



LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING
April 10, 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 an Executive Session at 4:00 p.m. at the Educational Service Center to discuss superintendent screening for preliminary interviews. President Taylor adjourned the Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

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 Riley Boerger was unable to attend.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Lund made a motion to approve the April 10, 2024 agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved.

Director Iseminger made a motion to approve the March 27, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes and the March 28, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Hanson 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 March: Laine Cooper, Sina Braaten, Liam Valdes, and Claire Kwan.

Principal Brad Abels and Associate Principal Sara Mack introduced the North Lake Students of the Month for March: Brigham Aitken, Keilani Lopez, Noella Frans, and Kirsten Lao.

Principal James Sellers and Dean of Students Kyle Strand introduced the Cavelero Mid High School Students of the Month for March: Landon Eckstrom, Johannes Sianipar, Isaiah Eaves-Granados, and Mikaila Valm. Johannes Sianipar and Mikaila Valm were unable to attend.

Principal Leslie Ivelia and Vice Principal Alex Johns introduced the Lake Stevens High School Students of the Month for March: Laura Eichert, Rosa Horikawa, Diego Jarillo Odegaard, Georgiy Lapin, Amir Oumarou, and Greyson Wheeler. Rosa Horikawa and Greyson Wheeler were unable to attend.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Balmer introduced the APPLE Award recipients for the month of March: Zach Darlington, Jill Fortney, Mike Hampton, Pam Riedel, and Kelsey Stark. Zack Darlington and Mike Hampton were unable to attend.

A break was held approximately from 7:20 p.m. until 7:28.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Principal Lisa Sanchez of Lake Stevens Middle School provided an overview of the Transition to Middle School process and highlighted how Lake Stevens Middle School warmly embraces incoming Pirates. She outlined the procedure of students transitioning from elementary schools, including how they obtain projected enrollment figures. Reflecting on past practices and course offerings, they convene transition meetings for scheduling purposes. Additionally, plans include elementary school visits and class presentations. Furthermore, Lake Stevens Middle School organizes a family event with staff participation to address any registration queries from students and parents. Principal Sanchez proceeded to discuss the development of the master schedule, which is shaped by student requests.

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Principal Sanchez discussed the application of the LSSD Foundation for Excellence Principles of Focus at Lake Stevens Middle School. One such principle, exemplified by the Safe, Equitable & Inclusive Climate and Culture, ensures that all students are carefully scheduled into classes to receive effective and engaging core instruction tailored to their needs. Thoughtful Transitions are facilitated through meticulous planning, focus, intentionality, and collaboration to ease the transition to middle school. Collaborative Family and Community Engagement initiatives, like the upcoming Pirate Night scheduled for May 28, 2024, aim to familiarize families with the school environment and staff. Behind the scenes, Data Analyst Kristi Morrow prepares systems with feeder school information, while Data Integration Specialist Chris Martin collaborates with counseling, special services, and administrative teams to manage data effectively. Transition meetings are scheduled among various teams, including special education, counseling, and administrative, to ensure comprehensive coordination.

Principal Sanchez shared insights into the SIP Connection and its influence on 5th-grade students. She emphasized the effectiveness of a 3-year School Improvement Plan in providing engaging core instruction for both the present and the upcoming academic year. Through her presentation, she showcased tangible examples of reading and math growth, fostering a sense of belonging, collaborative team efforts, and the implementation of MTSS for Academics.

LSMS likes to reflect and press forward as they learn and grow. In a two-year school, so much changes with each year. It is not simply a restart of an "already in place" program. They consider individual needs as well as small and large group needs and dynamics. They also consider safety, facility, community, and culture-building needs and supports. They ensure they have available teaching staff by period and endorsement (specialized and basic education) and access to curriculum, equipment, and materials. They always have student interests, talents, families, languages, and cultures represented.

Principal Sanchez discussed the upcoming elementary school visits to Glenwood, Skyline, and Hillcrest, which are feeder schools for Lake Stevens Middle School (LSMS). Julie Danner, Counseling OP, oversees the coordination of these visits, with presenters including Julie Danner, Anna Lynch Collins from SMHSS, and Principal Sanchez herself. The presentations feature engaging content such as interesting facts about LSMS, a glimpse into a sample schedule, details about automatic registration, and an explanation of essential work habits and skills for success in challenging classes.

Additionally, options for registration changes are discussed, along with sharing the presentation link for further reference.

Next, she provided details about the classes pre-registered for all 6th-grade students, including Language Arts 6, Math 6, Social Studies 6, Wellness 6, Art/Tech, and Science 6. Students eligible for Hi-Cap classes are automatically enrolled in Advanced Challenge Language Arts and/or Pre-Algebra based on their qualifications. Similarly, students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) are enrolled in courses that meet their needs. Additionally, students have the option to submit a registration change form to replace Art/Tech with either Band or Choir. This form also allows students to self-select Challenge Language Arts or Challenge Math if desired.

Principal Sanchez addressed family engagement, highlighting communication strategies such as Blackboard messaging, dedicated communication for 5th-grade families, and conference week arrangements. She proceeded to illustrate the process of completing the Master Schedule, likening it to solving a puzzle. Expressing gratitude, she opened the floor for questions. Director Lund commended the innovative approach, while Director Kirby expressed appreciation for ensuring parents felt at ease when dropping off their 6th-grade students.

Stevens Creek Principal Matt Pewitt presented an overview of overall framework scores by student groups from 2023 and explained WSIF (Washington State Improvement Framework) data. Principal Pewitt feels they are moving in the right direction. They have areas they need to continue to work on and be mindful of. Attendance is an area they want to work on and they are targeting that in their School Improvement Plan this year.

Dean of Students Marie Chudnofsky discussed PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) and emphasized proactive approaches. She outlined the activities of the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT), which holds weekly meetings with support staff to understand students better and devise interventions to support both students and teachers. Furthermore, intentional lessons developed by a team of specialists and support staff cover a diverse range of topics, including social-emotional learning (SEL), STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), and community service projects, all with a focus on establishing common language and expectations. Ms. Chudnofsky also introduced the PBIS-House system, which fosters school-wide relationship building through initiatives like house points and the reinforcement of common language and expectations.

During her presentation, she provided examples of expectations and house time activities, as well as demonstrated Expected/Unexpected Games.

Counselor Teresa Nickerson shared attendance data for Stevens Creek. In the 2021-22 school year, students attending 90% or more of school days reached 70.2% at STC, surpassing the statewide rate of 67.2%. In the following year, 2022-23, STC attendance increased to 76.1%, while the statewide rate was 69.75%. This year, attendance was tracked by House, with Pemberi achieving 93.74%, Druzhba at 93.59%, Ujasiri at 92.95%, and Sonador at 92.78%.

She provided an overview of multi-tiered systems of support, encompassing various aspects such as family engagement, positive student involvement, behavioral and mental health, physical well-being, academic assistance, extended learning opportunities, and addressing basic needs. In their interactions with families, they adopt a non-judgmental approach, utilizing problem-solving strategies and a tiered approach, rooted in empathy. Collaboratively, they employ a tag team approach involving the principal, counselor, and dean, alongside the utilization of MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) and Reading Specialists. Discussions are data-driven, with a focus on identifying and eliminating barriers to student success.

Principal Pewitt outlined the school's objective of achieving 80% proficiency or higher in ELA academics. In January, grade three demonstrated a proficiency rate of 73%, grade four exhibited 64% proficiency with an additional 26% approaching grade level, and grade five showed 51% proficiency with 27% approaching grade level. Furthermore, Principal Pewitt presented data on grade three math, reiterating the goal of 80% proficiency or higher. In January, they achieved 40% proficiency or higher in Numbers and Operations, and 62% proficiency or higher in Algebra and Algebraic Thinking. Following the presentation, Principal Pewitt invited questions. Director Iseminger commended their enthusiasm and noted the value of the family competition in imparting lifelong lessons. Director Lund praised the integration of professionalism and enjoyment within the school environment, highlighting the evident camaraderie among staff. Director Kirby expressed appreciation for the school's strong connection with families. Director Hanson commended the team for their exceptional work.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Taylor called for community comments and read the community comment protocol. Heidi Hankins, Jen Gerry, Madison Standish, Katie Dosen, and Angela Kuhn expressed their concerns about a book in the Cavelero Library. Hearing no other requests for 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. 311971 to 312128 - \$759,780.40 (E:82/24)
Warrant Nos. 232400018 to 232400019 \$1,857.36 (E:83/24)
2. Personnel Report: retirements: Nancy Collins and Lewis Widmann (E:84/24); the Co-curricular Report (E:85/24); March Payroll Nos. 311916 to 311970 - \$12,121,069.88 (E:86/24).
3. Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 to LSHS ASB General account to offset the cost of mileage reimbursement for Basic Link Crew Training (E:87/24); Acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$550.00 from LSMS PTA to LSMS to support music programs (E:88/24).

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

Director Hanson made a motion to approve the revision of Policy #1100: Meeting Conduct, Order of Business, and Quorum. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved by a roll call vote (E:89/24).

Director Lund made a motion to approve the revision of Policy #3110: Development Impact Mitigation, formerly Environmental Developmental Impacts, and its related procedures. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved by a roll call vote (E:90/24).

Director Kirby made a motion to approve the revision of Policy #3410: Site Acquisition, and its related procedures. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved by a roll call vote (E:91/24).

Director Hanson motioned to approve the Final Acceptance of the public works projects. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved (E:92/24).

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 Boxlight interactive displays at Lake Stevens Middle, North Lake Middle, and Cavelero Mid-High Schools (MicroK12)

Service Calls

Service dishwasher at North Lake MS (3Wire)

Service dishwasher at Highland ES (3Wire)

Address ground fault issue with fire alarm at North Lake MS (Pacific Fire)

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 Elementary Learning Steve Burleigh presented the first review of Policy #5035: Kindergarten/First Grade Early Entrance. Policy #5035 was last revised in 1996. This policy currently creates a birthdate window for students in kindergarten and first grade to be considered for early entrance in these grades. If a student has a birthdate between (and including) September 1st and September 30th, the family can go through an assessment process to request early entrance. Often, there are requests from families who miss this cut-off by a short amount (Example: Birthdate of October 1st) who are denied early entrance due to this arbitrary cutoff date. This policy is being revised to eliminate the cutoff date which allows the decision regarding early entrance to be made solely on assessment results that meet our established criteria.

Focusing our early entrance decisions on student "readiness scores" allows these decisions to be made objectively based on student skills and abilities vs. an arbitrary date on the calendar. This language change more closely aligns this Lake Stevens Policy with the WSSDA model policy and surrounding districts.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent Collins provided information about OSPI's approval of the district's request for an Emergency Waiver for the closure of Glenwood Elementary on January 16, 2024, and Skyline Elementary on January 16 -17, 2024 due to ruptured frozen pipes. At the board meeting on the 21st of February, Superintendent Collins asked the board to consider making a request to OSPI for a Waiver of the 180-day student attendance requirement (RCW 28A.150.220/RCW 28A.150.203). The waiver would allow for the continuation of state support during a school emergency closure as required by RCW 28A.150.290 and WAC 392-129-140. That request was sent to OSPI on February 22nd. They received notification that OSPI has approved the district's request for the waiver of days for Glenwood and Skyline Elementary Schools.

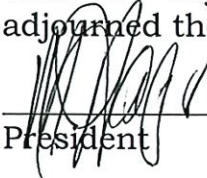
BOARD COMMENTS

The board members extended congratulations to the exceptional Students of the Month and the recipients of the APPLE Award. Director Lund expressed his enthusiasm, stating that the Students of the Month and APPLE Award board meetings were the highlight of the month. He emphasized the joy of interacting with the students and hearing their stories. Additionally, Director Lund commended the building reports, acknowledging the importance of community input and expressing gratitude towards Executive Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning Steve Burleigh for his policy work. Director Iseminger echoed appreciation for the surprises brought by Students of the Month, as well as the camaraderie displayed by APPLE Award recipients. He praised the enthusiasm demonstrated in the building reports and thanked the community for their contributions. Director Kirby expressed her delight in hearing about the positive happenings in the schools and extended gratitude for the policy work undertaken. She emphasized the importance of kindness in all interactions. Director Hanson emphasized the value of celebrating Students of the Month and APPLE Award recipients, expressing gratitude towards the teachers who support these students. She appreciated the transition connection explanation from Principal Sanchez and highlighted the importance of relationships. Vice President Hayden LaCelle commended the human-oriented approach demonstrated in the Stevens Creek building report and appreciated the student engagement during community comments. He encouraged students to reach out to SACo members with any concerns. President Taylor concluded by expressing gratitude for the support and collaboration of everyone involved, emphasizing the collective effort in overcoming challenges.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

With no objections from the other directors, President Taylor adjourned the Regular Session at 9:02 p.m.



President

Secretary