Inspiring Excellence

LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING
September 25, 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 and Director Hanson were unable to attend.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Kirby made a motion to approve the September 25, 2024 agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved.

Director Iseminger made a motion to approve the September 11, 2024, 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

Executive Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning Steve Burleigh introduced Dean of Students Ryan Barci to present information for Highland Elementary. Highland Elementary Principal Ryan Henderson shared his annual poem via video, as he was unable to attend the meeting. Dean of Students Ryan Barci said their theme for the year is "We Are All In". He then discussed vocabulary instructional routines. Early evidence from classroom walkthroughs and showed students assessing their understanding of three key words they would encounter in their reading.

He presented a chart for the word of the day, which included its part of speech, syllable structure, a drawing or acting-out activity, synonyms, antonyms, and a kid-friendly definition. Students were confidently using content-specific vocabulary they had learned in the unit, such as "burrowed," "hibernate," "dwell," "perspective," and "migrate." The focus is on quality over quantity - delving deeper into a few words rather than covering many. Teachers are also clarifying and pre-teaching additional vocabulary in a more streamlined manner to support students' comprehension.

Dean Barci emphasized the importance of knowing and valuing students. In the context of intellectual engagement, he explained how teachers leverage their understanding of students to affirm their identities and create meaningful learning experiences. He introduced the concept of "funds of knowledge," asking educators to consider what students bring to the classroom.

The challenge is to focus on students who may have lived very different lives from our own and to recognize their unique funds of knowledge. By doing so, teachers can better connect with all students and enhance their educational experiences.

Dean of Students Barci posed the question: what will it look and feel like to be fully committed to collaboration this year? He emphasized that teams should maintain an open mind, be punctual, create a safe space for taking risks, come prepared, stay flexible, collaborate effectively for all students, share responsibilities, and be mindful of body language and facial expressions.

Dean Barci discussed the launch of family groups, which will consist of two staff leaders and 22 students per group, meeting monthly for nine gatherings. These groups are designed to address social-emotional learning (SEL) needs. They will focus on areas highlighted in the Panorama data, such as helping students connect with peers who are different from them, encouraging students to complement each other's accomplishments, fostering a sense of positive energy within the school, and ensuring that students feel understood as individuals.

He also raised the question of why it's essential to foster a sense of belonging, sharing statistics from the Panorama survey. Some key findings included:

- Understanding as a Person: 63% of respondents felt that people at their school understood them, which is a 7% decrease from fall 2023.
- Sense of Belonging: 59% felt a sense of belonging at school, down 11% from the previous fall.
- School Energy: 67% rated the energy of the school positively, a drop of 13% from the previous fall.
- Getting Along with Diverse Peers: 78% felt they got along well with students who are different from them, an increase of 2% from fall 2023.

Overall, the school climate was rated at 61%, down 10%, and the sense of belonging also at 61%, down 8% from Fall 2023. Comparatively, national data shows that school climate ranges from 20-39%, while the sense of belonging is between 60-79%.

Dean Barci expressed gratitude to everyone for attending the meeting. He highlighted the importance of enhancing instructional leadership capacity through professional learning, staff support, increased visibility, and innovation. This progress is made possible by strong collaboration with their MTSS Specialist, Counselor, Dean of Students, Behavior Para, and proactive special education supports for diverse situations, all within a healthy district system focused on alignment across schools and a dedicated, talented staff.

He also extended an invitation to the Highland Annual Veterans Day Assembly, featuring special guest speaker Rep. Sam Low, Washington State Representative and Snohomish County Council member, as part of the Principal of a Day Program (AWSP).

Dean Barci showed pictures that staff had a good time creating which were several 1990 JC Penny awkward family photos. He stated they are all in for fun. Dean Barci asked if there were any questions.

President Taylor said thank you to Ryan for presenting and told him he did an awesome job. Director Iseminger asked Dean Barci if he knew whether the Panorama data is broken out in grade level group and cohort. Dean Barci said he believes it is. Director Iseminger said if you see patterns in a cohort that has dropped or jumped significantly you can start pinpointing perhaps a root cause. You have last year which was the first implementation of the Panorama Data. It might be interesting to take a look for patterns.

Director Kirby expressed gratitude to Dean Barci for the presentation. She noted that while the data was general, her question focused on the 59% of students who reported a sense of belonging. She asked if Highland saw an influx of culturally diverse students this year. Dean Barci replied that he questions whether students fully grasp the concept of belonging. He emphasized the need to be intentional with their language and to demonstrate that concept through their actions.

Dr. Templeton said the Hillcrest JC Penney's photo shoot was pretty darn good as well. On a serious note, she thanked him for sharing their data. This was not a School Improvement Plan but as they start to think about school improvement planning when they have data that is not the best, as their superintendent, Dr. Templeton would like to see it and wants everyone to talk about it so they can move it. She appreciated the vulnerability from Dean Barci and Principal Henderson and thanked them for sharing this information.

Cavelero Mid High School Dr. Sellers greeted President Taylor, Dr. Templeton, Members of the Board, and the Lake Stevens Community, and stated it was his honor to present the fall 2024 Board Report for Cavelero Mid High School. He wanted to start by saying that this has been a great year at Cavelero so far, and much of their success is due in no small measure to their outstanding leadership team. Dr. Sellers introduced the Admin. Team – Associate Principals Raphil Hasegawa and Janelle Parken, Associate Principal/Athletic Director Jim West, Dean of Students Kyle Strand and CTE Director Dan Tedor. Principal Sellers presented a short video of the office.

Their theme for the 24-25 school year is Better Together. They know that they are stronger when they work together and have a shared mission and vision then when they go it alone. LA Lakers Phil Jackson knew the value of working with when he wrote, the strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.

They want all of their students to have a strong sense of belonging, to know that they are a part of something bigger than themselves and they can turn to for inspiration and support. From a renewed focus on Collaborative Educator Teams to our Multi-Tiered Support Systems, they as educators are committed to working together to ensure their students are learning at high levels and showing growth in academics, social emotional learning, and positive behaviors. The new Danielson framework prioritizes the joy of learning within a supportive learning community.

Dr. Sellers discussed the Foundational Principles, Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and the importance of a Safe, Equitable, and Inclusive Climate and Culture. He emphasized their pursuit of a climate and culture characterized by optimism and positivity, where students and staff collaborate with a shared responsibility to enhance student achievement. He then outlined the strategies they are employing to reach these goals. He included Common Tier 1 Instructional Strategies, Schoolwide PBIS, Positive Social Norms Campaign, and Celebrating the 4 A's – Activities, Arts, Athletics and Academics.

Dr. Sellers presented the Renaissance Star Screening Reports for Reading and Math for eighth-grade students. Director Iseminger inquired whether these scores reflected the students' current grade level. Dr. Sellers confirmed that the tests had been administered in the last three weeks. He then went on to discuss common Tier 1 instructional strategies, emphasizing "Four at the Door Plus One," the 10/2 method, and the importance of co-created classroom norms.

The "Four at the Door" approach includes eye-to-eye contact, hand-to-hand interaction, name recognition, and heart-to-heart connections. The 10/2 strategy is a direct instruction method where teachers present information for no more than 10 minutes, followed by a 2-minute pause for students to engage in discussions with one another. This process allows students to process the material, fosters peer support, and provides opportunities for formative assessment and immediate tutoring.

Associate Principal Janelle Parken discussed the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) framework, illustrating the various tiers—Tier I, II, and III—along with the importance of professional development, teamwork, and collaboration between the school and community. She emphasized the role of parental involvement, PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports), and effective curriculum design in fostering a supportive educational environment. Additionally, Ms. Parken highlighted the significance of Inclusive Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) and the Co-Teach Model in meeting diverse student needs.

Dean of Students Kyle Strand shared insights about the school-wide PBIS initiatives, which include reset assemblies, Colt Card pop-ups, and Colt Card redemption events, all aimed at promoting positive behavior throughout the school.

Associate Principal Raphil Hasegawa talked and shared pictures about the Arts at Cavelero Mid High School. Concert Band, Wind Ensemble & Jazz Band led by Washington State Hall of Fame Band Director, Brian Koreski, Choir led by Choir Director, Kelsey Fletcher with decades of award-winning experience and Drama led by Drama Advisor, Rose Yurcina. Last year's drama performance was a massive success. There were fifty students involved and earned six thousand dollars for the program.

The emphasis on collaboration among groups like the choir and drama department highlights their commitment to unity. Band boosters are stepping up to support winter sports by providing concessions, further enhancing our community spirit. Music mornings are a fantastic way to bring people together, proving that nothing unites us quite like music.

Associate Principal/Athletic Director Jim West emphasized the theme of "Better Together," which encompasses safety, value, family, and educational athletics - distinguishing between goals and purpose. He said he is absolutely loving his first few months at Cavelero. Students thrive in a connected environment where positive relationships and experiences flourish.

At Cavelero, you can expect a safe atmosphere with positive role models who help build confidence while ensuring everyone has fun! This year, we're excited to see their athletic coaches and clubs expand from 16 to 22, reflecting their commitment to providing diverse opportunities for the students.

CTE Director Dan Tedor highlighted the outstanding Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, including the nationally recognized VEX Robotics teams competing at the World Championships. He also noted the success of students earning certifications in Microsoft Office and Adobe products. Tedor shared photos of CTE Business and Marketing students at the DECA State Leadership Conference, along with insights from industry visits that enrich their work-based learning experiences. He emphasized that students have opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

Principal Sellers reported a fantastic turnout for the Colt Stampede, with 144 families signing up for the Cavelero Parent Club. He also noted increased intellectual engagement thanks to the revised cell phone policy. Additionally, Dr. Sellers expressed gratitude to the School Board for welcoming Mr. Martin Fredrickson as the new Safety and Security Specialist. Dr. Sellers shared a tradition at Cavelero where PE students participate in the 1.4-mile Colt Run every Thursday. Some teachers have joined in as well, demonstrating the spirit of "we are better together."

Director Iseminger expressed his gratitude to Cavelero for their presentation and voiced his full support for the revised cell phone policy, mentioning that he has received nothing but positive feedback. He then asked about classroom norms, noting their importance in ensuring everyone is aligned. He inquired specifically about the expectations during passing periods. Dr. Sellers explained that students are expected to stay to the right during transitions, with posters and signs in place to remind them of the passing period norms. He added that administrators are actively ensuring students arrive to class on time.

Director Iseminger stated that it seems to him that transition time is right for kids who really don't feel that the culture is reaching them to be subject to maybe fewer kind things. He wanted to bring that out and leave it with them for thoughts.

SACo President Riley inquired about the revised phone policy, noting that some students use their phones as a coping mechanism. She asked whether there is communication with parents to explain this and if there are any variations to the policy being considered.

Dr. Sellers stated we have that in their health plan for medical purposes. What you are talking about could be included in that. This is a work in progress. We will always work with parents and we know that one size does not fit all.

President Taylor thanked and welcomed Associate Principal Janelle Parken and Associate Principal/Athletic Jim West to the Cavelero Mid High School. Thank you for all of the great work you are doing.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Taylor called for community comments. Hearing none, 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. 313867 to 314066 - $1,861,205.20 (E:186/24)
2. Personnel Report: Certified employment: Sydney Haynes; Classified: Manaswini Adaboina, Maryis Albedyll, Rachel Bayne, Leniebelle Gallardo, Megan Haselton, Jessica Lipscomb, Linette Lowery, Alison Miklos, Rachel Minyard, Patrick Ogden, Kian Olson, Pritima Thakur, Crystal Young (E187/24); Co-curricular Report Including PSE-Lake Stevens Salary Schedule (E:188/24
3. Approval to Surplus Asset/Equipment items (E:189/24)

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

Director Kirby motioned to approve the Final Acceptance of the public works projects. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved (E:190/24).

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

Fiber backbone upgrades at Lake Stevens and North Lake MS (Structured Communications)

Service Calls

Monthly service at Lake Stevens HS pool (Aquatic Specialty Services)
Service freezer door issues at North Lake MS (Hoover Refrigeration)
Repair bleacher seating at Cavelero MHS (NWAP)

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

Executive Director of Communications Jayme Taylor presented information on the June 2024 Family Thoughtexchange Results. She stated good evening, President Taylor, Dr. Templeton, members of the Board and SACo. Tonight, she said she had the opportunity to speak with them about their annual family survey results.

They once again used the Thoughtexchange platform to engage families about what they're doing well, and where they can improve. The surveys launched in June. Participants received the surveys via email. Reminders were also included in social media, on the district website and in their electronic newsletters.

Executive Director Taylor highlighted the broad themes and takeaways. They invited families to participate in the survey. 1,640 people responded, which is nearly 14% of their families. They saw a tremendous increase in responses versus last year, which was exciting.

They asked families a variety of questions. They were asked to complete a separate survey for each school their children attend. This helped streamline the feedback so that district and school leaders could more easily identify which school was being addressed in the feedback.

Respondents were asked to assign a letter grade to their child's school. Most schools received a grade of A or B, indicating a high level of satisfaction. She then presented the breakdown of A/B grades, by grade level. The middle school data and elementary school data were averaged. The principals received this information in June and have had the opportunity to review their results and use the data for their school improvement plans and preparation for this school year. Overall average of 76.92% across all schools (District A/B grade was 67% in 2023).

Next, they asked families to provide insights into the support their child receives at school and the learning environment as a whole. This included:

1. What positive things are the staff at (school name) doing to make your student feel supported in their learning?
2. What more can staff at (school name) do to build a supportive and nurturing learning environment?
3. What changes would you like to see at (school name) and how would these changes positively impact your student?

Overall themes included positive feedback and areas of potential improvement in: discipline and safety, consistency with teaching and grading policies, communication, school environment and policy changes. Executive Director Taylor presented some positive feedback that was received from families.

Next, they asked families to provide insights into the school meal program charging guidelines. The first question was does your child participate in the school meal program

and do they have unpaid meal charge balances with weekly notifications from the Nutrition Office? 860 people answered the first question, 19% said yes and 81% said no.

The second question was which statement best describes your preference for the School Meal Charge Policy. Option #1 was I prefer the ability to restrict my child from receiving school meals. I understand this means my child will not receive a meal of their choice and may go hungry. Option #2 was I appreciate the flexibility of knowing my child will always receive a meal, and I accept the responsibility to pay the balance when possible. 93% (149) parents chose Option #2 and 7% (12) chose Option #1. This information is helpful to Food and Nutrition Services Manager Mollie Langum and her Nutrition Services Team as they continue to review and refine their meal charging guidelines.

They asked families how they want to receive communication from their child's school and the school district. They selected answers from a list. Out of 856 responses the top three responses were email 90%, text messages 77% and information brought home with their child 31%. Director Iseminger asked how that has evolved over the last two years. Executive Director Jayme Taylor said email is always the at the top and texting is continuing to climb. This information is especially helpful to her and her department as they continually work to streamline communication for frequency and effectiveness.

They also gave respondents the opportunity to provide additional thoughts and feedback. They will share these results with employees and families next week and will also publish the findings on the website. Reporting back is essential for transparency and to show that they value and act on the feedback they receive.

President Taylor thanked Jayme Taylor for her presentation and said there is lot more to dig into when we start looking at the whole picture so she appreciated this glimpse. She really liked the feedback statement that the participant said that the district does a great job of caring for the students.

Executive Director of Planning and Construction Robb Stanton presented information on Capital projects update and capital fund balances. He presented information on Security Improvements. Fire alarm systems have been replaced at the Educational Service Center and are in the process of being replaced at Highland with planned system replacements at Transportation. The communication systems have been replaced at Stevens Creek and the Early Learning Center and planned communications systems replacements will be at Hillcrest, Highland, Mt. Pilchuck, Sunnycrest, Lake Stevens Middle School, North Lake Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School. The intercom system has been replaced at North Lake Middle School. Planned communication system replacements are at the Educational Service Center and other school as needed. Executive Director Stanton said Security Cameras have been added at Lake Stevens Middle School and North Lake Middle School. Security communications systems have been replaced at Stevens Creek, Early

Learning Center and Maintenance. Planned intrusion detection replacements are at Cavelero MHS, LSMS, NLMS, Glenwood, Hillcrest, Highland, Mt. Pilchuck, Skyline and Sunnycrest.

Robb Stanton, Executive Director of Planning and Construction, discussed the 2024 Bond Projects. The preliminary designs for permitting include Elementary Eight and modernization efforts at Skyline and Lake Stevens Middle School. Additionally, design investigations are underway for an Innovative Learning Center, Central Kitchen, improvements to Special Education spaces, secure portables and receptions, as well as field lighting.

Executive Director Stanton provided an overview of the Capital Fund, outlining the sources of funds and current balances. He explained school impact fees, which are designated for projects that address growth-related impacts and are part of the Capital Facilities Plan. He also discussed the State Match, which provides reimbursements for eligible projects identified in the 2016 bond resolution.

In addition, Executive Director Stanton presented details on the Bond Resolution and the associated projects. These include the construction of a new elementary school and early learning center, the replacement and expansion of select buildings at Lake Stevens High School, and various district-wide improvements related to health, safety, security, education, and infrastructure. He concluded with an overview of the funding sources for these projects.

President Taylor stated all of the components – the intentionally leveraged grants, donations, impact fees. This is why we are where we are. She appreciates getting the information every step of the way in this really great work.

Director Iseminger agreed with President Taylor, emphasizing that it's not just about finding resources, but also about obtaining them. He then inquired about the fiber infrastructure upgrade. Executive Director Stanton explained that it was intended for both middle schools. He noted that Executive Director Weatherbie, Ed Smith, Selena Robinson, and the Tech. Department identified the requirements, coordinated with contractors to perform the work, and ensured everything was in order for acceptance. Director Iseminger expressed his gratitude to everyone involved.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Templeton wanted to make sure the board was aware yes, indeed there is a bond on November 5. October 18 is when ballots will be dropping. They are out and about presenting information about the bond to many, many groups. Today they were at LSMS, Skyline and Highland. Tomorrow they have three events. They have been to Chamber, Lions and Rotary. At the Lions she was called on to sing My Country Tis of Thee in prompt to which she was able to pull off. Thank you to the team. Dr. Templeton said Jayme Taylor, Robb Stanton and I are out there doing the presentations. The staff and community are very receptive. People are listening and asking great questions.

With pride she is able to say yes, we are good with money. Something that is evident from her lens coming from a different district. This district is excellent with money and very efficient. That is what makes a difference.

She was at the boy's tennis match yesterday, the sun was shining and one of the SACo members, George was playing a singles match. Nice to see students enjoying the day, enjoying the competition and shaking hands with their competitors. It is heartwarming to see youth doing positive, productive things.

Stay tuned in two weeks she will be presenting the 90-day entry plan at a work session at 4:30 p.m. on October 9, 2024.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Kirby said it is good to be back and good to see everyone. Thank you Highland and Cavelero for all of your hard work. Thank you, Jayme Taylor and Robb Stanton, for everything. Thank you to everyone for staying this late.

Director Iseminger said thank you to Highland and Cavelero for their presentations. Right out of the gate after the beginning of the year sometimes can be difficult. He appreciated the data and to hear how things are going from the kickoff. He thanked Executive Director Taylor and Executive Director Stanton for the Thoughexchange results and the Capital Projects update.

Director Iseminger was glad to hear how thorough and well the Bond presentations are going. He stated he hears his anecdotal feedback and it is positive from the folks from whom he talked to. That is a reflection on what they have done in the past. How they operate on a daily, monthly, yearly basis, people see what happens when they put their money in our hands and we put it to good use. He said he was very happy to have a good, positive beginning to the year.

SACo President Riley Boerger said thank you for being there tonight. She was so excited to see a ton of SACo students in the crowd. This past week they passed out voter registration cards. Anyone that turns 18 she gives them a card. She gave it to a friend for a birthday gift. He did not find it funny. Little over 52 new voters at their event and they are very excited to do it again next year. That is one of the ways SACo is getting student voice into these bigger conversations.

They were asked to speak at a WWU class for future superintendents on their connection with the Board and the community. Riley said thanks to all of you for your support. They are going to rock it and they are so excited.

They talk about the Foundation For Excellence and how they talk about equality and belonging. That is what they all want, is belonging. Every single presentation tonight talked about sense of belonging. She is really excited to get the school year started.

SACo Vice President Aashisri Bendalam wanted to thank Highland and Cavelero for their presentations. Seeing mistakes and learning from them shows us that nobody is perfect. She said thank you to Jayme Taylor and said it is interesting to see the Thoughtexchange results and how they can take the data and do something about it.

Aashi thanked Robb Stanton for the Capital Project update. It was an amazing presentation. She was so happy to know they are financial stable and successful. This is an amazing district. Thank you everyone.

SACo Secretary Yostina Mosa thanked everyone for their presentations and thanked Ms. Taylor, for the feedback from the parents. They focus a lot on student and staff and voice. This is the first time she had heard specifically about the parents having feedback. Yostina is really glad they have a feedback form for the parents. She was glad to know they can be aware of where they are so they can be successful. She also thanked Mr. Stanton for his presentation.

President Taylor said they almost had as many SACo members as administrators there tonight. President Taylor thanked everyone for the amazing presentations tonight and for the incredible work they do every day. She appreciates everyone and is grateful to see everybody tonight. She said I hope you have pie when you get home tonight.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

With no objections from the other directors, President Taylor adjourned the Regular Session at 8:35 p.m.

President

Secretary