Inspiring Excellence

LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING
August 21, 2024

Board Members:
Mari Taylor, President
Nina Hanson
David Iseminger
Vildan Kirby
Paul Lund
Mary Templeton, Superintendent/Board Secretary

Student Advisory Council Officers:
Riley Boerger
Aashisri Bendalam
Yostina Mosa

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

Director Lund, Director Hanson and Director Kirby attended via Zoom. SACo Vice President Aashisri Bendalam was unable to attend.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Iseminger made a motion to approve the August 21, 2024 agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Hanson and unanimously approved.

Director Iseminger made a motion to approve the August 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Taylor opened the Budget Hearing at 6:34 p.m. and called for community comments. Hearing none, President Taylor closed the hearing at 6:35 p.m. President Taylor called for community comments and LSEA President Autumn Morrison extended a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in the district negotiations for the collective

bargaining agreement. The support, particularly from the Board and the District team, was greatly valued. Ms. Morrison stated their dedication to addressing the needs of the staff, students, and community has not gone unnoticed, and they truly appreciated their time and effort. Since there were 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. 313548 to 313642 - $554,725.53 (E:170/24)
2. Personnel Report: Certified employment: Quinn Allan (Poe), Laura Backus, Lindsay Field, Christina Muscat, Stuart Potter; Classified employment: Isabella Rose Aquino, Yevgeniva Arkhipchuk, Kelsi Burk, Michelle Craver, Melissa Kilgore, Ashlee Mckinlay, Cassie Plummer, Zoe Ramirez, Heather Vasquez; Resignations: Lorena Eitelberg, Anne Hamilton, Gissell Melendrez, Barbara Ollivier; Retirements: Teresa Johnson (E:171/24); the Co-curricular Report – nothing reported, Coaching Salary Schedule, Custodial Salary Schedule, Bus Drivers & Mechanics Salary Schedule, Non-Rep Salary Schedule, PSE Salary Schedule and PSE-OP Salary Schedule

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

Director Hanson motioned to approve Resolution No. 16-24: 2024-2025 Budget. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and was approved by a roll call vote (R: 16-24).

Director Iseminger motioned to approve Resolution No. 17-24: 2024-2025 Imprest Funds. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and was approved by a roll call vote (R: 17-24).

Director Iseminger motioned to adopt the 2024-2025 Fee Schedule. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and was unanimously approved (E:172/24).

Director Iseminger motioned to approve the Final Acceptance of the public works projects. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved (E:173/24).

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.

<u>Projects</u>

Exterior painting of the main gym at North Lake MS (Modern Painting)
Demolition and repair for seismic testing at North Lake MS (JC Killin General Contractor)

Service Calls
Monthly pool maintenance for July at Lake Stevens HS (Aquatic Specialty Services)

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

Director Iseminger motioned to approve the authorization to solicit bids for interactive display installation at Stevens Creek Elementary. The motion was seconded by Director Hanson and unanimously approved (E:174/24).

President Taylor expressed her gratitude towards the Budget Team for how they communicate and use resources efficiently. She stated she has never seen such a robust demonstration on a budget well done. You get to see folks who care for the school district and are dedicated and good at what they do.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

Executive Director of Student Intervention Sarah Danielson presented an overview of the Healthy Youth Survey and then introduced Steve Pitkin, the Prevention Intervention Specialist at Lake Stevens High School. President Taylor noted that the survey serves as a valuable tool for assessing students' mental and emotional well-being, enabling better support for each individual. Mr. Pitkin shared the Healthy Youth Survey findings. He noted that 217,000 students from grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 were surveyed. Substance abuse saw a significant reduction during COVID-19, maintaining stability and continuing to decrease into 2023. Depression rates are concerning, particularly among 10th graders at 30%, though this is the lowest in nearly two decades. Awareness/access to adult support for youth significantly increased (at school and in general).

Suicide prevention activities in schools are acknowledged by more students, and academic success has shown some improvement. Mr. Pitkin said students self-reported 97% honesty on the survey. Mr. Pitkin also presented data on past 30-day substance use trends from 2012-2023 for 12th graders, with overall reductions since pre-COVID. Vaping trend shows a drop from 2018 and the peak remains stable. Regarding opioid overdoses, while adult fatalities have risen, youth overdoses have declined, with Snohomish County rates dropping from nearly 30 per 100,000 in 2021 to 20 per 100,000 in 2023. Ages 35-44 have increased by a similar factor. Adult overdoes are highly impactful for increasing numbers of youth. Mr. Pitkin talked about uncontrolled worry. The survey asked students how often over the last two weeks were they bothered by not being able to control their worrying and the survey response was more than half the days or nearly every day, combined students worry. He presented graphs on depression over five years, and suicide survey results on feelings and actions in 2023. Mr. Pitkin talked about sexting survey results and how they remain high for Lake Stevens. Mr. Pitkin also shared insights using a Hope Scale, detailing results from the Survey and School Domain Risk & Protective Factors for 10th graders. He discussed Community Risk & Protective Factors for both local and statewide students.

He stated local sub-populations are at higher risk. ACE's data impacts the population at somewhat higher rates, including housing and food insecurity and violence.
Female students show greater mental health and behavioral health struggles and lower enjoyment of school (true state-wide but more so with LSSD). LGBTQ+ population also shows higher risk.

The district continues its focus on fostering a sense of belonging through initiatives like PBIS, MTSS, and *Breaking Down the Walls*. Their efforts include trauma-informed discipline and teaching practices, maintaining safe and predictable school environments, and integrating support and prevention within the classroom. They aim to enhance the integration and implementation of trauma-informed practices, boost engagement with targeted classroom strategies, and strengthen connections with families and the community - particularly those affected by trauma. Additionally, they plan to collaborate on robust and varied Social Norms Marketing Campaigns to promote healthy behaviors both in school and the broader community.

President Taylor expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to gain insights into what's happening with our students through the survey. She noted her curiosity about the differences between LSSD's results and state-wide averages. President Taylor emphasized the importance of building relationships that foster hope and highlighted the need to ensure that hope scores rise for both students and the team. She stressed the focus on making every student feel welcomed and valued, and on finding ways to support them. Believing in the power of hope, she underscored the significance of this effort and our ongoing commitment to achieving it.

SACo President Riley Boerger asked if there was a way to look at students who are not in the building. Mr. Pitkin stated that each student is a part of the survey but some opt out.

Director Iseminger expressed his appreciation to Mr. Pitkin for his work. He noted that while there are areas of the survey that will continue to improve, particularly the hope scale, the aim is to foster a better tomorrow and explore ways to convey that optimism. He highlighted that every day presents an opportunity to enhance one's life and emphasized the importance of increasing students' sense of belonging and integration within the school community. Director Iseminger encouraged a strong focus on nurturing both a sense of belonging and hope, regardless of where individuals are, and urged efforts to amplify these feelings within the school environment.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Templeton posed a key question: How can we strengthen our connections with the community and build meaningful bridges? Recently, Dr. Templeton and Mt. Pilchuck Principal Malissa Weatherbie visited Constitution Park, which provides housing for active military personnel stationed locally. With new families arriving frequently, it's crucial to deepen our community ties. Events like Heritage Night offer valuable opportunities to forge these connections, similar to the local Farmer's Market where vendors sell homemade jam and donuts.

Lake Stevens, with its 42,000 residents, is a vibrant and supportive community that inspires hope and excitement. Dr. Templeton praised the "Ready for Kindergarten" event, noting how the backpacks for the children were almost as big as they were. It's a privilege to support 500 families as their children embark on a 12-year educational journey with them.

Dr. Templeton shared a conversation with a Glenwood parent whose kindergartener was both excited and a bit nervous. Reflecting on her own six weeks in the position, Dr. Templeton admitted to feeling a similar mix of emotions. She discussed the challenges of the open-concept design at Glenwood, which, while community-focused, can make it difficult to concentrate. To address this, a Bond initiative is underway to provide the students with a new gym and gathering space.

Dr. Templeton concluded by expressing gratitude to everyone who attended the Board meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Kirby apologized for missing part of the meeting and expressed her pleasure at seeing everyone. She extended her thanks to Assistant Superintendent Teresa Main and Business Manager Allina Holmquist for their excellent work on the budget, noting how fortunate the district is to have such a dedicated team.

Director Lund shared his enthusiasm for the meeting, praising the Superintendent's Update for its impactful perspective. He highlighted the community's exceptional qualities and the joy he feels in serving there. Director Lund emphasized the importance of the healthy survey in monitoring students' well-being and finding ways to enhance mental health support. He also commended the budget, expressing satisfaction with the district's financial position, and thanked Autumn Morrison for her Community Comments.

Director Hanson extended her gratitude to Autumn Morrison, Dr. Balmer, Teresa Main, and the entire team for their collaborative efforts in the district negotiations. She expressed her appreciation for the thoroughly prepared budget and thanked Mr. Pitkin for presenting the Healthy Youth Survey, which underscores the impact of external factors on us and highlights the importance of addressing student mental health. She also acknowledged SACo and the sports programs, emphasizing the value of peer support.

Director Hanson shared her enthusiasm for participating in *Breaking Down the Walls* at Lake Stevens High School and expressed her gratitude to Dr. Templeton for her presence at the Farmer's Market and her involvement in the community. She also mentioned taking her middle child to the Ready for Kindergarten event, where she became quite emotional. Additionally, she gave a special shout-out to Executive Director of Planning and Construction Robb Stanton for discussing the Bond at the Ready for Kindergarten event.

Director Iseminger expressed his gratitude for everyone's ongoing exceptional work and the vigilance with which they approach their responsibilities. He noted the importance of the relationships being built with students and teachers and shared his happiness in being part of this collaborative effort. He thanked everyone for their dedication and for contributing to this important work.

SACo President Riley Boerger expressed her deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the board. She emphasized the importance of ensuring equity for all students and the significance of the Healthy Youth Survey. Riley highlighted SACo's commitment to setting and working diligently towards their goals and shared her excitement for her senior year.

SACo Secretary Yostina Mosa thanked everyone for their presence and extended her appreciation to Mr. Pitkin. She found it encouraging that student input is valued and utilized to enhance the schools.

President Taylor expressed her thanks to Preventive Intervention Specialist Steve Pitkin and Executive Director of Student Interventions Sarah Danielson for their work on the Healthy Youth Survey. She marvels at how effectively they listen to the students.

President Taylor also extended her appreciation to LSEA President Autumn Morrison and the dedicated LSEA group, praising them as rock stars for their exceptional work and a great example of how everyone can work together. Additionally, she shared a personal moment from dropping off her kindergartener at the Ready for Kindergarten event, where she expected it to be emotional but instead found it to be a fun experience as her grandson confidently said goodbye and left.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:40 p.m. President Taylor announced the Board would move into a 40-minute Executive Session to discuss Litigation and Bargaining. At 8:20 p.m. President Taylor reconvened the Regular Meeting. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

With no objections from the other directors, President Taylor reconvened the meeting and adjourned the Regular Session at 8:20 p.m.

President

Secretary