

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING
March 13, 2024

**Board
Members:**

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

**Student
Advisory
Council
Officers:**

Riley Boerger
Hayden LaCelle
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 Kirby met via Zoom and SACo Vice President Hayden LaCelle was unable to attend.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Lund made a motion to approve the March 13, 2024 agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved.

Director Hanson made a motion to approve the February 21, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby 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 February: Emma Koch, Treysson Nevegold, Chloe Cryderman-Gray, and Zoey Perry.

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Principal Brad Abels and Associate Principal Sara Mack introduced the North Lake Students of the Month for February: Emeline Anderson, Elena Sivley, Eliora Aboa, and Nathaniel Mejia.

Principal James Sellers and Dean of Students Kyle Strand introduced the Cavelero Mid High School Students of the Month for February: Emanuel Alvarado-Morales, Jocelyn Heist, Alejandra Hernandez, and Keyre LaFleur. Emanuel Alvarado-Morales was unable to attend.

Principal Leslie Ivelia and Vice Principal Alex Johns introduced the Lake Stevens High School Students of the Month for February: Hasitha Reddy Nookala, Riley Walrod, Lilly Dealy, Treyten Pester, Roberta Granados, and Andrei Ragland. Treyten Pester and Roberto Granados were unable to attend.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Balmer introduced the APPLE Award recipients for the month of February: Jinger Johnson, Kurt Koshelnik, Trung (QT) Nguyen, Kristen Smutz, and Crystal Tappe. Kurt Koshelnik and Crystal Tappe were unable to attend.

Superintendent Collins discussed the Student Advisory Council members and how it all began. He stated Policy 1900: Student Advisory Council was student-generated, student-created, and student-driven. He also noted that applying for the Student Advisory Council is rigorous. Students must submit an application and interview for the position before a panel. Superintendent Collins read the Oath of Office with student Georgiy Lapin for the Student Advisory Council.

A break was held approximately from 7:25 p.m. until 7:35.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Executive Director of Special Services Miriam Tencate presented information on Special Education. She discussed the Foundation for Excellence and the LSSD Mission and Vision Statement. They want to ensure every child receives what they need every day. Not only students who are served with IEPs but general education students as well.

Executive Director Tencate showed a comparison graph on headcount between 2018-2019 and 2022-2023. The percentage increase for Special Services was 7.5% and Basic Education without Special Services was 6.0%.

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They need a strong general education system because ALL STUDENTS ARE GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENTS FIRST. She said they need to have a strong general education system because when they interact with different aspects of the system; frequently they're asking the system to do something different based upon individual need (i.e., technology – assistive technology; bussing – specialized transportation; food service – food for students with dysphagia; academics – modifications and accommodations of general education curriculum).

Having a comprehensive system that is designed to meet the needs and the majority to address the needs of the individual requires a strong system that can grow and adjust. Having strong Tier 2 & Tier 3 General Education Interventions is critical to ensure that we are not overidentifying students as having a disability – when in fact they may not (casualties of the curriculum or the system).

Executive Director Miriam Tencate stated students who qualify for services, such as highly capable, special education or ELL are general education students first and foremost. All educators share a collective responsibility for the success of all students, regardless of the service received. A student who qualifies for services in any of these programs could receive these services in the general or alternate setting. These decisions are made based on individual needs, not the model of the program.

Executive Director Tencate said as of March 1 they had 115 certified staff including teachers, psychologists, SLPs, OT/PTs, TVI, Audiologist, AT Specialist, and a Special Services Coordinator. They have 151 classified staff contributing 713 hours/day of student support. They have six non-rep employees (SLP-AS, an O&M Specialist, a Brailist, and a vision paraprofessional. They also have two contracted Board-Certified Behavior Analysts.

Executive Director Tencate talked about their budget, what their expected revenues from State and Federal IDEA would equal, and what their expenditures would be.

She shared a video of Jolee (a student) showing why what they do matters. Ms. Tencate spoke about their vision team which included Chris Cecchetto (teacher of students with visual impairments), Shari Marley (Orientation & Mobility Specialist), Stacie Zellers (Certified Brailist), and Katrina Grams-Rau (vision paraprofessional).

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She also talked about the important roles of the classroom teacher, SLP, OT, PT & PT-A. She then presented a video of teaching independence. Executive Director Tencate spoke about braille, magnification, modified work (enlarged, decluttered), and community experiences and travel.

Executive Director Tencate presented information on multiple disabilities including tactile communication systems, calendars, and sensory learning kits. She presented a few videos on making the classroom and world accessible and growing independence which included the exciting independence improvement of Nellie. She ended with a quote from Alexander den Heijer, "When a flower doesn't bloom you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower." She then asked if anyone had questions. Director Lund said they had an infectious energy and Jolee was a pure joy to watch. President Taylor stated how wonderful to highlight providing every child with what they need and that every student is a gen ed student. She stated extraordinary stories like the videos Executive Director Tencate presented are happening every single day in the classrooms. That impact is inspiring. President Taylor talked about what they do why they do it and figuring out a set of skills to get through things. She said she was so grateful for them. To have people not be isolated changes the world. Executive Director Tencate believes they can change one child at a time.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Taylor called for community comments. Parent Candace Nichols spoke about her safety concerns at Cavelero Mid High School and what could be done to resolve them. President Taylor stated that Superintendent Collins would follow up with her. Parent Allison Morrison talked about the email comment she sent to the district regarding encouraging everyone in the community to continue to protect the trans kids. She stated that she loved the diversity and inclusion in the schools and wanted every child to feel safe. Hearing no other community comments President Taylor closed this portion of the meeting.

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

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

1. Warrant Nos. 311562 to 311734 - \$1,401,891.22 (E:54/24)
Warrant Nos. 232400016 to 232400017 - \$2,136.30 (E:55/24)
2. Personnel Report: classified employment: Jamie Bower, Sara Daniels, Jennifer McKintosh, Genevieve Wilson, Lauren Willett, Jennifer Hanson, and Fischer Ford; resignations: Shannon Palacios; retirements: William Anderst, Michele Puha, Laurence Ruble, Patty Studdard, and Rick Tanner (E:56/24); the Co-curricular Report (E:57/24); February Payroll Nos. 311506 to 311560 - \$12,132,581.43 (E:58/24).
3. a donation in the amount of \$16,000.00 from Hillcrest PTA; (E:59/24) a donation in the amount of \$500.00 to the LSSD Food Service (E:60/24); a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from North Lake Middle School PTSA (E:61/24); a donation for \$10,398.63 from North Lake Middle School PTSA (E:62/24); a Grant donation in the amount of \$321.00 from Highland PTA (E:63/24); a Grant donation of \$495.40 from Highland PTA (E:64/24); a donation in the amount of \$3,500.00 from Purple and Gold Club (E:65/24); a Grant donation of \$268.00 from Highland PTA (E:66/24); Approval of surplus equipment (E:67/24).

The motion was seconded by Director Lund and was unanimously approved.

Director Lund motioned to approve the Final Acceptance of the public works projects. The motion was seconded by Director Hanson and unanimously approved. (E:68/24)

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

- Install an intercom page override on the sound system in the gym at Lake Stevens MS (Dimensional Communications)
- Water damage remediation at Skyline ES (Good to Go Restoration)
- Water damage remediation at Glenwood ES (Good to Go Restoration)
- Convert former health room to student support at Lake Stevens HS (JC Killin General Contractors)

- Install new signage for HomeLink at Lake Stevens HS (Northwest Sign)
- Replace the fire alarm annunciator at Hillcrest ES (Pacific Fire)
- Raise the floor of two classrooms at Hillcrest ES (R&R Foundation)
- Repair the roof of the Performing Arts Center at Lake Stevens HS (WTI)

Service Calls

- Repair fire alarm issues at the Educational Service Center (ADT)
- Pool maintenance for January at Lake Stevens HS (Aquatic Specialty Services)
- Pool maintenance for February at Lake Stevens HS (Aquatic Specialty Services)
- Repair the pool vacuum at Lake Stevens HS (Aquatic Specialty Services)
- Service fire alarm issues at Lake Stevens HS (Pacific Fire)

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

Director Hanson made a motion to approve the award of a contract for the Network Upgrades at Mt. Pilchuck and Sunnycrest Elementaries E-Rate project. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved (E:69/24).

Director Lund made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 District Calendar recommendations. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved (E:70/24).

Director Iseminger thanked everyone for their generous donations. The Board thanked the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Dr. John Balmer and the Calendar Committee for their work on the 2024-2025 Calendar. This is so helpful to families planning vacations.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Superintendent Search Consultant from NW Leadership Associates Wayne Robertson gave a superintendent mid-search presentation. The position closes on April 5, 2024, and the survey closes on March 29, 2024, for which we have received 667 responses. He stated there would be a screening, and deliberation resulting in the selection of semi-finalists in an Executive Session.

Preliminary Interviews will take place on Saturday, April 13, 2024. During the preliminary process, they select three finalists in an Executive Session. Finalists will be at ESC on April 16, 17, 18, 2024. The superintendent selection will be announced on April 19, 2024. Dr. Robertson also discussed the status of applicants and inquiries.

He stated that typically they see a flurry of applications submitted the last week or the day of the posting window. As of now, they have received four applications from WA, IL, and two from ID. They sent 72 applications out to current Washington State Superintendents, out-of-state superintendents, former superintendents, interims, consultants, WA State and Out of State Assistant Superintendents/Directors, and Principals. SACo President Boerger stated she hopes SACo will be included in the superintendent search process.

BOARD COMMENTS

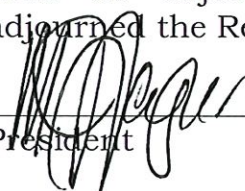
The board members congratulated the Students of the Month and the extraordinary APPLE Award recipients. The Board also thanked Executive Director Miriam Tencate and Chris Cecchetto for their great presentation. Director Kirby was sorry she was not able to be at the board meeting in person. She stated no matter how bad of a day you have when you listen to the Students of the Month it changes your day. She welcomed Georiy Lapin to the SACo team and invited the community to join the Cavelero Parent Club to volunteer at school. She said please model empathy, compassion, and kindness for the kids. Director Lund said it is always a delight to listen to the Students of the Month. I walk away with hope when I listen to them. Every student talks about teachers who change the lives of young humans. Director Lund told Executive Director Tencate and teacher of students with visual impairment Chris Cecchetto what unbelievable energy they had during their presentation. He said it was infectious. He thanked Candace and Allison for their community comments and stated it is always important to hear from the community. Director Iseminger said listening to the Students of the Month is always a pleasure. It is like a box of chocolates, always unexpected and delightful. He thanked Executive Director Tencate and Chris Cecchetto for their Special Services presentation and said he is grateful for their team. Everyone has a unique contribution. He stated good work on the decision items including the important network upgrades. Director Iseminger said it is always great to hear about the exceptional things they are doing in this district. They have so many things to celebrate and they have areas they need to work on. He thanked consultant Dr. Wayne Robertson for giving them an update on the superintendent search.

Director Hanson said she loves to see the family's faces as they watch their Students of the Month receive their awards. She said she is excited to work with Georgiy and congratulated him for joining the SACo team. She is excited to take her daughter to the LSMS play, Moana. Her daughter wants to try out for theater. Director Hanson thanked Executive Director Miriam Tencate and Chris Cecchetto for their presentation. Director Hanson said her journey with her son whether it be a 504 or IEP their presentation made her hopeful about the process. She thanked Candace and Allison for their community comments and wanted them to know that they take their comments very seriously. She is looking forward to all of the steps to hire the superintendent. SACo Secretary MacKenzie Conniff congratulated Andrei on his well-deserved Student of the Month recognition. She stated she enjoyed the Special Services report and loved their energy. SACo President Riley Boerger thanked everyone for coming tonight and she is excited to have Georgiy Lapin on the Student Advisory Committee. She is also looking forward to the LSMS play, Moana. President Taylor thanked everyone for a great night, told everyone to have a safe ride home, and enjoy the sunshine this weekend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

With no objections by the other directors, President Taylor adjourned the Regular Session at 9:18 p.m.



President



Secretary