

Highline Public Schools | School Board Meeting - November 15, 2023

Well, good evening, everybody. Welcome to our regularly scheduled board meeting on Wednesday, November 15. Can you please, all stand up for the Pledge of Allegiance?

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Roll call, please.

Director Howell.

Here.

Director Garcia.

Here.

Director Alvarez.

Here.

Director Van.

Here. And Director Hagos has an excused absence. And to my left is our Superintendent Dr. Ivan Duran.

Any calls or changes to tonight's board meeting agenda?

I'd like to add to our consent agenda items. Let me see, I have it written down. It's 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, and 8.6 to our consent agenda.

So there's a motion to move 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5 or 6 to the consent agenda. Are there any questions or comments on those prior to that?

I second.

We have a second. Director Garcia seconded. All in favor?

Aye.

Aye.

Any opposed? No. None. Thank you.

All right. We have quite a few recognitions this evening, through recognitions and then a director's recognitions. The first one up is our American Education Week. Director Garcia.

All right, all right. So I am fortunate, I get to read this recognition first.

Whereas public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility, and equality, and whereas by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for and access to a productive future, and whereas the education employees-- be they substitute educators, custodian teachers, bus drivers, librarians, clerical workers, or food service professionals-- work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism, and whereas school was encouraged community, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders and elected officials, into a common enterprise, now, therefore, the board and the superintendent of Highline Public Schools do hereby proclaim, the week of November 13th through the 17th 2023 is American Education Week in Highline. And we further encourage all citizens to extend their commitment to public education and to the future of our children by supporting our community schools through the contribution of their time and energy.

I'd like to invite President of Highline Education Association Jeb Binns to come up and accept this. Thank you.

All right.

[APPLAUSE]

And I'd like to request any educator to come on up for the photograph because there's absolutely, no way that I am worthy to receive this award on all of your behalf. So I want some friends up here for a photo. Madam Vice President, you're one of my friends. any teacher or paraeducator.

And our next recognition is Native American Heritage Month. Director Alvarez.

Thank you, President Van. And for me, it's an honor and a pleasure to read.

Whereas Highline is located on the ancestral land stewarded since immemorial-- time immemorial by the Salish people of the Duwamish, Green, White, Cedar, and Upper Puyallup Rivers, many of these giving birth to the contemporary citizens of the Muckleshoot Indian tribe. And whereas members and descendants of sovereign tribal nations throughout the United States also reside within the Highline community. And whereas American Indian and Alaska Native peoples contributions and values have shaped the social, political, environmental, and economic fabric of the state while, also, enhancing freedom, prosperity, and culture diversity.

And whereas state law directs school districts to establish meaningful government to government relationships with tribes in order to enhance and formalize working relationships with the tribes throughout collaboration and consultation, and whereas state law RCW 28A.320.170 mandates that teaching of tribal history, culture, and government in common schools, which will contribute greatly to public school history curriculum and enhance shared social, political, and cultural understandings.

And whereas the state of Washington has designated that the Friday immediately following the fourth Thursday in November as a state, legal, and school holiday known as Native American Heritage Day. And whereas Highline Public Schools joins the state of Washington and other states across the nation and celebrating Native American Heritage Month in November, honoring the unique heritage of this continent's first people and reaffirming the commitment to respect each tribe's sovereignty and cultural identity, now, therefore, the school board and superintendent of Highline Public Schools do hereby proclaim November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month and November 24, 2023 as Native American Heritage Day in Highline-- and urge all Highline citizens to join them in this special observance. And thank you, everyone.

I'd like to invite our Native Education program manager Sara Ortiz up to accept this, and anyone else that's come to join you.

I'll make it fast. Come up. Come up. Come up. Come up. We have one of our students from a Native Education program with us, as well, Mico. Come on. Come on.

I just want to say that this is truly, an honorable and an important, truly significant observance. We are in the business, the sacred business, of acknowledging our Native families from tribes all across the whole United States and up into Canada. And to have this acknowledgment and not just say it, but to actualize it, to operationalize it, to make it real to honor, particularly the spirits, the, lives the hearts and minds of our Native children, this is work that is being looked upon by our ancestors. And we're guided by that.

And so a proclamation is one thing, but we want it to live in all of our teachers and all of our communities hearts and minds. So this is just one of those important stones along the path. But thank you to the board and Superintendent Duran for this important acknowledgment.

[APPLAUSE]

All right. Here we go. 1, 2. Got it. Thank you.

All right. And I'm going to invite Kisa Hendrickson up, and we're going to present to one of our community partners.

Good evening, everyone. It is my privilege and pleasure to introduce our Community Partner Recognition for this month, Engageable Designs. So we are honored to recognize Engageable Designs, which is part of the STEM TAC Foundation. They have been a valued partner for the last six years. We are also happy, we have a McMicken parent who will come up and share a little bit about the impact the program has had on her children, Galina Sarkisova.

And I'm going to give you a little bit, just a teeny bit, and you'll hear from founder Akin Alston, a little bit more about the program. But Engageable Designs first came to Highline's attention when they were serving Highline students in three housing apartment complexes under contract with Southwest Youth & Family Services in the Tukwila and White Center area.

It's a math enrichment program. And it was funded for about two years through Southwest Youth & Family Services to support Highline students where they lived, which is-- we love that. And Principal Alex Haas, who's joined us this evening to celebrate, happened upon the program one evening and asked for the program to be offered at McMicken, and I think, the rest is history. So with that, I'd like to invite Founder Akin Alston and parent Galina Sarkisova to share a little bit about the program and their experiences. My mom and the kids.

Highline students who've been in the program. It's impromptu.

Hello. Hi, my name Galina. And-- sorry, this is my first time. I'm here because I wanted to show my appreciation to the Engageable Math Designs and to share my experience with it.

The program was introduced to me, my daughter she goes to elementary school. It's with Highline, and it's called McMicken Heights Elementary. And they offered a program where they gave the Zoom class Saturdays-- every Saturday from 10:00 to 11:30. And everybody was welcome to come-- all parents-- and join the meeting-- the class, the math class. And we joined it, and my daughter really, really liked it.

During the program, she got to meet [INAUDIBLE] and his program. And he comes to the school, he interacts with the children there, and everybody loves him. He makes everybody feel welcome, included. And my daughter, when she first saw him at school, she was so excited. She says, "Math is so fun. It's like a game."

And I was like, that's really fun because when I was younger, it was a little bit harder for me with math. And later, after the program was over, when summertime was approaching, they offered this summer school, which is, also, his program. And they extended the learning opportunity for children.

And my daughter, [INAUDIBLE] and her friend, Ashley, were going to the summer school. And it was Monday through Friday 8:00 to 2:30 full time. They had learning math through blocks, games. They had science that they learned it with. They got to go play outside on the playground. And it was very fun. And my daughter was like, this is the best summer I ever had in my life.

So I was very happy with that.

She enjoyed it so much that her friends wanted to come over. And I said she's not here. She's with this math program. And [INAUDIBLE] had allowed her friends to come so that's how her friend, Ashley, joined and her other friend, Michelle, joined. And other mothers were like, I want my daughter or my son to be included with this, too. So of course, I told them how they can sign up.

And today, we had this day to come in and to talk about the Engageable Math Designs, and my daughter got an award today from her school, McMicken Heights. And she got an award because she was able to do math within six seconds. Yeah.

[APPLAUSE]

And I was very happy for her. And today, she got it. So I just wanted to thank you because all the kids feel happy with the program. They feel included. And my daughter always says positive things about it.

Her school, McMicken Heights is a very wonderful school, also. They encourage learning with diversity. All her teachers know her by her name, and her name is [INAUDIBLE]. It's not an easy, common name. And my son goes to that school, also. It's a very welcoming, wonderful school. I have only positive things to say about that.

They extend the learning process. For an example, when I go to my APT meetings for my children, the teachers provide us games that we can play at home with our children. And it's like, for an example, card games that we can do. They teach us other ways that we can extend and stretch out the learning at home for the reading and for the math.

So every three months, you are aware of how to keep your child updated with their math. You're not confused or like, what am I supposed to do? What am I not supposed to do?

With my daughter, when I had my daughter for the first time-- sorry, I'm just very nervous, a little bit-- but I didn't know what to teach her in math and what not to teach her. And it was very confusing at first because I didn't know what to expect kindergarten and in the first-- her first grade. But McMicken Heights had made that experience for me very good.

The teachers include the parents. We have volunteering. We have things that we do as a community, where they have fun Fridays and parents can come and help out if they have events going on for the students. And at the end of the year, we have a field day where all the students can do a lot of projects on the field and have fun.

But the Engageable Math impacted my family because my daughter shared the experience very good. She's able to-- she's able to express and show her teachers what she's learning with the award that she gets. And my son now wants to, also, join the Saturday math academy. And all of her friends at school, also, are encouraged to join it.

I think that, Highline Public schools, I'm just so happy for him [INAUDIBLE] to be highlighted because he does such a wonderful job to make the parents feel welcome, to make all the kids happy. And any child that interacts with him, they'll only say positive things about him. And I just wanted to thank you guys and for him, also. And McMicken Heights Elementary, also.

Wonderful. Thank you. Thank you for being here tonight.

Thank you.

Round of applause.

[APPLAUSE]

Thank you. Thank you.

Would you like to say something or?

Well, thank you so much for having us here. Children are like *Chicken Soup for My Soul*. I just want to be the teacher for our students that I never had. And seeing them love math is all it really is about for me. We want them to experience the love of learning in the elementary school grades.

And so, just thank you for having us. I'm really grateful to Alex Haas, Rebecca Pinzon, and the support that we have in this district. I really feel like it's a partnership. I don't feel like an outsider. I feel like I'm really embraced. And so, I'm just really happy to be here. And thank you so much.

All right. Thank you. Come on up. We're going to take a picture.

All right. That was great. We're going to move on to Director's Recognitions here. This is going to be a point of privilege. As you may know, this is the last regular board meeting for Director Howell and Director Garcia, but this is not the last meeting with the board. So we do have a work session on 11/29 Wednesday night-- next Wednesday night.

I would like to-- we would like to recognize you guys tonight because we've done a lot of work together. We hired a new superintendent, worked through a pandemic, a lot of things that were just thrown at us as directors, and we couldn't have done this without you guys. I have learned so much from you all. The opportunity to learn and listen was huge for me because you guys, there have been times where I came into a meeting thinking one thing, but after hearing and learning what it means to you, it flipped me. It changed my mind. It helped me understand where you guys were coming from. I greatly appreciate that.

So thank you. This is not a goodbye because we're going to be seeing you out in the community. We're going to be always keeping in touch, what's going on.

I also want to thank your families. There's a huge commitment to your families. You guys spend a lot of time away from them to serve the kids of our community. So on that, just, thank you. Thank you so much. Director Alvarez.

I also want to say thank you. Director Garcia, your commitment-- your unwavering commitment to Evergreen and the White Center community, of course, goes unnoticed-- doesn't go unnoticed. And thank you, again. Just like President Van was mentioning, we spent a lot of weekends, evenings together trying to do what is best for our community, for our kids, for our staff. And so, thank you.

And like he said, it's not the end. I'm trying to figure out with Erin and Holly, how we can create some kind of-- you won't be on the board, a voting vote, but how can we keep you engaged? Because your partnerships are amazing, and we want to make sure that we keep those up and going. So thank you, again, for your service.

Carrie.

And I'll jump in here and first, just say just, thank you both for hiring me. Really appreciate that part. And really, also, just collectively, with all the work that you helped us to do, to help create, and develop the strategic plan and vote and approve the new strategic plan goals, really thinking differently around how we're going to measure success. You're all part of redistricting director district boundaries and response to new census data.

And then when you think about the bond that we passed to replace Evergreen-- the Evergreen-- [INAUDIBLE] Pacific approved over half \$1 million-- half \$1 billion with almost 70% voter approval, which speaks volumes to how much this community supports the work that we're doing and the efforts that we're trying to achieve to support all of our students.

Director Garcia, you've served as board president. You've served as legislative liaison. You've served as a co-chair for CFAC. You've advocated for and voted to approve a race repair professionals, so that was something you brought up to me last year around what we could do to try to make some adjustments there. And now, our paraeducators will now earn a minimum of \$25 an hour.

You reorganized and updated policy Series 6000. And as Angelica said, really big advocate for the White Center community. And what I'm going to miss the most is "All right, all right, all right."

[LAUGHING]

And Director Howell, you served as a Highline Schools Foundation liaison, the Foundation for the Highline Forum, liaison for the Wellness Committee. But I think, one of the things that really struck me about your leadership with the board was, even before I was hired, to find that this board was reading street data and actually doing a book study. Just really appreciate the professional development you led.

Not only the board, but our district staff through, also. And I know that continues because you actually use that in part of the superintendent hiring process to ensure we had student voice. We advocated that for the listening tour. And even recently in a meeting, you were asking us, how we could bring more student voice. And so, I really just appreciate that perspective that you helped us bring into the work and what we're trying to do to support our students.

So on behalf of myself, cabinet, the board, we just thank you for the service that you've done. We've enjoyed working with you. We don't think this is, in any way, saying goodbye. We look forward to figuring out how we can work together. And we have a couple little gifts for you. And just thank you for all your work.

The gifts, I wanted to-- you cut me off. I wasn't done, but that's OK. I figured, I'd give you that, to let you go. But I just wanted to personally thank Carrie. I know when you came on, my life was crazy a little bit. And just, the humility and grace that you came and truly wanting to listen to what I had to say.

And that really spoke to me as to, we may not all think the same, and that's what makes us a great board, because we are not. Oh, we all have different experiences, and we bring what is best forward. And just your questions. Also, really digging into the education piece of anything that we bring forward, but also, just humanizing things.

And I will appreciate-- I appreciate you a lot for that. And for just your kindness, your welcoming spirit. And so, I'm so thankful that you were on the board. And thank you for all that you bring. Now, you can have it back.

[INAUDIBLE] have any remarks?

Well, I'm going to give an opportunity for our directors to have any-- anything that you would like to say. Director Howell.

I'd like to go first because Director Garcia's probably going to outshine me. So this way-- no, I really appreciate the opportunity to serve District Four and all of Highline as a board director. Coming on, being appointed in the middle of a pandemic was interesting. I think, I did multiple different interviews and presentations from rooms on vacation with my family, where I was like, "Be quiet. I'm in the middle of something right now."

And I just really appreciate being given a chance. I've learned so much from everyone, both-- everyone in this room. I've learned so much people on the dais here. I appreciate your patience with me as I figure out all of the things that go into being a director. And your patience as I balance being a professional and a mom and all that other stuff and sometimes have to miss board meetings or come in right at 6:00. I appreciate all of that.

I have learned a ton from this. Not just from, I think, the five books Dr. Duran has given me-- which I love. That's my love language, books.

I think, public education gives me the most hope about where we can go as a people, and how we can be our best. It excites me to see people engaged in having conversations about public education. And I love all of the diverse voices that we bring. So thank you all for giving me this opportunity. And yeah, I mean, you've never been able to keep me quiet, so I won't be quiet after this. You know that. All right. Thank you.

Thank you. Director Garcia.

All right, all right, all right.

[LAUGHING]

You know, I think-- I've been trying to figure out the right words to express how I'm feeling. Bittersweet is definitely it.

This thought I've been chewing on for a couple of days is folks often say, it feels lonely to be on top, right? And I would push back a little bit on that because over the four years now, when we have gone through-- man, like, we've gone through it. I don't think a global pandemic was on the governance bingo sheet that we got when we signed up for this gig. We've gone through it. And at no point-- and we've had our moments, where we've butted heads or disagreed, but at no point, did I not feel like I didn't belong in this space. And I know that can be hard.

So just, I want to thank this dais. I want to thank the amazing team here that has been able to create that space to allow, maybe, a different perspective to be in this space, to be an advocate for my community. So I just want to thank you all.

You guys are my friends. And I'm going to miss being in this space, but not really. It's not-- it's not a goodbye. It's a see you later, or see you in a different hat. So that's all I want to say. Thank you.

All right. Thank you. Can we all give-- go ahead, Dr. Duran. Can everybody give them a hand, please?

[APPLAUSE]

That'd be great. Do a quick photo.

We get some free stuff.

[SIDE CONVERSATIONS]

Seal the deal.

Make it official.

[SIDE CONVERSATIONS]

All right. Remember, we still have a work session on 11/29, so we'll see you there.

I'll be there. I'll be there.

OK, that concludes our recognitions for this evening. Moving to our Scheduled Communications.

On behalf of the Board, we would like to thank you for coming and speaking with us this evening. Our norms and rules are posted on the screens. Please, be mindful that you're here to speak to the board, and that there may be students here or watching that are paying attention to your words. In addition, the Board will not be able to respond directly to you about your testimony during the meeting. Thanks for coming and speaking.

Alex Myrick.

Good evening, school board directors.

When citizens of other countries are asked what they like about their native country, they tend to mention things like beautiful beaches, majestic mountains, or other natural physical features. When Americans are asked the same question, they tend to mention ideals like freedom or equality under the law and often, cite our founding documents. There's currently, an active movement to allow non-citizens and even illegal aliens to be elected or appointed to state and local boards, including school boards.

While I have, on a few occasions, been somewhat critical of this board, please know that. I respect the awesome nature, importance, and scope of your responsibilities. Are you really willing to relinquish those responsibilities to someone who maintains allegiance to a foreign power? Who has been a resident of our country for less than three years? Has not expressed allegiance to America? And is unable or unwilling to pass a basic Civics Test? Passing the test requires correct answers to only six of 10 questions.

These include, what is the name of the US president now? What are the two major political parties? We elect a president for how many years? What is the capital of your state?

I hope that most of you have more respect for the position you hold than to allow this to happen. An illegal alien can walk across the border, be given a notice to appear in seven years, a publicly paid for cell phone and bus or plane ticket, come here and receive housing, health care, financial assistance, and enroll their children in our schools. They can certainly attend school meetings and petition the board members. On top of that, should they be allowed to sit on boards and overturn the will of the citizens? It's time to uphold your duty and preserve the franchise of your legal constituents. Thank you.

James Payne.

James Payne with two at North Hill Elementary. Bottom line, up front, you must create an opt-out policy for your social emotional learning program. Like IRI, social emotional learning, or SEL, is used to impart left-wing policy preferences onto little children. Not your job.

You just spent nearly \$300,000 for an SEL company called Panorama to data mine our children for their innermost thoughts and feelings. But Panorama has professed fealty to Marxist CRT, is funded by Facebook's owner, who you're suing for mental health damages, and is family-owned by the current US Attorney General. The political appointee who sic the FBI on parents for simply exercising our constitutionally protected speech. So you can see why some of us don't trust Panorama and SEL, but it's much more diabolical.

You see, Panorama takes the student survey data, creates psychological profiles of the child, retains and monitors their individual information, aggregates it nationally, and monetizes it for their own benefit. But at Highline, these psych profiles allow perfidious people in your administration to embed targeted, psychological, and social work interventions into the daily lessons of all children, performed by uncontrolled, non-therapeutic classrooms, by people without psych degrees, and no training plan to change how kids think, feel, and act.

Mandatory SEL is de facto unlicensed mental health therapy used to impose Highline's leftist values and activism on our children. Just inviting another class action lawsuit against you. Districts are not required by law to conduct SEL. So conflating OSPI's standard with an SEL mandate will be a very expensive fallacy for you. But for a district that can't even get its passing standardized test scores above 30%, the last thing that we want is for Highline to perform unlicensed mental health.

Deborah Lipp.

Yeah. We should have the freedom to speak. It's really sad. We pay our taxes. We work here. We live here. And that was-- I want to thank Hagos, very much, for getting reelected. I pray that you all will listen to things that are different than what you think. That's what America is about.

Also, for Melissa, 50%. I don't think, I've ever seen that. So I think you really need to listen to what people are telling you.

This city wants a change. This is not the change, Panorama, SEL-- how you feel? If we all stood up here and told you how we feel, we'd be walked out of here. So really, you're going to listen to six-year-old, 11-year-old, how do you feel? Are you parents anymore?

Because I'm going to read something that you're accountable for, because I like to read, too. It's called the Bible. It's not loud anymore, but I'll read it off my phone. It's just words.

There are six things that the Lord hates. Seven that are testable to Him. Haughty eyes. A lying tongue. Hands that shed innocent blood-- you know what that is. A heart that devises wicked schemes, which is what we're doing-- you are doing.

Quick feet that are quick to rush to evil, because it is good and evil that we're dealing with. A false witness who pours out lies-- I've never heard any lies here. A man who stirs up dissension among his brothers.

I don't hear from the kids. Like the civics class they told me, they're going to talk on BLM. I thought we got rid of that? I thought those people got arrested? Things happen. Why would it be brought up in our civics? And he's going to get a good grade if he talks about it. Really?

So I pray you listen to Melissa and Hagos, because they're going to have something a lot better. And we need to listen as a society because we are not headed down the right road. Thank you.

Thank you.

In our Superintendent's Update, our labor partner.

Yes. I'd like to invite Jeb Binns-- President of Highline Education Association-- up to the microphone. And while he's coming up here, just appreciate the partnership and work we started off with and your Vice President Sean and all the work you guys are doing. So welcome.

Thank you very much. Nice to be here. Feel happy and honored to be here tonight. And I feel happy and honored to be the president of the Highline Education Association.

A few things that I do want to mention tonight. One, I think, the last time I was here, we were talking about [INAUDIBLE] shortage. I was really quite pleased that we were starting to make some really good progress on tightening up that, the needs for our students. Really appreciate that. The board's position in increasing the wages for paraeducators has been very helpful in that.

I was here at New Employee Orientation this morning. And I started the way I started every two weeks that we've got it, which is thanking our ESPs for doing the work that they do that allows us to do what we get to do in the classroom.

I had a wonderful opportunity on Monday to go to the Duwamish River and hang out and take a tour with Maritime High School. My freshman guides for the trip were fabulous. Jennifer Reinig and I had a wonderful time out there on the river, learning some-- learning some history, learning about some folks, and seeing the good work. So that was pretty neat.

And then, I also had the amazing opportunity that evening to go to the Seattle Kraken game and have the One Roof Foundation honor the heroic actions of the water taxi driver who rescued the barge that was about to barrel into the pier. And then, at the end of it, have King County Executive Dow Constantine award a \$32,000 check to Maritime High School, which was pretty awesome. And I sat in my seats and screamed, "That's my district!" So I'm a bit of a nerd. But that was pretty cool. So that was really-- that was wonderful to experience.

Also, I'm really enjoying the partnership with superintendent coming out for the Culture of Belonging visit. So thank you for including me in that. It's been nice to see people and to hear the recognitions that folks are giving for each other.

I'd like to thank the principals for opening up their doors to me as I come in and learn this role, especially my elementary friends, as I step up my elementary game as the secondary guy. As all my elementary colleagues remind me, you're a secondary guy. So I tell you what, I'm spending 2/3 of my time in elementary schools so I can better represent those folks. So I appreciate the principals for being very helpful with that.

I'd like to thank Holly Ferguson for the work that she's been doing to help communicate the importance to our building administrators of entering disciplined data and synergy. We're changing that culture that says, hey, we don't want to report stuff because we don't want people to know. Now, it's like we need to report stuff so people do know. That's important. And Holly has been doing a great job messaging, and I really appreciate the partnership. So thank you, as we go through.

Also, I had a wonderful opportunity on Monday to attend an evaluation training with Deena Russo and with Kimberly Jones and Maggie Heater and my UD Elizabeth Beck. So it was great to see the work around evaluations and the changing and the new opportunities to go through there. So that work has been great. And also, the partnership with that team and putting together the training that we did last week with staff around standards-based grading instruction and around the evaluation process so that was really wonderful work.

We do have some work to do. We do have a few buildings that are in crisis, but I do hope that the actions that we're planning are going to have some improvements. And that it's going to help our students and our staff continue to live the promise that we always-- that we strive for. So I thank you very much. I appreciate you.

Thank you very much, sir. Thank you, ma'am. I appreciate your time on the Board. We've greatly appreciated the partnership with you. And I'm going to say that just you guys because you're on your way out. So I thank you very much. Take care.

Awesome. Thank you, Jeb. I appreciate that. That's all I have tonight. Back to you.

Thank you so much. Moving on up to our School Board Reports. Nothing on the Legislative Reports. Director Reports, Director Howell.

Sure. All right. First of all, there's a movie night this Friday, dual school PTSA/movie night, at North Hill. And it's for North Hill and Mar Vista. So I think, it's at 6:00. I had it up, and of course, it's gone now, but I think, it's at 6:00. So that's fun. I love when two schools come together like that and do something fun.

Also, I saw that OSPN and the State Board of Education had a hearing yesterday about adding performance tasks and projects to the graduation pathway. And it looks like that is going to probably be approved in December. So I won't be on the board, but I hope that you continue to really pursue that as we do our secondary redesign and think about how, perhaps, standardized testing could be less of a-- play less of a role and project-based, performance-based tasks that are measuring standards could play more of a role.

And last but not least, student-led conferences are coming up. And I already have scheduled mine with both of my children. And I work by day in a district that does parent-teacher conferences, and I somehow convinced my building to do student-led conferences. And they were a little hesitant until I showed them a video of my kindergartener leading a student-led conference. And they were like, oh, my gosh, this is great.

So I just hope that everybody signs up. If you have children in the district, make sure you go-- it is the living of the promise when you sit there and watch your student talk about their strengths and needs as learners, and not just adults talking about them, but your student owning them. So I'm really excited about those coming up. And I feel really fortunate to be part of a district that centers students like that. And that is all.

Thank you so much. Director Garcia.

I was saying earlier, how cool it's been because I work right next to Hicks Lake so I get to just see all the construction that's going on. So I'm excited to announce that both Evergreen and Tyee school construction projects have a lot happening underground and above ground. The foundations are in progress at Tyee and completed at Evergreen.

Now, it's getting excited above ground. We got walls going up. Activities are building at school and tall cranes on site. And we got some mass timber coming in this week. But it really is cool every time I just swing by there, I like to take pictures just to see the progress that's happening. So there's a really cool view from Hicks Lake where the disk golf stuff is. So if anybody's interested in seeing the behind-the-scenes stuff, I highly recommend that view. That's it.

Thank you so much. Director Alvarez.

Well, I wanted to just, comment about the student-led conferences. When I was doing it with my kids, the first-- they had just started that with my son, and I hated it because it was-- I felt like, OK, I want the teacher to tell me. He's going to tell me what he thinks, right? But then, of course, they've got their portfolio, and they've got their evidence or their artifacts or whatever they want to call it. And then, that was my first one.

And by my last one, it was mastered. Now, I understood it. I was able to ask questions. And I, too, appreciate how-- I mean, it's like anything, right? You show them the way, and they take over. Like, it's like just, the adults get out of the way. Let me tell you what I'm doing. So I appreciate them now. I get to go with my grandson now. So Friday-- I get to go on Friday with my grandson. Yes.

So I'm not going to steal anybody's thunder about the winter warm-up because I thought that was amazing. So you can talk about that. But just talking-- Mr. Jeb Binns mentioned about the Seattle Kraken, and so Maritime High School received a donation of \$32,000 from the Seattle Kraken this week, courtesy of the King County Water Taxi. The water taxi was named the Kraken Hero of the Deep for steering a loose barge away from the Seattle waterfront. The taxi crew generously designated Maritime High School to receive the funds. Thank you to the Seattle Kraken and King County Water Taxi for supporting our students.

But also, I read that heroes in the classroom, Bow Lake Elementary teacher Josie Painter was nominated for Primera's Heroes in the Classroom Award, and the Seattle Seahawks mascot Blitz and Primera's staff surprised Josie and her class with a check for \$2,000, a cart full of games, books, and treats, and a personalized Seahawks jersey and tickets to the game. So that's all I have for today.

Thank you very much. Yeah, the winter warm-up was a huge success last Friday. Thanks for all that showed up and raised money to directly support our students and schools. The event was sold out. Over 200 in attendance. Many of you were there. So great seeing you all. Director Alvarez, Director Hagos, Superintendent Duran, thanks for being there.

The foundation raised over \$150,000. So what a great event. It was a lot of fun reconnecting with the community and staff. So that is it.

One other thing. It's just want to give everybody a heads up is that the WASA Annual Conference is this week. And Director Hagos is scheduled to attend a few sessions. In addition, while we are still waiting for the election results to be certified, we have, also, offered those individuals an opportunity to attend. And they are attending a few sessions, as well. So looking forward to hearing back from Director Hagos on that. And that concludes our Board Reports.

OK, moving on to our Consent Agenda. If there's no questions or comments, can I please have a motion to approve?

I make a motion, we approve our Consent Agenda.

I second.

All in favor?

Aye.

Any opposed? None. Thank you.

Moving on to our Action Items. Action items 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5 and 6 were moved to consent. And that leaves 8.4. This is motion to approve the 2024 state legislative agenda. I just want to just remind our directors that the four priorities is the simple majority for bond passage. Next one is fully funding of special education, including five days of paid training for staff, approval of the Interstate Teacher Compact, allowing teachers from other states to be easily hired and to continue working on the mastery-based learning. Any questions or comments?

OK. I hear and see none. Can I please have a motion?

I move that the Highline School Board approve the proposed 2024 state legislative agenda.

I'll second that.

Roll call, please.

Director Howell.

Yay.

Director Garcia.

Yay.

Director Alvarez.

Yay.

Director Van.

Yay.

This motion passes four to none.

Thank you very much. That concludes our Action Items. We do have one intro and action item. This is 9.1. This is a motion to approve the grant of easement to Puget Sound Energy and Seattle Public Utilities for the Evergreen High School Replacement Project.

We have Scott Logan-- Chief Operation Officer-- come explain this one for us. Thank you, Scott.

Thank you, Scott.

Absolutely. My pleasure. Welcome, President Duran, Superintendent-- President Duran, [INAUDIBLE] swapped over here. President Van, Superintendent Duran.

It's all right, Scott. I made everybody doctors at one point. I was naming, Dr. Garcia, Dr. Howell. So it's-- switching, no problem.

All right. And Director Garcia, Director Howell, you will be missed here. So appreciate all you do.

9.1, Puget Sound Energy, there's four easement requests inside this. This is on for intro and action tonight for a particular reason.

So PSE, or Puget Sound Energy, they require a 10-foot wide easement for the gas line that will serve the new Evergreen-- the Evergreen High School. Right now, King County rules are that all new commercial structures are electric-- all electric. So just, so you're aware, the gas line will provide support for programs that have specific equipment that you need gas for, like in a science or CTE classroom. It also gives us some available options down the road-- down the road if the rules do change.

Then, Seattle Public Utility District has three easements they're requesting. One is for domestic water, the other is for fire protection, and the third is landscape and irrigation. So these will be from the service line to wherever we put the meter on our property. This is a little backwards from the way traditionally, these things are done. Usually, we put the water lines in and gas lines in, and then we align the easements over where the pipes actually ended up. King County doesn't always do things the easiest way. And so, this is an example of one of those.

The reason we put this on for intro and action tonight is some of these easements will cross currently-occupied space at Evergreen. We do have students still attending school at Evergreen. So we would like to take advantage of the winter break coming up to do that work that will cross the ground where students are still active.

Any questions or comments?

I have a question. Just, I think, I was reading correctly. There's no fiscal impact. There's no--

Correct. This is all part of the original construction plan for the building. It's just, kind of, out of sequence when we're doing the easement work.

OK. Thank you.

Any questions? I do have one, Scott, in regards to this. I know, a lot of this will be completed during winter break. Will it be completed so there's no-- there will not be any impact once the students come back at the beginning of the year?

I'd love to put a guarantee on the table and say yes. The intent is--

This is being recorded, so I just heard a yes.

The intent is for it to be complete. If, for some reason, we can't be back to asphalt-covered driveway, we will have a temporary patch there so that everything will be accessible. We do have both Thanksgiving break and then the holiday break coming up in December, so we're confident we can get there.

That's great. Thank you.

All right. I move that the Highline School Board grant the easement to the Puget Sound Energy and Seattle Public Utilities for the Evergreen High School Replacement Project.

I second.

Roll call, please.

Director Garcia.

Aye.

Yay?

Yay.

Director Howell.

Yay.

Director Alvarez.

Yay.

Director Van.

Yay.

This motion passes four to none.

Thank you. Thank you, Scott. Intro item, this is 10.1, motion to approve the '23-24 classified substitute salary rates, effective October 10, 2023. [INAUDIBLE].

We have Dr. Steve Grubb coming up to explain this one.

Hey. Chief Talent Officer Steve Grubb. President Van, members of the Board-- now, I'm confused.

[LAUGHING]

Superintendent Duran. This is a great problem to have. And I do want to thank Director Garcia, specifically, for the work that happened with the increase for our paraeducators. You're a real driving force behind that and the Board as a whole. And now, we have the problem that we've not really had before of having paraeducator substitutes and our practice is to set their pay rate at about 90%. With the new rate at \$25 an hour, this brings our substitute paraeducators to 90% of that number So that's what we're bringing before you today.

Thank you. Any questions or comments? Seeing none.

Do we have a pool of substitute paraeducators currently? Or is that the goal?

That's the goal. We didn't really have a pool. We didn't really have paraeducators at the level we needed. So what's happening now is we are developing a centralized pool of paraeducators, and then we're going to deploy from that pool. And I think, we'll also then-- the goal is we'll actually have substitutes available, as well.

wonderful

It's pretty exciting.

Great to hear. Thank you.

That's it. Thank you very much. Appreciate it. Intro item 10.2. This is motion to approve the use of Department of Commerce grant and district funding for Highline School District, Valley View Early Learning Expansion Project. Scott, you're back up.

All right. Thank you. This is a fun and exciting one. There's been a lot of conversation. A lot of energy has gone into how we move forward on this to make sure we're doing what's right and best for our young students. We did apply for a grant from the Department of Commerce, and we were awarded \$776,640 to use toward this project.

This project costs more than that, so we needed to both, look at who's going to be impacted, where they're at in Aaron Garcia's work when he was on CFAC, and we were prioritizing which buildings would go on to which bond. And we look at the Valley View Learning Center, and that's not on the next. Again, this is a living list, it can change, but it's not on the next bond and could possibly be on the one following. So that puts us out at least 12 years, plus a couple of years for planning if we're going to make any changes on that campus.

This is an opportunity to at least make-- move the needle a little bit. This doesn't fix all of the issues that we have, but what it does do is give us the opportunity to take some of the funds that are in the non-bond capital that either were intentionally put there for critical needs or because we finished Glacier under budget, we can use some of those funds, with board approval, to do this work.

So after evaluating option one and option two, or actually, it's B1 and B2. And when we went through this whole process, we came up with two different price models. So currently, there's three portables on the Valley View campus. They're over 60 years old, so that's longer than the average life cycle of any portable. And nobody should ever have to use a portable that long. But they are-- the functionality just doesn't meet today's standard. Not even-- it doesn't even come close.

So we have an option, B1 and B2 that are pretty well described in the motion that's in front of you. B1 involves construction of a single modular building and has an estimated project cost of total is \$3.568, so that would be a \$776,000 grant, plus \$3.03 million from critical needs to do that project.

Option B2 is similar in what it creates, but it's separated buildings. So it involves development of separate classrooms, including a single classroom, a double classroom, and 0 a restroom building.

Option B1 has a restroom function inside the single building. Both options, B1 and B2, include moving the bus loop from the parent drop-off area down to creating it off of Military and bringing up a small loop that goes around down on that side. So completely separating, that's a huge issue twice a day every day at that campus. So it's a win. Either if we go with B1 or B2, we would like permission to continue to move forward on this project without selecting B1 or B2 at this point, and then come back to you when a final decision is made. Happy to answer any questions.

Any questions? I do have a question on this, Scott. So what is the increased capacity, as far as how many additional students will be able to be served out of the building?

So the classroom capacities, in K-3, we want 18. That's the goal is 18 or less students in a classroom. So if you were not currently using those portables as classroom space, that would be an opportunity to increase by 48.

But what it does give is, also, an additional restroom facility that we're also short on in that building. It gives pathways-- solid asphalt pathways in between the buildings and--

All right. Thank you very much. Appreciate that.

All right. That concludes our Intro Items. And that just brings up to an adjournment. Can I please have a motion?

If we don't adjourn, Director Garcia and Director Howell have to stay. Darn it, let's adjourn. I make a motion, we adjourn.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

You do it.

No.

I'll second.

All in favor?

Aye.

Any opposed? None. Thank you very much.