Inspiring Excellence

LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING
October 23, 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 Mt. Pilchuck Elementary. A Zoom option was available for this meeting that President Taylor called to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Everyone was present.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Iseminger made a motion to approve the October 23, 2024 agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

Director Kirby made a motion to approve the October 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBER

President Taylor thanked everyone for the invitation to be there. The school board holds meetings at different schools throughout the year because it's a great opportunity to engage with students, staff, and community members. President Taylor stated as your elected school board officials, they often use these visits to introduce themselves while out in the community.

Director Paul Lund introduced himself and mentioned that he has been on the Board for 14 years. He truly enjoys visiting the schools to see the families and children in action. After a 33-year career as an engineer at Boeing, he retired and, along with his wife Holly, moved to Lake Stevens in 1987. They have three children who graduated from the Lake Stevens

School District and are now 32, 34, and 36, each pursuing their own paths. Director Lund expressed that it was an absolute delight to be there.

Director Iseminger expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to be there. He has two children who graduated from the Lake Stevens School District and two currently attending Cavelero Mid High School. In his professional life, he has a long-standing career in software. He enjoys visiting the schools, as it provides a great chance to engage more directly and observe the happenings in the district. Having served on the board for 18 years, Director Iseminger once again thanked everyone for their warm welcome.

Director Hanson introduced herself, noting that she has served on the board for three years. Her family moved to Lake Stevens from Mill Creek in 2020. She has three children and stays quite busy at home caring for them. In her professional life, she works as an educator.

Director Kirby shared that she has been on the Board for three years and loves visiting the schools. She began substituting for the district when her kids started kindergarten and enjoys seeing students of all ages. With two fifteen-year-olds, she and her family chose to live in Lake Stevens specifically for the school district, narrowing down their options town by town until they found the right fit. They are grateful to be part of this community and love the district. Director Kirby spends most of her time volunteering and is excited to start substituting again soon.

President Taylor shared that she has been on the Board for 25 years. Her children graduated from the Lake Stevens School District, and she now has grandchildren attending the same schools. She works for the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families. President Taylor enjoys the opportunity to visit the schools, noting that it's a different and more comfortable experience when they're on site. She expressed her excitement to be there and introduced the Student Advisory Council.

SACo President Riley Boerger introduced herself, mentioning that she is a senior at Lake Stevens High School and a full-time Running Start student at Everett Community College. She enjoys participating in theater at the high school and is part of a local theater group. Riley has been with SACo for just under two years.

SACo Vice President Aashisri Bendalam, who goes by Aashi, introduced herself and shared that she is a junior at Lake Stevens High School and a full-time Running Start student, currently in her first year of the program. She plays tennis and enjoys being involved with SACo.

Yoshina Mosta introduced herself and said she is a junior at Lake Stevens High School and a full-time Running Start student. She also has a job at the district as a student technician.

Dr. Mary Templeton introduced herself, expressing how delightful it is to be in a school. She emphasized that this is where everything happens - the hub of activity, innovation, and

hope for the future. She thanked all the teachers and leaders in the room. Having been on the job for just under four months, she is quickly learning what a wonderful community and school district this is. Dr. Templeton affirmed their commitment to continuing the legacy of excellence into the future.

They are deeply committed to seeing each child, listening to the voices of students and parents, and supporting the staff to ensure they can do their best work. This community relies on them, and they have seen a strong return on the investment made by the community. With a new bond measure on the horizon, they are asking for the community's support once again. She expressed her gratitude for being selected and thanked the Board and everyone involved.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Mt. Pilchuck Elementary Principal Malissa Weatherbie welcomed everyone to Mt. Pilchuck Elementary. She asked what are they chasing? They are chasing academic achievement through collaboration, small group instruction, sense of belonging and social-emotional learning through morning meetings.

Second grade Literacy teacher Brenda Rossnagle spoke about collaboration within grade level and with reading specialist Eileen Gordon determining groupings and skills to target through assessments and monitor progress and adjust groupings based on data.

Second grade math teacher Savannah Johnson collaborated with their MTSS Specialist Julie Hendricks utilizing math games while providing direct intervention with others. They meet with groups based on need (some 2x per week and some 1x per week).

Fifth grader Riley McNamee was unable to attend, so Principal Weatherbie shared her accomplishments. She discussed Riley's involvement in the LAP/Title program, which includes word work, reading, and engaging games. Additionally, she highlighted Riley's progress in writing, iReady, and SBA assessments.

Principal Weatherbie also mentioned the Math Club, which has been instrumental in helping Riley work harder and develop effective strategies for problem-solving and organization. Notably, Riley was recognized as the most improved reader at Mt. Pilchuck, has had a 200% growth in reading and math in 3rd and 4th grades and no longer requires group support.

Fourth grade teacher Julia Altenhofen presented information on goals by connection and development of social-emotional skills. Their goal is to promote emotional awareness, support needs for academic Engagement, establish connection with community and practice collaboration and teamwork.

Fifth grader Grayson Covington shared about his experiences in fourth grade, where they focused on greetings, sharing, and engaging activities to get to know one another. In fifth grade, the emphasis has shifted to learning fun facts, participating in polls, solving daily riddles, watching videos, discussing topics, and exploring ways to become better individuals.

Principal Weatherbie said thank you to her staff and students who were there today. They were there to give you everyone flavor at what they are chasing at Mt. Pilchuck this year and how they are doing that. She asked if there were any questions.

Dr. Templeton expressed gratitude to everyone for the presentation, emphasizing the importance of public education and the urgency of ensuring that every child has the tools they need for the future. She highlighted the need for students to think critically, grasp mathematics, and be literate. However, she also stressed the significance of character - being a good human being, showing kindness, understanding service, and appreciating differences. She noted that as a district, they are committed to pursuing both academic rigor and meaningful connections among individuals.

Director Lund expressed gratitude to Riley and Grayson, commending them for their bravery and saying they did a great job.

President Taylor shared that her work focuses on transitions, and she deeply appreciates the thoughtfulness shown toward critical needs, smooth transitions, and warm handoffs. She noted that the welcoming atmosphere makes everyone feel glad to be there. This warmth is a testament to the dedication of everyone in the school community and has a profound impact on the children at Mt. Pilchuck.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Taylor opened the floor for community comments. Brian Kesler, a 48-year resident of Lake Stevens and parent of three Lake Stevens High School graduates, came to express his support for the bond issue. He commended everyone involved for effectively spreading the word, noting that it's hard to find anyone in town who isn't aware of the bond.

He believes the bond is essential because it enhances student safety by creating more secure spaces. This need is particularly meaningful today, given the tragic anniversary of a school shooting. He stressed the importance of all the proposed safety measures and acknowledged that he doesn't have all the answers. He encouraged SACo students and others to engage with caring adults about their feelings of safety in school. Brian urged everyone to keep the conversation going and reiterated his strong support for the bond.

Kymm Shipman shared that she hasn't been present much this year, as she has been focused on her role with the city council. Both of her sons went through the Lake Stevens School District, with her oldest now married and her youngest currently at Central Washington State University. She has served as the liaison since June.

Kymm suggested that families could benefit from enhanced communication through social media. She noted that Dr. Templeton has taken the lead, and she has been truly impressed by the impactful and positive videos shared online. She expressed her appreciation for the efforts to bring the community back together and move forward. Kymm highlighted her favorite part of being a parent: the amazing things happening in the schools.

She also thanked the Board for selecting Dr. Templeton, sharing that after reading the finalists, she was hopeful for Mary's appointment. Kymm concluded by acknowledging the positive impact she has already seen.

Hearing no other community comments, President Taylor closed this portion of the meeting.

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

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

1. Warrant Nos. 314268 to 314459 - $1,079,117.26 (E:202/24).
   Warrant Nos. 242500005 to 242500006 - $4,981.61 Unclaimed Property (E:203/24).
2. Personnel Report: Certified Employment: Kathryn McDonald; Classified Employment: Callie Maughan, Samantha Minor, Marie Samy and Danica Valadez; Resignations: Amie Johnson, Lily Kotovic and Kyntasha Pearson (E204/24); Co-curricular Report (E:205/24).
3. Approval of a donation from the Stevens Creek PTA to Stevens Creek Elementary School for $1,035.68. This donation will be used to support CKLA enrichment in the 1st grade classrooms, tier system to support students grades 3-5 in the area of math, and sensory tools for SLC programs (E:206/24).
   Approval of a donation from the Stevens Creek PTA to Stevens Creek Elementary School for $6,046.77. This donation will be used to support student recognition and House time assemblies, a Spring Play, a mobile Science Center Planetarium assembly for 3rd grade and Vexgo bundles for Robotics Club (E:207/24).
   Approval of a donation from Iseminger Trust for $1,000.00 to LSHS. These funds are to help the LSHS Volleyball program pay for travel, tournaments, equipment and other team expenses (E:208/24).

The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

Director Iseminger motioned to approve the Lake Stevens Rotary Membership Fee for the Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved. (209/24).

Director Kirby motioned to approve the Final Acceptance of the public works projects. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved (E:210/24).

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
Repair leaky fire sprinkler at Lake Stevens HS (American Sprinkler)
Service dishwasher at the Early Learning Center (Hobart)

Service audio intrusion 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

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Templeton shared that being the superintendent has felt like her birthday every day for nearly four months, as she discovers new gifts each day. She expressed excitement about all the achievements and programs in place, thanking everyone for laying the foundation for excellence that she is committed to continuing with an outstanding team.

She emphasized the importance of understanding what makes them excellent in order to maintain that legacy and innovate for the future. With 10,000 children currently in their care, she highlighted the responsibility to prepare them to be successful citizens. This theme often comes up during bond presentations - considering where these children will go next. She reminded everyone that the children they educate today will become their neighbors, voters, taxpayers, business leaders, and teachers.

She also took a moment to acknowledge her teammates in this journey. She praised Jayme Taylor, the Executive Director of Communications, for her quick thinking, creativity, and constant drive to improve communication.

Dr. Templeton then recognized Robb Stanton, the Executive Director of Planning and Construction, whose extensive knowledge has been invaluable in articulating the strong return on the community's investment and the potential of future bonds. She expressed her delight in working with him.

Dr. Templeton introduced her final teammate for this project, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations Teresa Main. She emphasized the importance of understanding how taxpayer dollars are utilized when presenting a financial package to the community. It's crucial to grasp how those dollars flow in, what they represent, and the impact they have on taxpayers, especially when they receive their mortgage statements and see their assessed values. Teresa has been on the front lines of this process, bringing a deep understanding of the value of each dollar.

She highlighted that every dollar must be used efficiently and effectively; if they can't deliver a strong return on that investment, it's a failure on their part. Dr. Templeton expressed her appreciation for the exceptional team she has inherited.

Dr. Templeton shared that they were approached by the WAMOA Construction and Building Association, which asked if they would connect with local legislators regarding the bond and the successes they've had in the past, particularly at Lake Stevens High School, as well as their aspirations for Lake Stevens Middle School. They discussed the bond and

its implications, emphasizing the need for support and state funding to match their efforts on this significant project.

Dr. Templeton expressed that they cannot move forward without this support and urged the legislators to believe in them as educators. She highlighted the helpfulness, curiosity, and strong support from Representative Carolyn Eslick and Senator Keith Wagoner during those discussions.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Lund shared that when he introduced himself, he mentioned how much he loves visiting the schools. He expressed his admiration for the library and the inspiring messages on the walls, as well as the joy of seeing parents engaging with their kids. He appreciates the collaborative work being done, emphasizing the idea that "it's not just your kids; it's our kids." He believes that if everyone embraced this mindset, we would see success across the board. He concluded by thanking the students who participated and expressing gratitude for the community comments.

Director Iseminger expressed his excitement about being there, emphasizing how valuable it is to be in the schools. He appreciates the two-way connection that allows them to witness the daily experiences of 2nd and 4th graders, from their early morning routines to engaging with pretend money in the classroom. He noted how essential this experience is for shaping the kind of individuals they are nurturing in Lake Stevens. He believes it's a wonderful place to live and learn and has a deep love for the community.

By being invited into the schools, the Board can better understand what's happening and reflect on what it's like to be a second or fourth grader again. He thanked everyone for having them there and reiterated their commitment to maintaining strong relationships within the community and ensuring excellent schools for students, teachers, and facilities alike.

Director Hanson expressed her gratitude to Principal Weatherbie and her team, noting how her nine- and five-year-old kids often talk about how wonderful their teachers are. She thanked Grayson for sharing and acknowledged Riley's presentation, expressing her regret that Riley couldn't attend due to illness.

She also appreciated Brian Kessler for his community comments. She thanked everyone for their care and expressed sympathy for those who have had close experiences with such issues. She mentioned that the bond is a frequent topic in her family, with her two oldest children questioning why people wouldn't support it. She also acknowledged the challenges families are facing, including her own family's situation with the Boeing strike. She thanked the community for being supportive of the students and their future, and expressed her appreciation for Dr. Templeton's presence and efforts.

Director Kirby expressed her gratitude to Principal Weatherbie for hosting the meeting. She thanked Grayson and Riley for their contributions and extended her appreciation to all the teachers who presented, noting how their enthusiasm touched her heart. With a soft spot for educators, she emphasized that, regardless of their circumstances, they all genuinely

care for their students. She also gave a special thanks to the Mt. Pilchuck teachers for their incredible presentation and the amazing work they do every day.

Director Kirby acknowledged the community comments, sharing her personal experience and stating that the topic is deeply meaningful to her, and she remains hopeful that the community can work together to make schools safer. Lastly, she thanked Dr. Templeton for her dedicated efforts every day.

SACo Vice President Aashi Bendalem expressed her gratitude to everyone for a fantastic evening. She noted how wonderful it was to see teachers collaborating in small groups, recalling that her own experience learning English was greatly enriched by similar interactions. Aashi also extended her thanks for the donations and acknowledged Dr. Templeton for her insightful update.

SACo Secretary Yostina Mosa thanked everyone for being there. She talked about the importance she felt the engagement students receive in the morning meetings create a human moment beyond just the school, teacher, student home routine that everyone is used to and can instill and practice skills vital to future discourse. She thanked Dr. Templeton for everything she is doing for the district.

SACo President Riley Boerger thanked everyone for their presence that evening. She noted that the bond is a topic of great discussion and emphasized the district's commitment to achieving excellence. She praised the morning meetings for fostering meaningful debates and conversations, and she appreciated that teachers take the time to ask how students are doing.

Riley highlighted the importance of safety in schools, sharing that even as a non-full-time student attending theater events, she must check in. She expressed her love for visiting schools and reminisced about speaking to the board in kindergarten, a moment her mother still cherishes on video. She believes it's inspiring to see students speaking up and urged everyone to vote for the bond, emphasizing its significance for the future of all students.

President Taylor expressed her gratitude to everyone for attending and thanked Mt. Pilchuck for their warm welcome. She also appreciated Brian Kessler and Kymm Shipman for their valuable community comments. To wrap up, President Taylor suggested that everyone go home and enjoy some pie.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
ADJOURNMENT

With no objections from the other directors, President Taylor adjourned the Regular Session at 7:44 p.m.

President

Secretary