

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING  
AND SPECIAL MEETING  
April 24, 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 Special Meeting at the Educational Service Center. President Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Superintendent Collins said good evening and welcome to the 2024 Volunteer Celebration! Tonight is all about you - our wonderful volunteers. This is a time to pause and celebrate the energy and commitment each of you gives. Your time is a precious gift.

Superintendent Collins stated they are fortunate to have such amazing staff in the district, but volunteers are an essential part of their daily operations. Their volunteerism is critical to the success of the district. They help us to build better, stronger, healthier schools and enhance the community. He wanted each of them to know how much he appreciated their time, skills, knowledge, energy, and commitment to the children of Lake Stevens. Because of their generosity, the lives of the students are enriched. Superintendent Collins said they are here tonight because they are the best of the best, and have been selected as their school's Volunteer of the Year. It is a pleasure to honor you.

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I'd like to start by recognizing the five elected members of our community who volunteer their time to serve as School Board members:

- President Mari Taylor
- Vice President David Iseminger
- Co-Legislative Representatives Vildan Kirby and Dr. Nina Kim Hanson
- Paul Lund

And our Student Advisory Council:

- Riley Boerger
- Hayden LaCelle
- Aashi Bendalam
- MacKenzie Conniff
- George Lapin
- Yostina Mosa
- Muhammed Ceesay
- Laila Njie

Thank you for your service to our district and community!

The first award of the evening is the Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes a community member or a community organization for outstanding support of the Lake Stevens School District. Superintendent Collins said tonight, he is proud to honor Andrea Wright for her exemplary leadership of the Facilities Needs Advisory Committee. Her contributions have been instrumental in helping to shape the future of their schools.

Our Facilities Needs Advisory Committee was composed of a diverse group of parents, caregivers, employees, and community leaders and was tasked with the Herculean challenge of assessing and prioritizing the growing needs of the district's facilities. Needless to say, this was no small feat. Under Andrea's firm but engaging leadership, the committee met from October to January to create a facilities recommendation for our Board of Directors. This information is pivotal for the district's future bond planning.

Beyond her pivotal role in leading this committee, Andrea's commitment to our community extends far beyond this work. As an elected Sewer Commissioner, a PTA Golden Acorn Winner, and a multiple-time recipient of our Volunteer of the Year award, she exemplifies what it means to serve with passion and dedication.

We have had the privilege of educating Andrea's four children in our schools, and we're fortunate that her youngest is just a fifth-grader,



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so, we get to continue to work with the Wrights for at least seven more years!

Superintendent Collins stated Andrea, thank you for your outstanding service and contributions to Lake Stevens School District! We are incredibly grateful to you.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Balmer thanked Superintendent Collins and congratulated Andrea. Dr. Balmer introduced himself and said it was his pleasure to begin the presentation of their awards for the Volunteer of the Year from each school. I'll invite each administrator to come forward and introduce themselves and their Volunteer of the Year from their school. The following volunteers were recognized: Lake Stevens High School - Cliff Chaffee, Cavelero Mid High School - Katie Rugg, Lake Stevens Middle School - Amber Scoglio, Glenwood Elementary - Andrea Duerr, Hillcrest Elementary - Kim Basler, Highland Elementary - Katy Nicholson, Mt. Pilchuck Elementary - Angelica Aichner, Skyline Elementary - Kathryn Bosworth, Stevens Creek Elementary - Jessica Shaw, Sunnycrest Elementary - Greta Olsen, Early Learning Center - Kristin Dachelet, and HomeLink - Timothy Spencer. North Lake Middle School Volunteer of the Year Erica Nicholas could not attend.

President Taylor congratulated and thanked the volunteers.

Superintendent Collins said before they enjoy the hors d'oeuvres and desserts that their nutrition services staff prepared, he would like all of the Volunteers of the Year to come forward for a group picture. Then, you are all encouraged to join us in the foyer. Thank you for being here this evening! Superintendent Collins also wanted to thank Kim Askevold in their Communications & Community Services Department for organizing this special event.

President Taylor adjourned the Special Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors met in a Regular Session at the Educational Service Center. A Zoom option was available for this meeting that President Taylor called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

All board members were present. Director Hanson attended via Zoom and SACo President Riley Boerger was unable to attend. Hayden Lacelle was acting SACo President and Aashisri Bendalam was acting SACo Vice President.

## **AGENDA/MINUTES**

Director Lund made a motion to approve the April 24, 2024 agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved.

Director Iseminger made a motion to approve April 10, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes and the April 13, 16, 17, 18, and 19, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved.

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

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

Principal Sellers of Cavelero Mid High School extended greetings to the Board, Superintendent Collins, and the community. He began by expressing enthusiasm about the progress their students have made and their eagerness to share those achievements. He highlighted how the district's goals have steered its growth. In this midyear report, they aimed to outline their endeavors toward Excellence in Teaching and Learning, particularly through Collaborative Teaching Teams. Additionally, they planned to discuss current trends in STAR data, attendance, and SWIS referrals. Moreover, updates regarding efforts to foster a Safe, Equitable, and Inclusive Climate and Culture through staff development, school-wide initiatives, and scheduling adjustments would be provided.

Associate Principal Hasegawa addressed Excellence in Teaching and Learning, focusing on STAR growth. Notably, students achieved scores at or above typical growth levels, with 60% in English and 62% in math.

Dean of Students Kyle Strand discussed attendance and highlighted a significant decrease in chronic absenteeism by 5.92%. Dean Strand emphasized the importance of his bi-weekly meetings with the attendance secretary and counselors, during which skip, tardy, and excessive absence reports are reviewed and shared with administrators. These bi-weekly meetings have allowed the school to partner with their caregivers to support student's educational needs, including bringing in family support and success specialists.



Another concern we saw was student arrival, where we would have long lines of student check-in after the bell rang. Upon reviewing our systems in place, we changed from manually entering to adding two student attendance kiosks to allow a smoother transition to class.

Principal Sellers shared details about Cavelero's implementation of positive behavior supports, which encompassed various initiatives. These included PBIS resets in classrooms, the Colts Card Blitz, the introduction of six new clubs, the installation of signage, Tier 1 PBIS efforts, regular classroom visits, and the administration of a SACo survey. Their theme for this year has been You Belong. This theme of belonging and inclusivity guides our systems decisions, such as club formations. We are proud to offer safe spaces for students with clubs such as our Gender Sexuality Alliance and Diversity. We have a new club this year, the Food Bank Club, that has provided students an opportunity to act in service and give back to the community. Tonight, we want to shine a light on MECHA, our Hispanic heritage group sponsored by their awesome counselor, Mrs. Elsa Leal.

Counselor Elsa Leal spoke about MEChA, a nationally re-organized group promoting education, Hispanic culture, and unity. There are 55 members, with 35-40 regular attendees. Some of the major events are La Chispa, Leadership Conference, Students of Color Leadership Conference in Everett, District Heritage Night, and La Posada Celebration.

Ms. Leal emphasized that students at their school are consistently engaged in memorable experiences. These include celebrations of Latin-American holidays with activities such as crafting, music, dancing, and sharing traditional foods. Discussions about students' countries of origin, including Venezuela, Chile, and Mexico, are common, along with lessons on traditional Mexican culture and games like Mexican Loteria (bingo). Additionally, there are discussions about school experiences related to students' cultural, and ethnic identities, and race. Anecdotally, students are frequently heard singing together in Spanish at the bus loop, supporting each other academically, and upholding expectations of safety, kindness, and responsibility. Overall, these initiatives have significantly influenced the campus culture.

Associate Principal Becca Faheem provided an update on inclusive scheduling in collaboration with Dr. Meadows. Additionally, they arranged for Emmy-nominated spoken word poet Christian Paige to address students during an assembly on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



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Their two SLC programs are flourishing, with highly collaborative and functional CET teams prioritizing data and academic achievement to enhance students' skills. Meanwhile, Dean of Students Kyle Strand maintains a teen-centered and positive behavior environment as the PBIS lead, overseeing operations at the Colt Card store.

Principal Sellers said they were excited to see the growth in some of our subpopulations on the most recent 2023 Run of the Washington School Improvement Framework. Our highest growth subgroup was our Black/African American group which showed an increase of 1.5 points on the WSIF. Our School Improvement Plan for this year focused on two subpopulations of students, our English Language Learners, who saw a 1.0 increase, and our Students with Disabilities, who showed an increase of .9.

Principal Sellers said he is optimistic that their Multilingual students are benefiting from cohort placement in classes taught by Teachers trained in GLAD strategies, which are teaching tools designed to provide accommodations for non-native English speakers. In addition, as they continue to expand their inclusion model for students with disabilities, they are hopeful that they will continue to grow in mastery of learning standards.

Associate Principal Raphil Hasegawa gave an update on Cavelero Mid High School including C Team athletics. He said there are 809 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>-grade students in athletics.

Associate Principal Hasegawa shared social media analytics during the presentation, revealing significant engagement numbers. These included a cumulative view count of 70K for Smore newsletters, 1032 followers on Instagram, 21.5K on YouTube, 550 engagements on Facebook, and 126 views on TikTok.

Principal Sellers expressed gratitude to everyone for the opportunity to highlight programs that they believe exemplify the best of Cavelero. As school leaders, they are deeply committed to their mission of providing excellent teaching and learning within a safe, equitable, and inclusive school culture. They wholeheartedly believe that all Colt Scholars are Kind, Safe, and Responsible, and they consistently convey the message of inclusivity, affirming to their Colt Scholars that THEY BELONG. Once again, thank you for your attention this evening, and they wished everyone an enjoyable remainder of the Board meeting.

Principal Johnson from Glenwood discussed Excellence in Teaching and Learning, emphasizing the implementation of effective and innovative practices and technology tools from pre-K through graduation.



They started this year defining what it means to be Gatorific. Yes, Gators are Safe, Respectful, and Responsible, but what else? Gators are Kind. Gators stand up for and care for each other. Gators have integrity. Gators are courageous.

Principal Johnson stated as they get in the groove with CKLA they are seeing powerful examples of learning and student engagement in every classroom. They actively encourage and support staff in taking purposeful risks with instructional strategies to enhance student collaboration and engagement. Principal Johnson presented information on vertical teaming and alignment knowledge-based learning. Additionally, she provided insights into the CKLA curriculum for Spring 2024, highlighting Lesson 1 on "What Is a Habitat?" and shared information on the knowledge sequence of units aimed at fostering deep understanding over time. Principal Johnson also presented a kindergarten snapshot focusing on learning about colonial towns and townspeople, aiming to familiarize students with daily life during that era and lay the foundation for a comprehensive understanding of historical events. She shared a SIP Goal Check-In, aiming for 80% of students in grades 1-5 to achieve grade-level expectations as measured by the iReady Spring diagnostic.

Principal Johnson addressed Safe, Equitable, and Inclusive Climate and Culture, emphasizing the importance of soliciting and valuing student, staff, family, and community voices to cultivate the personal best in academics and character among students and staff. With a working knowledge of MTSS, they aim to implement classroom-based tier 2 and tier 3 instruction and intervention effectively. Additionally, they seek to enhance the understanding and implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS). As part of the Sense of Belonging SIP Goal Check-In, they aim to increase student self-efficacy and sense of belonging, as measured by the Panorama survey. Furthermore, they aim to boost engagement and a sense of belonging through the use of tier 1 and 2 classroom supports for emotional regulation to maximize in-class time.

Counselor Kaitlyn Dawes talked about a survey they co-created on a Glenwood Sense of Belonging with all the adults in the building. Here are a couple of snapshots of what they learned. Most of their kids feel supported and respected. Most of their kids feel like there are adults who care about them here. The next steps will be grade-level teams collaborating on what they can do to address some areas of concern.

Principal Johnson talked about how a kid's voice is powerful. They want more playtime and play space, loud and clear. They partnered with Executive Director of Operations Robb Stanton and the PTA to make this happen, both short and long-term.



The PTA raised over \$15,000 in a Read-a-Thon to help with this response.

Dean of Students Shannon Elliott talked about the Gator Grotto and presented a pie chart of proactive students using self-advocacy to take a break to regulate, proactive tier 2 and 3 Individual Behavior Support Plans, and teacher-directed breaks in tier 1 when strategies aren't working in the classroom.

Principal Johnson presented information on Collaborative Family and Community Engagement. She highlighted that they create and maintain relationships with their students, employees, families, and community. They consistently engage with their diverse community. She also wanted to articulate continuously and intentionally incorporate students' cultures, voices, and identities into classroom, building, and district activities. She shared information on One School, One Book. This year included a book with a character who is a newcomer from India and a student served in the resource room. Each gains perspective and appreciation for each other and unites to face a common problem....the class bully. They invited Nethmi Gannon, a student teacher with them in the fall, to come to a family pizza party to talk about her experience as a newcomer from India.

Principal Johnson conveyed the solidarity among Gators, emphasizing how they support each other. In January, Glenwood faced a challenge when pipes froze and burst. However, the entire school community, including teachers, custodians, maintenance staff, and administrators, rallied together to assist in cleaning up the aftermath. As a token of appreciation, the Gold Mop Award was presented to Daniel Stevens for his outstanding contributions. She thanked everyone and asked if there were any questions. Director Lund loved the camaraderie of the whole team. Director Iseminger appreciated the data-driven building report.

### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

President Taylor called for community comments and read the community comment protocol. Katie Dosen, a community member, expressed concerns about a book at Cavelero. City Council member Kymm Shipman shared her attendance at school board meetings since January and proposed an idea to increase parental and community engagement in celebrating the district's successes in staff and student recognition. Additionally, Ms. Shipman suggested an idea regarding the concerns of a book at Cavelero. With no further 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. 312131 to 312286 - \$2,633,873.11 (E:93/24)
- 2. Personnel Report: classified employment: Anna Cherniavska, Ronda Hadso, Rachelle Summers; retirements: Ken Collins, Karen Morton, Trayce Zander (E:94/24); the Co-curricular Report (E:95/24) Approval of Superintendent Contract (96/24)
- 3. Acceptance of a donation from NLMS PTSA in the amount of \$900.60 (E:97/24)

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

Director Kirby made a motion to approve the revision of Policy #5035: Kindergarten/First Grade Early Entrance. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved by a roll call vote (E:98/24).

Director Lund motioned to approve the Final Acceptance of the public works projects. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved (E:99/24).

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

Service Calls

Service A/V receivers at Lake Stevens HS (Dimensional Communications)

Address freezer door issues at North Lake MS (Hoover Refrigeration)

Service electronic door latch at Hillcrest ES (LONG Building Technologies)

Basketball hoop repairs at Glenwood ES (NWAP)

Fire alarm repair at Cavelero MHS (Pacific Fire)

Service fire alarm at Mt Pilchuck/Transition Building (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 Operations, Robb Stanton, provided an update on the replacement bond progress. He discussed facility enhancements and the importance of maintaining safe and secure infrastructure. Director Stanton detailed a Balanced Scope approach to project costs, emphasizing the potential for an athletic upgrade at Lake Stevens Middle School. However, he noted that improvements to the Maintenance and Grounds building are not feasible at present. Director Stanton outlined project names, costs, state matching funds, eligibility for School Impact Fees, and local funding. Additionally, Executive Director Stanton presented a sample Bond Resolution and Draft Ballot Language, inviting questions from the Board members. President Taylor expressed gratitude for the efforts of the Facility Needs Committee, emphasizing the importance of considering the community impact while fulfilling the necessary needs of the projects. She said she feels good about seeing it come together. Director Iseminger remarked that the process has been thoughtful and conscientious from start to finish. He highlighted their commitment to responsible management of district funds, minimizing the tax burden on the community, and ensuring the highest quality education for Lake Stevens School District students. Director Iseminger said life is an experience that spares no expense. Thank you. Director Stanton said the top priority is what this does for the kids.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Superintendent Collins presented information on sending ten secondary certificated staff members to Phoenix, Arizona June 30th-July 2nd to participate in the Building Thinking Classrooms Conference featuring author Peter Liljedahl. This past year all of their secondary math departments continued their learning about developing student-centered classrooms by utilizing Building Thinking Classrooms (BTC) strategies. They are supporting the learning, implementation, and momentum by attending professional learning opportunities that are via our district's math leaders, core lead teacher teams in each building, and attend local training outside of our district. Superintendent Collins stated that they have been limiting out-of-state travel during the school year.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Director Hanson expressed profound gratitude for the dedication of volunteers across the district. She extended congratulations to the LSHS softball team and the Cavelero girls' wrestling team. A heartfelt thank you was given to Cavelero for their comprehensive building report and for sharing insights into the MEChA program, which



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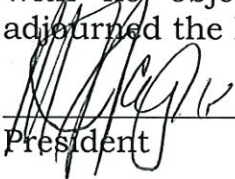
contributes to increasing graduation rates. Principal Johnson was acknowledged for her tireless efforts. The engaging lessons on the Renaissance period and Habitat Lessons were praised for their hands-on approach. Special recognition was given to Mr. Daniel Stevens for his hard work during the freeze. Director Hanson, having young children of her own expressed her appreciation for the valuable community comments. Director Hanson thanked Ms. Dosen for returning to board meetings, highlighting the need to improve community engagement and bridge existing gaps. Director Kirby expressed her gratitude to the community and the exceptional volunteers who support it. She enjoys hearing about the School Improvement Plans and looks forward to volunteering at Cavelero. She found the information about the MEChA program enriching and Ms. Leal's contributions commendable. Director Kirby is enthusiastic about the bond aimed at enhancing the school buildings. Director Kirby echoed Director Hanson's comment on how she articulated community comments. Director Kirby said they can do better and she is ready to connect. Appreciation goes out to everyone involved. Director Lund expressed sincere gratitude to all the volunteers, remarking on their wonderful contributions. He emphasized that the district's richness is greatly enhanced by the dedication of volunteers. Appreciation was extended to Cavelero and Glenwood for their thorough building reports. Director Lund acknowledged the valuable learning experience and emphasized his gratitude for the community's comments. Executive Director of Operations Robb Stanton, Assistant Superintendent Teresa Main, and Executive Director of Communications Jayme Taylor were commended for leading the district to an exciting place regarding facility needs. Director Iseminger expressed gratitude and congratulations to the Volunteers of the Year. He specifically thanked Daniel Stevens for his efforts and hard work in the Glenwood clean-up. Director Iseminger extended appreciation to everyone for their contributions to the building reports. He emphasized the importance of the bond process to continue enhancing the Lake Stevens School District. Reflecting on the recent workload, including five school board meetings and the hiring process for a new Superintendent, he highlighted the significance of this task and the board's commitment to it. He acknowledged the history of exceptional superintendents and thanked all involved. They look forward to working with Dr. Templeton. Acting SACo President Hayden LaCelle expressed appreciation for the "Cavelero You Belong" theme. He extended gratitude to Glenwood for their board report and acknowledged the significant damage caused by the burst pipes in classrooms, thanking Mr. Stevens for his vigilance and hard work in addressing the issue. LaCelle thanked all students for their presence and encouraged them to reach out to SACo with any concerns or comments. He concluded by thanking everyone for attending the board meeting and wished them a pleasant evening.

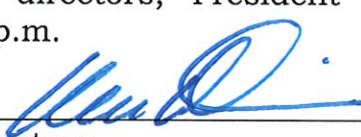
Acting SACo Vice President Aashisri Bendalem expressed gratitude to the Cavelero Principal and their team for the academic progress. She also conveyed her appreciation for the Renaissance lesson and commended the interconnectedness of kindergarten lessons with other grades. Aashisri Bendalem extended thanks to the volunteers for their invaluable contributions in supporting students. SACo Secretary MacKenzie Conniff thanked Cavelero and Glenwood for their building reports. She thanked the community for their comments and said it was very insightful. President Taylor thanked everyone for being there and for all of the wonderfulness. She highlighted the Lake Stevens Education Foundation Auction as a testament to the strength of the community. President Taylor conveyed appreciation for the extensive effort invested in the superintendent search and thanked staff members and community members for their feedback and willingness to engage. She concluded by thanking everyone for a delightful evening.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no objections from the other directors, President Taylor adjourned the Regular Session at 8:01 p.m.

  
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President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary