Inspiring Excellence

LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING
January 29, 2025

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 an Executive Session to discuss Real Estate and Litigation at Skyline Elementary from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

The Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors met in a Regular Session at Skyline Elementary. A Zoom option was available for this meeting that President Taylor called to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mari Taylor, David Iseminger, Vildan Kirby, Nina Hanson, Paul Lund, Dr. Mary Templeton and SACo members Aashisri Bendalam and Yostina Mosa. Riley Boerger was unable to attend.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Director Lund introduced himself, noting that he has served on the board for 15 years and has three children who graduated from Lake Stevens High School, ages 32, 34, and 36. He shared that he moved his family to Lake Stevens in 1986 and retired as a processing engineer from Boeing five years ago. As he and his wife navigate retirement, he expressed his enjoyment of visiting school buildings to stay connected and see the great things happening.

Director Hanson introduced herself, mentioning that this is her fourth year on the board. She shared her joy in being a mom of three children, including a 10-year-old who attends Skyline, and expressed her enjoyment of substituting for the district.

Director Kirby introduced herself, sharing that this is her fourth year on the board. She has twin boys at Lake Stevens High School, who started Kindergarten at Skyline. She also mentioned that she subbed for 8 years and expressed how great it is to be there, both as a parent and in her role on the board. She loves doing this work and being part of Lake Stevens.

Director Iseminger introduced himself, noting that he has been on the board for 17 years. He expressed his gratitude for the invitation and shared that he has two older children who graduated from the Lake Stevens School District, as well as 9th-grade twins at Cavelero. He mentioned that their decision to move to Lake Stevens was based specifically on the quality of the school district. He expressed his gratitude to everyone for attending.

SACo Vice President Aashi Bendalam introduced herself, expressing her happiness to be there advocating for student voice. She shared that she has been a part of SACo for two years.

SACo Secretary Yostina Mosa introduced herself, mentioning that she is in her second year and enjoys helping others. She expressed her commitment to dedicating her time to supporting student voice.

Superintendent Mary Templeton introduced herself and shared that she has the best job on the planet. She has been the Superintendent of Lake Stevens School District for 7 months. She stated Lake Stevens is an excellent district with a strong reputation. She emphasized how unique the district is, highlighting the energetic, loving, and dedicated staff who are deeply committed to the success of the 10,000 students in the LSSD. She also mentioned that this is School Board Appreciation Month and shared how lucky and excited she feels about the future and the Foundation for Excellence that was already established when she arrived and is continuing firmly.

President Taylor introduced herself, sharing that she has been on the board for 24 years. She mentioned moving to Lake Stevens because of the school district and highlighted that her children graduated from LSSD, with her grandchildren now attending as well. She noted that each board member lives in the community and represents a different area. She also added that Skyline is a wonderful place to be.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Lund made a motion to approve the January 29, 2025 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved. Director Kirby made a motion to approve the January 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Hanson and unanimously approved. Director Lund abstained due to being unable to attend the January 15, 2025 school board meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton recognized School Board Recognition Month in Washington, beginning with an acknowledgment of the Student Advisory Council (SACo). She emphasized that Lake Stevens values innovation and prioritizes student voice, actively seeking student input on what works for them and how the system can be adjusted to foster high engagement, creativity, and future success. She then invited each SACo member to stand and introduce themselves, recognizing their role in shaping the district's future.

Superintendent Templeton asked what does it mean to be a school board member in the state of Washington? It means serving as a dedicated volunteer, without a salary or large commission, simply out of commitment to the community. These individuals have chosen to lead and advocate for the success of students, families, and staff.

Every two weeks, board members review an extensive amount of information, including Board Reports, financial statements, expenditures, personnel decisions, and the implementation of strategic initiatives. They are responsible for hiring the Superintendent, approving the budget, setting policies, and shaping the district's vision through plans like the Strategic Plan.

As engaged community members, they listen, analyze, and make critical decisions that impact everyone in our schools. Their service is significant, challenging, and often goes unrecognized. So today, let's take a moment to express our gratitude. Thank you for your dedication. Please join me in giving a well-deserved round of applause for our school board!

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Principal Tori Thomas spoke about the Great Chase to reach the goal of having 75% of students at grade level or higher on the reading iReady diagnostic assessment. The focus will be on building their strength within the MTSS Framework. MTSS Specialist Kristen Smootz reported significant improvements in student achievement. Math scores for grades K-5 have increased from 25% to 50%, while reading scores have risen from 42% to 53% at mid-year. Students are on track to reach their 75% goal. Ms. Smootz presented the Skyline Spotlight on MTSS in Action, covering Tier 1 Instruction, Equity, Collaboration, and Data. Reading Specialist Kaitlin Kulseth discussed Data-Driven Instruction using Universal and Outcome Assessments for all students, with additional assessments and progress monitoring for some. These assessments provide a comprehensive view of student needs and the effectiveness of instruction. Reading Specialist Crissi Johnson highlighted iReady tools, such as the Phonics & Word Reading Survey, Phonological Awareness Screening Test, and Teach & Learn Progress Monitoring. She emphasized Literacy Across the Tiers, where Tier One focuses on differentiated, standards-based instruction in academics, behavior, and social-emotional skills for all students. CKLA Tier 1 Instruction includes activities that promote student engagement and ownership of learning, with a focus on Oral Reading Fluency, an essential skill for improving reading abilities. Tier 2 students receive supplemental interventions based on data, addressing the needs of up to 15% of students. Tier 3 students receive more intensive, individualized interventions, supporting up to 5% of students. Principal Thomas then took everyone to Mrs. Garito's classroom to highlight the incredible learning happening at Skyline.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Taylor opened the floor for community comments. Skyline teacher Bill Kusler expressed his gratitude to the School Board for their dedication to the district. He shared that, in addition to teaching music and PE this year, he has had the opportunity to work with small groups of second graders. He emphasized that the connections formed in these small groups play a significant role in the students' success. Lastly, Mr. Kusler wanted to share a kindergarten picture of SACo President Riley presenting her writing project. With no further 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. Approval of the January 31, 2025 Warrant Nos. 315534 to 315685 - $790,106.25 manual warrants drawn on the General, Capital Projects & ASB Fund(s) (E:13/25).
2. Personnel Report: Classified Employment: Amanda Aylesworth PSE CMHS General Support Para, Marieliz Deleon-Martinex PSE SUN 1:1, Amie Johnson PSE-OP CMHS, Melissa Root PSE HLC 1:1 Temporary Para, Brynn Talley PSE SKY 1:1 Elementary Support Para, Susie Werner PSE SUN, 1:1 Elementary Support Para, Brianna Werner PSE NLMS Food Service Cashier/Server; Resignations: Ashli Cunningham Non-Rep NLMS 1/24/25, Rebecca Loran PSE HLC 1/7/25, Jill Wright PSE GLW 1/25/25; Retirements: Robin Burns Cert. NLMS 6/16/25, Emily Davis, Cert. LSHS 1/31/25, Mark Hein Cert. LSHS 12/31/24, Brian Koreski Cert. CMHS 6/16/25, Donald William Kusler Cert. SKY 6/16/25, Sara Mack Bldg. Admin. NLMS 10/16/24, Rebecca Willis-Smith Cert. SpEd 1/31/25 (E:14/25) Approval of the Co-curricular including Auxiliary, Student and Casual Labor Worker, Noncontract Athletic Supervision Salary Schedule Middle, Mid-High and High School Report (E:15/25)
3. Acceptance of a donation from Glenwood PTA to Glenwood Elementary in the amount of $281.81. This will be used to purchase a communication board for their playground that will be utilized by students who have lower verbal skills or who are Multi-language users (E:16/25). Acceptance of the donation from Purple & Gold donation to LSHS Key club in the amount of $2,600.00 to assist with DCON Conference expenses (E:17/25).

The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved.

Director Iseminger motioned to approve the Final Acceptance of the public works projects. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved (E:18/25).

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

Replace cabling on web climber at Glenwood ES (AllPlay Systems)
Install vehicle lift at Transportation (Equipment Sales)

Service Calls

2023-2024 Annual Service Agreement (Johnson Controls)
Address door power issues at Lake Stevens HS (LONG Building Technologies)
Repair bad exit device on door at Skyline ES (LONG Building Technologies)
Repair leak in walk-in refrigerator at Lake Stevens HS (Hoover Refrigeration)

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

INFORMATION

The Student Advisory Committee (SACo) shared details about the Student Choice Awards, aiming to amplify student voices in recognizing outstanding staff members. Their goal is to create a platform where students can offer feedback and highlight exceptional staff, with a focus on the Foundation for Excellence to align with the strategic plan. They hope to involve both primary and secondary students in the nomination process, ensuring that staff recognition reflects the student perspective, particularly through the lens of the first principle of the Foundation for Excellence-Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent Templeton presented a video highlighting the *I Love Lake Stevens* campaign and expressed her gratitude to Executive Director of Communications Jayme Taylor for creating it. LSSD Culinary students created special *I Love Lake Stevens* cookies for the occasion.

Dr. Templeton gave a special shout-out to Grocery Outlet for being the first business to request a campaign sign, followed by the Rotary Club. She emphasized the strength of the Lake Stevens Community, stating that unity and a shared commitment to a healthy community make it a great place to live. Moving forward, the district will hold this annual campaign every February to celebrate togetherness.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Lund thanked Skyline for inviting the board to the school. He also praised SACo, expressing his admiration for their presentation on the Staff Appreciation Award recognized by students.

Director Hanson thanked Skyline for hosting the board meeting. She shared a proud moment about her kindergarten son, who recently began reading words to her - an exciting milestone. She expressed gratitude for the school tour and classroom presentations. Director Hanson also praised SACo, calling their demonstration powerful and sharing how proud she is of their efforts. Lastly, she thanked the board for their dedication and deep commitment to the community.

Director Kirby thanked families for sharing their children with the school board during their presentation. She praised SACo, calling their idea an A+ from top to bottom, and commended them for making meaningful connections. She encouraged everyone to vote and turn in their ballots by February 11 emphasizing the importance of visiting the schools to see their current condition.

Director Iseminger expressed his gratitude to Skyline, describing the experience as both enjoyable and rewarding. He also shared his appreciation for the thoughtful gifts from the schools, which he truly values. He highlighted the significant amount of reading, research, and effort involved in serving on the School Board, emphasizing the importance of carefully considering long-term impacts on all students.

SACo Vice President Aashi Bendalam thanked Skyline and highlighted the impressive improvement in student scores. She expressed her appreciation for the MTSS presentation and shared that she feels safe, happy, and a true sense of belonging in the district.

SACo Secretary Yostina Mosa expressed her gratitude to everyone in attendance. She shared her appreciation for the Skyline presentation and especially enjoyed visiting the classroom.

President Taylor thanked Skyline and the families for sharing their precious little ones. She also praised SACo for their outstanding work. She encouraged everyone to vote and ended with a hopeful wish for snow. Wishing everyone a wonderful evening!

ADJOURNMENT

With no objections from the other directors, President Taylor adjourned the Regular Session at 8:04 p.m.

President

Secretary