Inspiring Excellence
LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING
April 16, 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, Paul Lund, Vildan Kirby, Nina Hanson, David Iseminger, Dr. Mary Templeton and SACo members Aashisri Bendalam and Yostina Mosa. Nina Hanson attended via Zoom and SACo President Riley Boerger was unable to attend.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Lund made a motion to approve the April 16, 2025 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved. Director Kirby made a motion to approve the March 26, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved. Director Iseminger abstained due to being unable to attend the March 26 meeting.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/ STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Lake Stevens Middle School Principal Lisa Sanchez and Associate Principal Jamie Sinning introduced the Lake Stevens Middle School Students of the Month for March: Quinn Dickson, Ajitesh Singh, Christian Resendez and Parker Rova. North Lake Middle School Principal Brad Ables and Associate Principal Kelly Goodmansen introduced the North Lake Middle School Students of the Month for March: Lacey Haugen, Malia Weldeab, Anna Cornelius and Vincent Westerman. Cavelero Principal Dr. Sellers and Associate Principal Raphil Hasegawa introduced the Cavelero Mid High School Students of the Month for March: Dorian O'Hara, Morgan VanBuskirk, Emily Heikes and Tadayuki Juker. Lake Stevens High School Principal Leslie Ivelia and Associate Principal Jason Pearson introduced the Lake Stevens High School Students of the Month for March: Logan Papka, Elia Melendrez Valdez, Cora Quintel, Britney Zaragoza, Sasha Atwood and Katelyn Stubrud. Logan Papka was unable to attend. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Balmer introduced the APPLE Award Recipients for the month of March: Andrea Ancich, Bill Kusler, Eric Solbakken, Lisa Sanchez and Vimala Rajagopalan. SACo Vice President Aashi Bendalam introduced and congratulated the Student Choice Award Recipients Debra Ames, Stacey Kukkonen, Cindy Strong, Karen Tadio and Jackie Williams.

A break was taken approximately from 7:38 p.m. to 7:48 p.m. President Taylor welcomed everyone back.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Cavelero Principal Jimmy Sellers, along with Associate Principals Janelle Parken, Raphil Hasegawa, James West, and Dean of Students Kyle Strand, shared highlights from Cavelero. Dr. Sellers first gave a SIP update. He spoke about their ninth grade on track goal of 90% of 9th grade students will pass all their classes and 80% of the Cavelero community will grade CMHS as higher than a B on the end of year Thought Exchange survey question "What grade would you give the overall quality of CMHS?"

Dean of Students Kyle Strand shared an update on the Cavelero Positive Social Norms Committee. He explained that the committee is developing monthly themes to highlight and reinforce positive behavior. Their work includes creating engaging content such as social media posts, posters, banners, newsletters, and website updates. They are also collaborating with students, staff, and families to gather fresh ideas, all in support of building a connected, respectful, and thriving school community.

Principal Sellers shared that the theme of their Spring Board Report is *Community Partnerships at Cavelero*, which aligns with the LSSD Foundations of Excellence - specifically, Foundational Principle 5: Collaborative Family and Community Engagement, and supports the District Goal of Innovative and Integrated Approaches to Learning.

Principal Sellers introduced Mental Health Specialist Emily Moen and Ronda Hasko, who shared highlights of the Strengthening Families Program. This seven-week series is designed to build resilience and strengthen parent-child relationships through shared activities, effective communication tools, and supportive strategies. Families come together over meals, participate in meaningful conversations focused on growth, and complete the program with a renewed sense of connection and unity.

Associate Principal Raphil Hasegawa spotlighted the *Students of Color Career Conference* at EvCC, where students connect with professionals of color, explore academic pathways, and reflect on their own career goals in an inspiring, supportive environment.

Associate Principal Janel Parken highlighted student-led initiatives like the *Food Bank Club* and *Bridging Generations Through Tech*, where students help local seniors navigate technology. Since March, the program has gained momentum at the senior center, with flexible scheduling and strong community participation.

Principal Sellers praised the *NJHS Beautification Project*, where students, guided by Kortanny Finn and CMHS Parent Club President Katie Rugg, transformed the school grounds into a calm and colorful space for all to enjoy.

Principal Sellers highlighted CMHS's music program, with jazz and wind ensembles performing at community events like the Dickens Fair and regional festivals. The Marching Band represented the school in heritage parades, while holiday performances at Safeway built goodwill and raised funds. Choir and band partnered with local businesses like Mod Pizza, Coconut Kenny's, and Kona Ice to support fundraising efforts.

Principal Sellers shared updates on Career and STEM engagement. Robotics fosters problem-solving, creativity, and real-world connections through competitions and industry exposure. He also highlighted strong participation in CTE programs, including FCCLA, FBLA, and VEX Robotics.

Principal Sellers highlighted Washington's highly regarded Legislative Page Program. Each year, students statewide are sponsored by legislators to serve for one week during the session, gaining hands-on experience with the legislative process. Pages assist with daily tasks at the Capitol, participate in Page School, and learn how state government works - an engaging opportunity in civic education. LSHS student, Lucia Mourer shared, "I learned so much about how bills are made and how many people are involved. I met amazing people, made new friends, and had a great conversation with my representative about how anyone - not just political experts—can serve. I highly recommend the page program to anyone curious about how Washington is governed."

Principal Sellers concluded by emphasizing that learning extends beyond the classroom.

Principal Leslie Ivelia shared highlights from Lake Stevens High School, including:

- The National Honor Society inducting 100 new members
- 68 students attending Everett Community College's Student of Color Career Conference
- The LSHS Jazz Band earning 1st place at the Commencement Bay Jazz Festival
- Junior Laura Eichert named Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year

Photos captured these proud moments and celebrations.

Principal Ivelia stated they are chasing a diploma for each and every student that will prepare them for postsecondary success and learning is at the center of everything they do. She shared information on the LSHS 10th Grade ELA Goal and information on the LSHS Multilingual Learners (ML) Goal. Students in the ML program will improve their scores to make expected progress on the Spring 2025 WIDA assessment from 19.2% to 25%. In the 10th grade ML clusters in Modern World History 94% of students receiving ML services passed history first semester and 70% of ML students scoring below Level 4 on WIDA have improved their history writing this year.

Kelly Guilfoil introduced a Process Grid, a GLAD strategy that helps students categorize historical learning into six themes (PERSIA: Politics, Economics, Religion, Society, Intellect, Art). In shared classes, they reinforce this with student-created hand gestures using Total Physical Response.

To support their CET goal of improving student writing aligned with History Standard 2, teachers posted sentence frames and integrated them into writing rubrics.

They use GLAD strategies like Observation Charts to help students analyze visuals (maps, pictures, graphs) by rotating in groups and recording observations, predictions, and questions.

Graphic Organizer Input Charts introduce key vocabulary with visuals, built together in class using student-placed cards.

In small groups, students analyze primary sources with teacher support and then teach peers how each connects to the historical period and PERSIA categories.

In one unit, students researched, scripted, and filmed a news broadcast on a historical event - building skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and collaboration, with 100% completion and high engagement.

At the start of most units, students receive key vocabulary lists. They predict meanings, learn definitions, and use visuals or cues to support understanding. Quizlet flashcards and games help reinforce learning. Students then sort words into categories and collaboratively write stories using the vocabulary.

They also use Building Thinking Classrooms (BTC), an approach from math that boosts engagement and critical thinking through group problem - solving on whiteboards. While traditionally done with vertical boards and random groups, they've adapted it to fit their classroom setup.

History teacher Alex Iverson shared that history simulations - using scripted re-enactments, team-based decision - making, visual lectures, and guided notes - help spark student interest and foster a sense of ownership in the content.

Principal Ivelia shared that while several things went well in Modern World History during the 2024–2025 school year, they are making adjustments for 2025–2026. The team will shift to a consult model to broaden their reach, build long-term impact, foster greater ownership, and expand instructional strategies.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Taylor opened the floor for community comments. Nikki Roberts, a parent of a Lake Stevens High School junior, thanked the Board for approving the trip to Texas for the World VEX Robotics Competition. She emphasized the importance of coordinating travel plans to ensure students have enough rest and preparation time for the event. With no further comments, President Taylor closed this portion of the meeting.

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

Director Iseminger made a motion to approve the "Consent Agenda" items:
Approval of the April, 2025 Warrant Nos. 316492 to 316602 - $2,982,121.87 manual warrants drawn on the General, Capital Projects & ASB & Transportation Vehicle Fund(s) (E:61/25) and Warrant Nos. 242500018 to 242500019 - $1,198.87 Comp. & Retail drawn on the General & ASB Fund(s). (E:62/25). Personnel Report: Classified Employment: Marcian Bachand, Faith Benson, Sarah Close, Katrin Grams-Rau, Melissa Hughes, Anna Randall and Robin Sundvor; Resignations: Janice Baird; Retirements: Pat Benjamin, Kathleen Eacrett, Steve Eacrett and Monica Grimm (E:63/25); Approval of the Co-curricular Report (E:64/25). Approval of the March 2025 Payroll Warrant Nos. 316432 to 316489 - $13,058,257.37 drawn on the General Fund(s) (E:65/25). Approval of the acceptance of a donation from Sunnycrest PTA to Stevens Creek Elementary in the amount of $60,000.00 (E:66/25). Approval of the acceptance of an equipment donation (Majestic Vibraphone) from North Lake Middle School Band Boosters in the amount of $3,659.36 (E:67/25). Approval of the qualified CTE students to attend the National FCCLA Conference in Orlando, FL from July 4-10, 2025 (E:68/25). Approval of the qualified CTE Vex Robotics teams to attend the 2025 VEX Robotics Worlds Championships in Dallas, TX May 6-8, 2025 (E:69/25). Approval of the qualified students attending MOS/Adobe National Championships in Dallas, TX June 16-18, 2025 (E:70/25) Approval of the qualified CTE students to attend the HOSA International Leadership Conference in Nashville, TN from June 18-21, 2025 (E:71/25).
The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved.

Director Kirby motioned to approve the Final Acceptance of the Public Works Project. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved (E:72/25).

The Facilities and School Planning and Construction Departments have reviewed the work of the contractors listed below on the following public work projects for adherence to contract documents, specifications and public work requirements.

Projects

Repair cracked drain in pool at Lake Stevens HS (Aquatic Specialty Services)

Service Calls

Check on garbage disposal at North Lake MS (3Wire)
Service heating system at lake Stevens HS (Harris)
Service boilers at Highland, Hillcrest Elementaries and North Lake Middle Schools (Harris)
Service powered door at Hillcrest ES (Quality Electric)
Replace HVAC starter disconnect at Lake Stevens HS (Quality Electric)
Reconfigure generator circuit and lighting at Sunnycrest ES (Quality Electric)
Replace receptacles in data closet at Transitions Building (Quality Electric)

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

Director Iseminger motioned to approve the authorization to award contract for the Secure Portables project to LONG Building Technologies in the amount of $740,085.00. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved (E:73/25).

INFORMATION

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations Teresa Main presented a Preliminary Review of the General Fund Budget for 2025-2026. She began by sharing a Levy/Bond Information Calendar of Collections, followed by a graph comparing Levy and Local Effort Assistance (LEA) across school years.

Ms. Main then presented the projected ending fund balance for the 2024–25 school year, providing detailed information on revenue, expenditures, the surplus or deficit (expenditures over/under revenue), and both beginning and ending fund balances.

Assistant Superintendent Main went on to discuss key budget factors for 2025–26, including total enrollment and how it drives staffing allocations through the Prototypical Funding Model. She also addressed Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOCs), and outlined the potential positive, negative, and undetermined impacts of these factors on the upcoming budget.

s. Main reviewed inflationary rates as of March 2025 and provided an overview of the 2025–26 Prototypical Funding Model, noting which portions are supported by state versus local funding.

Assistant Superintendent Main then presented the 2025–26 Preliminary General Fund Budget. She shared a series of pie charts illustrating revenue by source, expenditures by program, and expenditures by activity and object. She concluded her presentation by inviting questions from the board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent Mary Templeton shared that the last three hours have served as an update. She emphasized that "we're all in this together" and expressed that it is a pleasure to lead. She also announced that Unified Track will begin on May 1.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Hanson congratulated the Students of the Month and the APPLE Award recipients, praising their fantastic work. She shared how proud she is to be part of LSSD. Ms. Hanson also commended the excellent presentations from Cavelero and Lake Stevens High School, noting that they continually raise the bar. She also thanked Nikki Roberts for her community comments.

Director Kirby congratulated the Students of the Month, APPLE Award recipients, and Student Choice Award honorees. She shared that it's always wonderful to hear about the great things happening across the district. She also expressed gratitude to everyone for their generous donations.

Director Iseminger congratulated the Students of the Month and the APPLE Award recipients. He shared that the Student Choice Awards were a great success and expressed his appreciation for the informative presentations and generous donations. He was glad to see all the exciting travel opportunities for the successful students and thanked staff for the detailed financial information and number crunching.

Director Lund echoed Director Iseminger's comments, adding that it's always a pleasure to hear from such amazing students. He said ell done to the SACo students, noting that there's something truly special about being recognized by students. He thanked everyone for their positive energy and praised the fantastic building reports.

SACo Vice President Aashi Bendalam congratulated the Student Choice Award recipients and shared her hope that this recognition becomes a lasting tradition. She gave a special shoutout to Dr. Meadows for her continued support of SACo. She also thanked Cavelero Principal Sellers and his team, as well as Lake Stevens High School Principal Ivelia and her team, for their excellent presentations. Aashi especially enjoyed learning about the outdoor classroom experience.

SACo Secretary Yostina Mosa echoed Aashi's comments, adding that she thought it was awesome to see Cavelero students volunteering at the food bank. She also shared a lighthearted note, saying she was a bit disappointed that LSHS History teacher Mr. Iverson didn't wear his crown tonight.

President Taylor expressed sincere gratitude to everyone and reminded the community that the Lake Stevens Education Spring Auction is coming up on the 26th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She shared how lovely it was to be present and highlighted a meaningful quote from Student of the Month Christian: *"Celebrating the differences that make our community so vibrant."*

ADJOURNMENT

With no objections from the other directors, President Taylor adjourned the Regular Session at 9:37 p.m.

President

Secretary