



Board of Directors

Erin Markquart, President
Kevin Lewis, Vice President
Bill Gaines, Member
Johanneke Smith, Member

Our Promise

We will **know**, **value**, and **support** every student, helping them **graduate ready** to pursue a **promising future**.

January 8, 2025 - Study Session Minutes

Central Office Board Room
1202 Wood Ave
Sumner, WA 98390

Call to Order 6:00 p.m.

School board President Erin Markquart called the January 8, 2025 board study session for the Board of Directors at Sumner-Bonney Lake School District No. 320 to order at 6:00pm.

Sumner-Bonney Lake School District Strategic Plan

Assistant Superintendent, Kelly Denn, Executive Director of Elementary, Beth Dykman, Executive Director of Secondary, Steve Sjolund, Director of Elementary, Darla Offner, and Director of Secondary, Kassie Meath will present the district's elementary and secondary English Language Arts Curriculum.

The English Arts program is parallel to what was shown at last month's Mathematics program because the approach to the core curriculum is the same. Goal 1: Success in the Early Years, which encompasses projections of 80% of third graders meeting or exceeding grade level standards in language arts by 2026 and goal 3: Academically Prepared Critical Thinkers, which includes 80% of 5th and 8th grade students meeting or exceeding grade level standards in language arts by 2026. The language arts budget allocation for elementary is \$182, 612, which includes intervention curriculum and a budget allocation for secondary is \$216, 677.

The takeaway from tonight's presentation is that the goal for all early learners is to build a strong foundation for more challenging learning in language arts that will result in students who are critical thinkers. The presentation clarified what basic learning looks like at the tier 1 level for all students across the district. Also, an understanding of SBA benchmarks as they relate to the strategic plan. The presentation showed that in comparison to statewide metrics for English Language Arts, the district is currently at 68.3 in Pierce County and 18% above the state level. Over the next two years the district's goal to reach the 80% in Language Arts for 3 grade students the benchmark will be 10.5%, for 5 grade 13.2% and for 8th grade 17.6%.

In order to provide a strong foundation at the tier 1 level the district has established the directive to know areas where students may be struggling, know priority standards related to assessment on SBA and monitor student progress towards SBA skills in preparation for the assessment. The marble jar illustration aided the board in understanding the scoring system on SBA tests with large marbles identifying difficult questions, medium marbles for moderate questions and smaller marbles for easy questions. Because the test is adaptive, student performance will predict future questions a student will receive.



The district's language arts program uses evidence-based practices to reach academic goals that include student, teacher, academically challenging content and parent involvement. The content currently in place for elementary students is Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) and for secondary students the content includes: HMH collections, AP and IB curriculum. All frameworks are driven by ELA standards to ensure that students are being provided challenging content. The vision of secondary ELA is to prioritize relevant content, critical thinking, and flexibility to meet the needs of all learners and ensure a successful future in an ever-changing and inclusive world.

Parent involvement is critical to the success of the students. Students who receive a 4 on the 7th grade ELA SBA are automatically enrolled in honors ELA or Pre-AP in the 9th grade. The district is in its first year of using Read 180 for all secondary students to address struggling students' needs. As new standards are introduced from OSPI the district remains consistent in the IAB requirements.

Bond Sale Planning

Mark Prussing, financial advisor for the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District was available to answer questions from the board regarding the bond sale. Now that the bond initiative has passed Mark Prussing and Bryan Verley, the district Chief Financial Officer will work together to ensure the bond authorization process runs smoothly. He shared interest rate trends, which are low, and market volatility information. Board members are encouraged to bring any questions to Dr. Dent, Bryan or Mark Prussing.

At the February board meeting the district attorney will have a resolution for the board to take action; this is the contract with investors obligating the district.

Board Discussion

Director Kevin Lewis shared an interest in receiving a project schedule from Marina and Matt, which is being developed and should be ready by March for the Bond Oversight Committee. He also shared an interest in learning more about opportunities for high school students who aren't a good fit for programs like IP, AP or running start. Finally, he shared an interest in gaining a better understanding of committees available to board members who want involvement in district activities.

Director Erin Markquart confirmed that board members attending events should notify either Laurie or Charmaine for tracking purposes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm

Laurie Dent, Secretary

Attest

Erin Markquart, President
Board of Directors Board of Directors