Inspiring Excellence

LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING
September 11, 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

Everyone was present. Director Hanson and Director Kirby attended via Zoom.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Lund made a motion to approve the September 11, 2024 agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved.

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

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The Oath of Office was administered to the new SACo members: Afebia Aemere, Abdul-Karim Marenah, Ginelle Sarpong, Laasyasri Nookala, and Isabella Dina. Superintendent Templeton invited each student to step forward and take their oath. As not all the students were present at the time, the ceremony continued after the Skyline Building Report.

Dr. Templeton expressed her appreciation for the contributions of the SACo members and emphasized her commitment to ensuring that SACo continues to provide a strong student voice in the district. She thanked and congratulated all of the members for their dedication.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Skyline Elementary Principal Tori Thomas introduced her team, which includes Dean of Students Katie Scott, MTSS Specialist Kristen Smutz, and Title I Intervention Specialists Crissi Johnson and Kaitlyn Kulseth. Principal Thomas discussed their initiative, "180 Days of New Opportunities," and shared their vision for moving forward.

She explained that they are clarifying their understanding of the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) framework and how it can be used to meet students where they are and help them advance. Their goal is to ensure equitable access to learning for every student by implementing tiered practices across the framework.

The team is focused on enhancing their collaborative efforts to improve student outcomes. They plan to delve into CKLA, iReady Math, iReady Reading, and Mystery Science. Within the MTSS framework, they aim to strengthen Tier 1 practices by emphasizing PROMPT, introducing a new Explorer Store, and giving students more ownership and choice in their learning.

MTSS Specialist Kristen Smutz talked about continuing to refine their systematic conditions for equitable outcomes and goals for all students. She also talked about Collaborative Teams using a backward design by identifying the desired results, determining the evidence proof (data-driven decision-making) and planning instruction (including differential/scaffolds).

Ms. Johnson shared information on 23-24 Reading Intervention Growth and Reading Intervention iReady Data. She explained that typical growth is based on their fall score. Typical Growth allows you to see how a student is growing compared to average student growth at the same grade and baseline placement level. While individual students aim to reach 100% of their typical growth measure by the end of the academic year, only about 50% nationally reach their typical growth goals. Stretch Growth is recommended to put students who placed on grade level on a path to advanced proficiency levels. It will take many students more than one year to achieve proficiency.

Ms. Kulseth presented information on 23-24 Math Intervention Growth and Math Intervention iReady Data. She talked about School Wide Win Time which includes a Schoolwide Calendar of Intervention Cycles and Schoolwide Focus including Reading Fluency. Ms. Kulseth also spoke about Title 1 Win Time which included Intervention Team & Grade Level Team partnerships including goals and Title 1 small groups.

Ms. Scott presented information on PBIS at Skyline. The whole school goal is building a sense of belonging, an inclusive culture and a spirt of teamwork and collaboration across the school. On Fridays at each lunch, they pull 10 Exceptional Explorer tickets. Each ticket is a chance to spin the wheel which has a variety of prizes such as slippers for a day, a mystery bag, lunch with a friend and much more! Each classroom has created norms together based off their school wide expectations of Responsible, Respectful, and Safe. She finished with exciting information on the Explorer Store where they can spend their tickets

or they can place them in the silver bin. There are a variety of prizes. Some examples are to be Principal Thomas for an hour or wheel her chair down the hallway. They had a kickoff assembly to be able to spend their tickets. Director Lund thanked them for their great presentation.

Principal Mikey Trexel of Sunnycrest Elementary shared updates on several key areas, including the school's goals - particularly around Climate & Culture - Professional Learning, PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) updates, and alignment with district objectives. She also touched on the Sunnycrest Eagle mascot and reviewed the outcomes of a recent spring staff survey.

The spring staff survey included statements such as: "I feel that my building is a positive place to work," "Staff at this school value and respect each other," "I feel a sense of belonging in my role as a member of my school staff," and "I feel comfortable talking with my administrator(s) about the celebrations and/or challenges I've experienced over the school year." Based on the feedback, the school has identified areas for improvement and is working on strategies to enhance everyone's sense of belonging, value, and respect at Sunnycrest.

Principal Trexel also reviewed Panorama Data on the Sense of Belonging, revealing that 60% of students feel valued within the school community. She shared a graph showing how these results have changed over time and noted that the addition of new clubs has positively influenced students' sense of belonging. Last year, the school introduced drama and chess clubs, and this year, Sunnycrest Librarian Jill Messer plans to survey students about their club interests and teach students how to start a club.

Additionally, in January, Sunnycrest began a partnership with Mari's Place, a creative space for children and teens offering drawing, painting, singing, and dance classes. They offer traditional dance classes for K-5 students, with new groups starting every six weeks. This initiative promotes a sense of belonging through diverse and culturally enriching activities.

Principal Trexel shared updates on Professional Learning, focusing on Student Engagement and the Danielson Framework. The goal is to foster a sense of belonging for both staff and students, emphasizing the importance of understanding and enhancing engagement. She highlighted her commitment to making intentional and purposeful connections to show how much everyone is valued.

She also addressed the critical element of knowing and valuing students. Principal Trexel posed questions about what the first six weeks of school should entail, including strategies for gathering initial information about students and how students can learn to appreciate one another. Additionally, she discussed creating a culture of dignity, with topics relating to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Sunnycrest Dean of Students Jesse Anderson shared he was a little nervous presenting. He stated he feels he can be himself being vulnerable and transparent. Mr. Anderson spoke about exciting PBIS initiatives aimed at fostering a vibrant school environment. He introduced concepts like a DJ Dance Party and the Run Club, illustrating their impact with graphs showing SWISS referral rates before and after the club's launch.

Mr. Anderson also highlighted the Screamin' Eagle Reward Menu, S.O.A.R. tickets, and the Golden Spatula. They want to hand out their S.O.A.R. tickets with more intentionality. With this in mind, they want to practice routine expectations with positive reinforcement in halls, on the playground and cafeteria. Additionally, he showcased photos of students enjoying recess, walking along the outdoor walkway, and Superintendent Templeton teaching students the importance of taking turns on the swings.

Dean of Students Anderson introduced a metaphor to staff to help them better understand the why behind PBIS and how it can help them reach their full potential as a school. He asked them to think of them as gardeners, with their students as the plants they nurture. Instead of just pulling weeds—reacting to negative behavior—PBIS encourages them to enrich the soil by creating the right conditions for every plant to thrive. The soil represents their school wide expectations, positive reinforcement, and consistent guidance. Just as plants need nutrient-rich soil to grow, their students need a predictable and supportive environment to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. This year, they're focusing on ensuring that this "soil" is consistent across every classroom, playground, and hallway. Their co-constructed norms with students will align with their schoolwide PBIS framework, allowing for consistency in every space while giving teachers the flexibility to bring their unique style to the classroom. This is the key to PBIS: creating a fertile ground for all students to grow while maintaining the consistency that allows them to understand and meet their expectations, no matter where they are in the school.

Principal Trexel discussed the multi-year goal of strengthening Tier One support, which includes initiatives like morning meetings and positive greetings at the door. She emphasized the importance of co-created classroom norms aligned with school-wide expectations and highlighted the use of small groups for targeted instruction, allowing for flexible groupings that promote collaborative learning. Additionally, she provided examples such as sentence starters, nonverbal gestures, vocabulary instructional routines, student goal-setting, progress monitoring, and the importance of citing sources in both speaking and writing.

President Taylor stated she appreciates how clear their connection is and thanked them for being so flexible. Director Lund loved the fact that they are willing to be silly and have fun.

Superintendent Templeton thanked Skyline and Sunnycrest for their Building Reports. She stated both leadership teams bring a different flavor with such a consistent message. Their focus on MTSS and PBIS, along with collaborative educator teams and data-driven decision-making, is instrumental in guiding their next steps.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Taylor called for community comments. Hearing none, President Taylor closed this portion of the meeting.

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

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

1. Warrant Nos. 313690 to 313837 - $3,054,721.89 (E:175/24) and Warrant Nos. Comp & Retail Tax 242500002 - $549.32 (E:176/24).
2. Personnel Report: Certified employment: Quinn Allan (Poe), Carla Bessonett, Dawn Bourque, Brennen Countrymen, Jacqueline Deaver, Patrick Dunican, Laura Flagg, Kelsey Fletcher, Rebecca Force, Lee Ann Kaplan, Emma King, Sierra Longsine, Konan Luce, Nichole Mackinnon, Grace McKellip, Cassie Naddell, Andreana Polichronakis, Todd Martinez-Simmons, Startlyn Nackos, Trisha Radford, Tegan Ramage, Mary (Cindy) Ruefenacht, LaDonna Ryan, Miranda Wallenberg; Classified employment: Krystle Apilado, Yevgeniya Arkhipchuk, Alma Brown, Sara Doty, Courtney Carpenter Gwin, Allyson Douglas, Rhianna Hopkins, Rebecca Killion, Rebecca Long, Gissell Melendrez, Emily Rodriguez, Nancy Sexton, Piper Smith, Leslie Staples Duong, Karen Tadio, Nicholas Weissert, Aruna Vadivel, Corey Vento, Alma Vizcarra; Volunteers: Bruce Logan, Shearer Stetson; Resignations: David Epperson, Korttany Finn, Alaina Forman, Melissa Powell, Suzette Reese, Mary Sonya Ruefenacht; Retirements: Ed Sherrow, Chris Tavares, Roberto Sanchez, Susan VanWhye (E:177/24); the Co-curricular Report (E:178/24). Approval of the August 2024 Payroll Warrants 313643 to 313689 – $11,945,207.18 (E179/24).
3. a. The approval of LSHS Varsity Volleyball team's participation in an out-of-state Tournament in the fall of 2024. The 21st Annual Southern California Invitational is October 10 & 13, 2024 in San Diego, CA. (E: 180/24)
   b. The acceptance of a donation from Glenwood PTA for $18,636.48 to purchase new playground equipment for Glenwood Elementary (E:181/24).
   c. The acceptance of a donation from the Lake Stevens Education Foundation for $3,000.00 for the Summer Art Connect Program (E:182/24).
   d. The acceptance of a donation from WMEA Music Matters for $6,000.00 to support the LSMS music programs (E183/24).

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

Director Lund motioned to approve the calendars for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years. The motion was seconded by Director Hanson and was unanimously approved (E:184/24).

Director Kirby motioned to approve the Final Acceptance of the public works projects. The motion was seconded by Director Hanson and unanimously approved (E:185/24).

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

Annual backflow preventer testing and repairs at various schools (Advance Testing)
Asphalt replacement at North Lake MS (AM/PM Asphalt)

Install new diving board at Lake Stevens HS Pool (Cornerstone General Contractors)
Install conduit for new security camera cabling at North Lake MS (Steele Electric)

Service Calls
Repair intercom node issue at Lake Stevens HS (Dimensional Communications)
Replace broken window at Sunnycrest ES (Pacific Glass and Door)
Service security audio sensor at Skyline ES (Sonitrol)

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

Each year Assistant Superintendent Teresa Main presents to the Board the comparisons of the current September student enrollment to the prior year's September enrollment. This year, Assistant Superintendent Teresa Main thanked Dr. Templeton and the School Board members, highlighting the overall positive message from Count Day. They were very conservative with projected enrollment and they staffed with the idea that they would grow, the district actually grew by 215 students more than anticipated. Assistant Superintendent Main presented a data chart showing growth in elementary schools, particularly at Hilcrest, Stevens Creek, and Sunnycrest. In the secondary schools, North Lake Middle School and Lake Stevens High School have also seen growth compared to the end of the previous year. Main expressed optimism about the growth in Lake Stevens. She noted that boundary adjustments in 2023 contributed to Sunnycrest's growth and emphasized the importance of monitoring space availability for students and staff. The growth at North Lake Middle School and Lake Stevens High School over the past five years is also promising. Main praised Lake Stevens High School for offering a wide variety of programs.

The final graph presented by Assistant Superintendent Main revealed that Kindergarten and 3rd grade enrollments are higher than projected, which bodes well for future enrollment. They are closely monitoring the increase in 3rd grade numbers.

By the 2027-28 school year, the two middle schools are expected to have over 1,600 students, so this is also on their radar. Additionally, they have projected Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) numbers conservatively to avoid overfunding. Teresa Main concluded by stating that the district is doing very well.

President Taylor inquired about the need to hire additional staff. Assistant Superintendent Main explained that staff hiring was planned with anticipated growth in mind. While class sizes might be slightly larger, they remain within acceptable limits. The kindergarten enrollment at Mt. Pilchuck is notably higher than expected, but overall, their growth planning has been effective.

Director Lund expressed his gratitude to Teresa Main and her team, praising their outstanding work and remarking on how they make challenging tasks appear effortless.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Templeton commended Assistant Superintendent Teresa Main for her outstanding work projecting proactively on Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) numbers. Superintendent Templeton stated word is out my first 90 days in this position. She noted that she will soon present a one-year entry plan to the board, which is currently being finalized. She praised LSSD as an exceptional school district, describing it as a vibrant educational place where families eagerly relocate to experience the enthusiasm and positive environment.

Dr. Templeton also reflected on LSMS and the impact of the upcoming bond. The district is actively communicating about the bond's benefits and costs, which will include purchasing an additional elementary school and remodeling LSMS. Currently, the district has 800 students in portable classrooms, highlighting the need for these improvements.

She expressed gratitude to Jayme Taylor for helping with the "Did You Know?" segment featuring Dr. Templeton. As the newest team member, she is excited about the opportunity to explore the district with fresh eyes. This week, she plans to continue filming at Glenwood and Cavelero. During a recent visit, she joined the Band Director, Mr. Koreski, in a spontaneous sing-along in the hallway, which soon got the attention of the choir teacher as well. Cavelero Mid High School stands out as an outstanding facility, especially as it supports 8th and 9th grade students through their transition. Research indicates that 9th grade is crucial, with grades from this year impacting graduation outcomes.

During her visit, she observed teachers actively engaging with students, who were interacting respectfully with one another. Cavelero is clearly excelling in its efforts.

Dr. Templeton wanted to take a moment to acknowledge and thank the LSSD leaders. They are the driving force behind the remarkable work being done. This is the team that makes magic happen.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Lund expressed his appreciation to everyone for their reports and extended a warm welcome to the new SACo members, thanking them for their volunteer service. He looks forward to getting to know them and hearing their ideas. He thanked everyone for their generous donations. He also praised Teresa Main and her team, saying, "You rock!" Additionally, he told Dr. Templeton how much he enjoyed her "Did You Know?" videos.

Director Hanson wished everyone a happy first full week of school and gave a special shout-out to the outstanding bus drivers and the Transportation Department. She also commended Jayme Taylor for her excellent communication. In recognition of 9/11, Director Hanson offered a respectful acknowledgment. She expressed enthusiasm for the new SACo members and their forthcoming ideas. Additionally, she thanked the Skyline team for their "180 Days of New Opportunities" initiative and applauded Sunnycrest for fostering a strong sense of belonging among students and staff. Finally, she expressed gratitude to Dr. Templeton for her exceptional leadership and her positive impact on the community.

Director Kirby apologized for not being able to attend the meeting in person and is looking forward to attending in person next time. She shared that she was in New York on 9/11, which makes the day particularly meaningful to her. She extended her congratulations to the new SACo members and expressed gratitude to Skyline and Sunnycrest for their informative board reports. Director Kirby also mentioned that she is looking forward to Dr. Templeton's next video. Director Kirby is excited for the volleyball team and their upcoming trip.

SACo Secretary Yostina Mosa congratulated the new SACo members and expressed gratitude to Skyline and Sunnycrest for their board reports. She also mentioned her eagerness to see Dr. Templeton's upcoming commercials.

SACo Vice President Aashisri Bendalam congratulated the new SACo members and is enthusiastic about hearing their fresh ideas. She thanked everyone for their presentations and expressed excitement about the school store. She found it particularly impressive that Sunnycrest is collaborating with Mary's Place and appreciated all the donations, which she said warm her heart. She concluded by thanking Dr. Templeton for the Superintendent's Update, noting that it adds a valuable touch.

SACo President Riley Boerger shared her excitement about being a senior and mentioned that she has been part of the Lake Stevens School District since kindergarten. She expressed her love for the district and was particularly thrilled about the upcoming Bond Voter Registration event at Lake Stevens High School next week.

President Taylor expressed gratitude for the many incredible things happening during the meeting. She acknowledged the new SACo members recognizing some of the names, noting the significant commitment involved in their roles, including the application and interview process, which demonstrates their dedication. The SACo members bring a valuable student perspective to the table.

President Taylor shared a personal note about her grandchildren: her kindergarten grandchild had a fantastic start to school, while her 2nd grade grandchild faced some initial challenges. She praised Chief Academic Officer Gina Anderson for stepping in to have a meaningful conversation with her grandchild, highlighting that every adult in the district plays a crucial role in connecting with students. She extended heartfelt thanks to Gina for her support.

She also expressed appreciation for the presentations from Skyline and Sunnycrest, commending the building leaders for their outstanding efforts and dedication, which helps keep students' needs at the forefront. Finally, President Taylor praised Jayme Taylor, Executive Director of Communications, as a "rock star" for her impactful work on the calendars, first-day videos, and the "Did You Know?" series, acknowledging the significant positive impact of her communication efforts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

With no objections from the other directors, President Taylor adjourned the Regular Session at 8:13 p.m.

President

Secretary