Inspiring Excellence

LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING
February 12, 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 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. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mari Taylor, David Iseminger, Nina Hanson, Paul Lund, Dr. Mary Templeton and SACo members Riley Boerger, Aashisri Bendalam and Yostina Mosa. Director Kirby attended via Zoom.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Lake Stevens Middle School Principal Jamie Sinning introduced the Lake Stevens Middle School Students of the Month for January: Aditisri Bendalam, Mielynn Estrada, Parker Bock and Bailey Byrd.

North Lake Middle School Principal Brad Ables and Associate Principal Kelly Goodsmansen introduced the North Lake Middle School Students of the Month for January: Manasvi Akella, Oakley Boren, Rai Anaya Fatima and Jayce Hardy. Jayce Hardy was unable to attend.

Cavelero Principal Dr. Sellers and Associate Principal Raphil Hasegawa introduced the Cavelero Mid High School Students of the Month for January: Isabella Baker, Maison Steidle, Abigail Lewis and Aiden Obina. Maison Steidle was unable to attend.

Lake Stevens High School Principal Leslie Ivelia and Associate Principal Dan Alderson introduced the Lake Stevens High School Students of the Month for January: Derek Oden, Runga Kangeta, Joshua Boren, Filly Ceesay, Kellie Tiglhman and Jayci Scrivens. Joshua Boren was unable to attend.

Director of Equity and Inclusion Monica Meadows introduced the APPLE Award Recipients for the month of January: Alyssa Miller, James Monroe, Josh Stringer, Kristen Machen and Natalie Foster.

A break was taken approximately from 7:37 p.m. to 7:47 p.m. President Taylor welcomed everyone back.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Iseminger made a motion to approve the February 12, 2025 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved. Director Lund made a motion to approve the January 29, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Highland Principal Ryan Henderson emphasized the school's commitment to continuous growth for every student by ensuring a rich and consistent Tier 1 learning experience each day. The Highland team is "all in," embracing new approaches and collaboration to enhance student learning.

Principal Henderson shared encouraging progress in iReady Reading, with 130 students reaching grade-level proficiency and 31 students advancing beyond the two-plus levels behind category. Students are actively tracking their growth and taking ownership, while teachers celebrate successes, provide guidance, and intervene as needed. His challenge was met when the school achieved its goal, with 80% of Hornets reaching their halfway mark for annual typical growth.

He highlighted the student experience, which includes the rich implementation of Tier 1 approaches, an intentional focus on vocabulary as evidenced in daily instruction, and the What I Need (WIN) Time for targeted support. For staff, professional growth is centered on data release cycles for planning intervention and instruction, Love & Logic training for all staff, consistency of response, maintaining dignity for all, a "how" for PBIS interactions and ongoing math learning.

He then highlighted the school's efforts to amplify student voice and strengthen their sense of belonging by measuring how valued, respected, and connected Highland students feel. A recent student survey showed overwhelmingly positive results, with 95% of students agreeing that "people are kind to me," 90% feeling that "I can share my ideas with others at school," 98% stating that "there are adults at Highland who care about me," and 93% indicating that "when I come to school, there are people I look forward to talking to and playing with." He concluded by providing an update on Family Groups, emphasizing the school's ongoing commitment to building a supportive and inclusive community.

Building Coordinator Vicki Francois provided an overview of the Foundation for Excellence, emphasizing that engaging and effective instruction is at the core of their work. Their approach is student-centered, addressing individual academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs within a multi-tiered system of supports. By integrating innovative practices and technology from pre-K through graduation, they work to identify and eliminate systemic barriers to ensure equitable outcomes for all students.

For Fall 2024, HomeLink is focusing on:

- Pre-assessment for grades 3-9
- Collaborative Educator Team efforts to strengthen writing instruction
- Engaging families in understanding grade-level standards

For Winter 2025, they are working toward:

- Mid-year assessments
- Co-created writing rubrics developed with students and families, using CKLA as a guide
- Measurable outcomes:
  - ✓ 75% of students (grades 3-9) writing at or near grade level, as indicated by co-created rubrics
  - ✓ 90% of Secondary Distance Learning students (grades 9-12) earning credit in their courses
  - ✓ 50% reduction in intervention plans (compared to 2023-24)

Ms. Francois outlined their Monthly Inquiry Cycle to support student success:

- Week 1: Identify students needing support (S/U), hold intervention meetings, and set student growth goals
- Week 2: Provide targeted intervention support or adjust instructional strategies
- Week 3: Monitor progress, communicate with caregivers and students, and conduct mid-month grade checks
- Week 4: Offer SEL support, continued interventions, and one-on-one assistance as needed

Ms. Francois compared Intervention Plan Needs for 2023-24 vs. 2024-25, highlighting progress and areas for continued improvement. Looking ahead, HomeLink will partner closely with families to support writing development and monitor "Plans for Success" to identify trends (e.g., specific grade levels requiring additional support). Their ongoing focus remains ensuring student growth and achievement by refining instructional strategies and strengthening family engagement.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Taylor opened the floor for community comments. City Council Member Kymm Shipman shared that she has called Lake Stevens home for 25 years, and both of her sons graduated from Lake Stevens High School. She expressed appreciation for the district's leadership, noting she had never seen such a strong effort to engage with the community and make everyone feel valued and included. Shipman also commended the tremendous work put into the bond effort and extended her congratulations to all involved. With no additional comments, President Taylor closed this portion of the meeting.

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

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

1. Approval of the February 14, 2025 warrant Nos. 315744 to 315870 - $737,267.05 manual warrants drawn on the General, Capital Projects & ASB Fund(s) (E:19/25) Comp & Retail Tax warrant Nos. 242500014 to 242500015 - $1,304.71 manual warrants listed below drawn on the General & ASB Fund(s) (E:20/25).
2. Personnel Report: Classified Employment: Kathleen White – Teamsters/Custodial Pilchuck (E:21/25) Approval of the Co-curricular Report (E:22/25) Approval of the January 2025 Payroll. Warrants Nos. 315686 to 315741 – $13,069,213.99 (E:23/25)
3. Acceptance of a donation from Purple & Gold Club of Lake Stevens High School track & Field to LHS ASB Track & Field account. (E:24/25) Acceptance of a donation form Purple & Gold Club of Lake Stevens High School/Boys Basketball to LSHS ASB/Boys Basketball account (E:25/25).

The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

Director Lund motioned to approve the LSHS Choirs to travel to Nashville, TN to perform on April 2-4, 2025. The motion was seconded by Director Hanson and unanimously approved (E:26/25).

Director Hanson motioned to approve the Final Acceptance of the public works projects. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved (E:27/25).

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

Service Calls

Monthly pool service at Lake Stevens HS (Aquatic Specialty Services)
Service the variable frequency drive on the pool at Lake Stevens HS (Aquatic Specialty Services)
Six-month UV filter service on the pool at Lake Stevens HS (Aquatic Specialty Services)
Repair leaks in roof at Glenwood ES (James King Roofing)
Install new modem card in security system at Stevens Creek and the Early Learning Center (LONG Building Technologies)
Service door wiring issue at the Early learning Center (LONG Building Technologies)
Address security disabling issue at Lake Stevens HS (LONG Building Technologies)

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

Director Lund motioned to approve authorization to issue request for proposals for fire alarm updates at Highland Elementary and the Pupil Transportation Cooperative. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved. (E:28/25).

INFORMATION

The SACo Student Advisory Committee shared an update on their accomplishments and future plans. They reflected on their past goals and highlighted key initiatives from 2024, including publishing newsletters, hosting a successful Heritage Night, and preparing for their newest project, the Student Choice Awards. This initiative aims to give students a voice in recognizing outstanding staff members.

In the fall, SACo made a strong start by hosting booths at Cavelero's Stampede Night and LSHS's Viking Launch, engaging with over 250 families and students. They also facilitated a voter registration booth at LSHS, successfully registering 52 new voters. Additionally, they shared insights from Vice President Aashisri Bendalam and Secretary Yostina Mosa's participation in the WSSDA Conference.

SACo continues to refine their monthly newsletters, focusing on enhancing their structure and impact. They are also co-hosting the third annual Heritage Night, dedicated to strengthening community connections and celebrating cultural diversity. Last year's event drew over 400 attendees who enjoyed performances, cultural exhibits, and shared a meal together. SACo has also launched an Instagram account.

Looking ahead, SACo plans to host an expanded Student Summit Dinner and recruit applicants for the 2025-2027 SACo positions.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent Templeton highlighted the importance of student leadership, emphasizing that it serves as an inspiration for the 10,000 children in our district. She acknowledged the exemplary efforts of everyone involved and expressed her gratitude, stating, "As I have gotten to know all of you, it is clear that you are the heart and soul of our district."

Superintendent Templeton expressed her deep appreciation for the overwhelming support from the community, including educators, families, students, the Board, City Council, Mayor, Rotary, and countless others, all of whom came together with a resounding message: "I Love Lake Stevens Schools." She emphasized that this unified support is significant, it matters, and together, we have built and will continue to uphold a Foundation of Excellence for many years to come.

A special acknowledgment was given to those who contributed to the bond campaign's success. Dr. Templeton thanked Executive Director of Planning and Construction, Robb Stanton, for his dedication, time, and leadership. She recognized Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, Teresa Main, for her exceptional work in financial planning and ensuring clarity and transparency. She also commended Executive Director of Communications, Jayme Taylor, for her talent in delivering a strong, clear message about the district's successes and ensuring the community understands what we do, why we do it, and why it matters. Superintendent Templeton concluded by expressing her appreciation, saying, "Thank you. Excellent work."

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Kirby expressed her deep gratitude to the community for their trust and support in passing the bond. She shared her excitement for the positive impact this will have on all students. Addressing the Student Advisory Committee, she conveyed that they have her heart and that she feels honored to serve alongside them on the board. She thanked Dr. Templeton for giving a fantastic testimony on the Special Education funding bill.

Director Lund congratulated and thanked the Students of the Month and their families, noting how much he enjoys hearing each student's unique story. He described the Lake Stevens School District as a "shining star in the nation" and shared his excitement about providing improved spaces and safer environments for both students and staff. He concluded by stating, "We grow amazing students here."

Director Iseminger congratulated the Students of the Month, expressing his pleasure in hearing their thoughts and experiences. He also extended congratulations to the APPLE Award recipients and thanked those who gave presentations. Director Iseminger expressed appreciation to the community, noting that the district's slogan, "Inspiring Excellence," is even more meaningful when exceptional individuals lead and persevere through challenging efforts, such as the recent campaign. He acknowledged the hard work of those dedicated to this worthy mission. Director Iseminger also praised the SACo members, describing them as a joy to work with, and expressed his pride and gratification in seeing their accomplishments.

Director Hanson congratulated the Students of the Month and the APPLE Award recipients. She thanked Principal Henderson and Building Coordinator Vicky Francois for their informative presentations. She also recognized Black History Month, emphasizing that the district continues to celebrate Heritage Month because it reflects who we are as a community. Director Hanson shared her appreciation for the opportunity to substitute in other districts but expressed her joy in returning to the Lake Stevens School District. She concluded with enthusiasm, celebrating the success of the bond measure.

SACo Secretary Yostina Mosa expressed her gratitude for the passing of the bond. She thanked Principal Henderson for sharing his sense of belonging data and highlighting the steps he took to foster improvement. Yostina also thanked Ms. Francois, acknowledging her appreciation for the intentional efforts put into the Monthly Inquiry Cycle.

SACo Vice President Aashi Bendalam thanked everyone for their attendance. She congratulated her sister on receiving the Student of the Month award and shared her excitement about the passing of the bond. Aashi also expressed her appreciation to Dr. Templeton for providing the Superintendent update.

SACo President Riley Boerger expressed her excitement and gratitude for the successful passage of the bond, sharing that she was thrilled to vote for the first time this year. She reflected on her 18 years in the Lake Stevens community, emphasizing how she always felt safe and how the Lake Stevens schools helped shape her into the leader she is today. She highlighted that the bond will positively impact everyone's lives and help shape the future, calling it a wonderful opportunity for students.

President Taylor reflected on the evening as a true celebration, describing it as a lovely night. She expressed her gratitude to everyone for their hard work and dedication to the bond effort. She fondly recalled the fun and excitement of the sign-waving events. President Taylor specifically thanked Dr. Templeton, Robb Stanton, Teresa Main, and Jayme Taylor, acknowledging the immense effort across the district. She emphasized the need for care and respect for legal boundaries in their roles, commending the team for providing information while also working tirelessly outside of their duties to engage the community. She concluded by thanking Kymm Shipman for her thoughtful comments and expressed her deep gratitude to all.

ADJOURNMENT

President Taylor stated the Board would go into an Executive Session to discuss Real Estate at 9:12 for twenty minutes. With no objections from the other directors, President Taylor adjourned the Regular Session at 9:32 p.m. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

President

Secretary