS continues to give tours to new students. She thanked everyone for the policy updates and the Facilities Thoughexchange.

President Taylor stated what a lovely night and she wanted to hug all of the parents and students tonight. She said staff support makes all the difference in the world and it is incredible to watch. She thanked everyone for the building reports and told everyone how much she appreciated them.

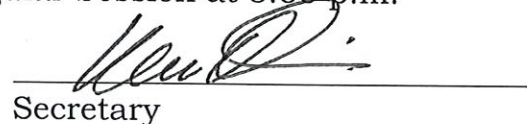
EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Immediately following, with no objections by the other directors, President Taylor adjourned the Regular Session at 8:55 p.m.



President



Secretary