Inspiring Excellence

LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING
May 14, 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 Riley Boerger, Aashisri Bendalam and Yostina Mosa.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Lund made a motion to approve the May 14, 2025 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved. Director Iseminger made a motion to approve the April 30, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved.

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 April: Cora Mongillo, Mikaela Posey, Rowen Piercy and Valerie Sunkel. North Lake Middle School Principal Brad Ables and Associate Principal Kelly Goodmansen introduced the North Lake Middle School Students of the Month for April: Kristopher Darling, Michaela Winsor, Addyson McMonagle and Addisen Murphy. Cavelero Principal Dr. Sellers and Associate Principal Janelle Parken introduced the Cavelero Mid High School Students of the Month for April: Georgia Clark, Suhana Sidhu, Khalil Cisse, and Delaney Lundquist. Khalil Cisse was unable to attend. Lake Stevens High School Principal Leslie Ivelia and Dean of Students Michael Moore introduced the Lake Stevens High School Students of the Month for April: Sam Leduc, Mariama Sarr, Royce Rabb, Emerson Walker, Daniel Larson and Sheridan Powell. Royce Rabb was unable to attend. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Balmer introduced the APPLE Award Recipients for the month of April: Britta Dionne, Jill Shipman, Kathleen Butler, Kristen Odegaard, Noel O'Bryant Annis and Ryan Barci. Britta Dionne was unable to attend. SACo President Riley Boerger congratulated the Student Choice Award Recipient Heidi Lambert.

A break was taken approximately from 7:31 p.m. to 7:38 p.m. President Taylor welcomed everyone back.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

North Lake Middle School Principal Brad Abels shared the school's focus for improvement: enhancing student outcomes - especially for underserved populations - through strong Tier One instructional strategies and effective, collaborative educator teams.

Principal Abels shared pie charts displaying English Language Arts (ELA) performance, noting that 86% of 6th-grade students and 81% of 7th-grade students are performing at, near, or above standard. Among LAP students, 74% of 6th graders and 91% of 7th graders are performing at, near, or above standard.

Associate Principal Kelly Goodmansen presented Math Interim Assessment results, showing that 81% of 6th-grade students and 75% of 7th-grade students are currently performing at, near, or above standard. For Math LAP students, 63% of 6th graders and 42% of 7th graders are performing at, near, or above standard.

Diana Etheridge followed with a presentation on the school's Tier One Universal Instruction strategies, emphasizing practices such as positive student greetings, co-created classroom norms, structured vocabulary routines, "Teachers Talk 10/Students Reflect 2," and "Prove It/Cite Your Source." She also shared additional strategies, including the use of sentence starters, goal setting with growth monitoring, and small group instruction. Associate Principal Kelly Goodmansen concluded the presentation by outlining the school's social-emotional learning (SEL) goals, with a specific focus on improving student attendance and behavior.

Principal Malissa Weatherbie of Mt. Pilchuck Elementary gave an update on the intentional work taking place at Mt. Pilchuck this year. Their school improvement plan continues to guide their efforts to ensure every student thrives - academically, socially, and emotionally. She was excited to highlight some of the strategic actions they've taken to align their systems, support effective instruction, and strengthen partnerships with families - all with the goal of improving student academic outcomes and sense of belonging.

Principal Weatherbie provided an update on how they are further aligning their school-wide systems and deepening collaboration to support this work. As part of their continued focus on small group instruction, they have strengthened their approach to data review and analysis within their grade-level teams. They have intentionally prioritized examining student data more regularly to identify specific skills to target through classroom-based interventions. Looking ahead, they are eager to build on this momentum through the district's partnership with Solution Tree to fully implement Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), which will further strengthen our data-informed practices and cultivate collective efficacy among their staff. Another way they are aligning systems for greater academic success is through our intentional preparation for the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) and the spring i-Ready diagnostics.

As they work toward improving student achievement, they recognize that academic growth is most effective when supported through strong family partnerships. Associate Principal Bethany Anderson spoke to their efforts in aligning messaging to caregivers around assessments, this year they have also created in-person events designed to strengthen the school-to-home connection and provide families with meaningful ways to engage in their child's learning. These events were designed both to support academic development and to foster a sense of belonging and community. She concluded by highlighting strategies for family engagement, such as consistent communication and grade-level evening events designed to foster stronger school-home connections.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Taylor opened the floor for community comments. Parent Marli Bilbruck stated, as a proud parent of three students who graduated from Lake Stevens High School, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Lake Stevens School District. You have done an outstanding job creating schools that are inclusive and welcoming to everyone. Our teachers are truly well-equipped and dedicated to student success. With Riley being our last to graduate, we feel incredibly grateful. Riley, we are so proud of everything you have overcome and accomplished.

Flora Wright introduced herself, sharing that she has two toddlers and is already thinking ahead about kindergarten. One of her top priorities is access to a Spanish emergent program for her children. "My name is Flor - like 'flower' - and I'm Peruvian. Growing up in a bilingual household was an incredible experience for me. Although I attended an English-speaking school and learned English there, I believe being part of a Spanish emergent program would have been a wonderful opportunity. That's something I truly want for my children. It doesn't seem like there are current plans for a program like this, but I'd love to advocate for it. You are an amazing school district, and I would love for my children to grow and thrive here. Thank you."

With no further comments, President Taylor closed this portion of the meeting.

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

Director Kirby made a motion to approve the "Consent Agenda" items:
Approval of the May 16, 2025 Comp & Retail Tax Warrant No. 000000001 - $1,017.48 manual warrants listed below drawn on the General & ASB Fund(s). The sum of said VOIDS $(139.22) is covered by warrants numbered 315760 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General Fund. The sum of said VOIDS amounting to ($10,258.00) is covered by warrants numbered 316782 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the ASB Fund. The sum of said payroll and/or vouchers and invoices amounting to $1,148,912.26 is covered by warrants numbered 316873 to 317016 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General, Capital, Projects, ASB & Transportation Vehicle Fund(s) (E:80/25). Personnel Report: Classified Employment: Victoria Cook PSE-LS ELC Temp DD Pre Para, Steffanie Grimm PSE-LS ELC Temp DD Pre Para, Jill Hagins Teamsters-Transportation Bus Driver; Resignations: Julia Blain Certificated MTP 4/25/25, Stephanie Hill PSE-LS HLD 8/31/25; James Sellers Admin. CMHS 6/30/25; Retirements: Andrew Marks Certificated LSHS 6/20/25 (E:81/25) Approval of the Co-curricular Report (E:82/25). Approval of the April 2025 Payroll Warrant Nos. 316432 to 316489 - $13,058,257.37 drawn on the General Fund(s) (E:83/25). Approval of the acceptance of a donation from P & G Wrestling Account into the LSHS ASB Account in the amount of $3,040.00 (E:84/25). Approval of the CTE students to compete at the Technology Student Association (TSA National Conference in Nashville, TN from June 27 to July, 2025. (E:85/25). Acceptance of a donation from Sunnycrest Elementary PTA to Sunnycrest ASB in the amount of $8,000.00 (E:86/25).
The motion was seconded by Director Hanson and unanimously approved.
Director Iseminger motioned to adopt the dates and locations for the Regular Sessions of the Board for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved (E:87/25).
Director Hanson motioned to approve the Final Acceptance of the Public Works Project. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved (E:88/25).

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

- Replace boiler at North Lake MS (Harris)
- Replace fire door in kitchen at Glenwood ES (Overhead Door)
- Replace windows and cranks at North Lake and Lake Stevens MS (Pacific Glass and Door)
- Replace booster panel at Mt Pilchuck ES (Pye Barker)

Service Calls

- Service production kitchen dishwasher at North Lake MS (3Wire)
- Repair operable wall at Glenwood ES (NWAP)
- Trace bad fire alarm control panel charging circuit at the Transitions Building (Pye Barker)

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 authorize to solicit bids for flooring replacement at Highland Elementary. The motion was seconded by Director Hanson and unanimously approved (E:89/25).

INFORMATION

CTE Director Dan Tedor spoke about LSHS DECA teacher Will Hill attending the DECA Luminary Program, an exclusive professional development experience for outstanding DECA advisors in San Francisco, CA from June 7 – 10, 2025.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent Mary Templeton expressed her heartfelt thanks to the SACO President, Vice President, and Secretary, recognizing them for their outstanding participation and representation of student voice. She commended them for being responsible, respectful, thoughtful, articulate, and professional. "It has truly been an honor to get to know each of you," she shared.

She offered a special message to Riley Boerger:
"Riley, I only wish I had known you for more than one year. The time we've spent together has been meaningful, and I truly cherish it. You are an absolute delight, and we wish you all the best in your future."

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Lund congratulated the Students of the Month, the APPLE Award recipients, and the Student Choice Award recipient. He highlighted the excitement of having two arrs from LSMS, noting how much he looks forward to that.

"If you take only one thing away from tonight," he said, "let it be the heartfelt admiration one student expressed for his sister - that was truly moving."

He also shared his appreciation for the spirited support shown by the APPLE fan club, saying it was great to see.

Director Lund thanked North Lake Middle School and Mt. Pilchuck Elementary for the building reports, noting how valuable it is to hear about the incredible work happening across the district. He also expressed gratitude for the community comments and recognized the SACo students for their leadership. "I feel so lucky to sit at the 'kids table' and have the chance to talk with our amazing SACo students," he said.

Director Iseminger congratulated the Students of the Month, noting how enjoyable it always is to hear from them. He shared a lighthearted moment, saying, "The heartfelt praise from a brother to his sister - that might be a first, and it was fun to witness." He also extended congratulations to the APPLE Award recipients and the Student Choice Award winner, adding a personal note: "I have secondhand knowledge that Ms. Lambert is great - one of my daughters has her as a teacher."

Director Iseminger thanked North Lake Middle School and Mt. Pilchuck Elementary for the school reports and took a moment to reflect on the impact of the pandemic. "When COVID hit, it made it difficult for us to attend national conferences - to learn from the best and share our own practices. It's encouraging to see those opportunities returning." He emphasized how valuable it is to send outstanding representatives to these events: "It's twofold - we get to share what's happening in Lake Stevens and bring back insights from the national stage. It helps us calibrate and affirm that the work we're doing here is truly exceptional."

He also expressed appreciation for the generous donations made to the district.

To the SACo students, he offered heartfelt praise: "The three of you have been an absolute pleasure to be around. It's been inspiring to see your confidence and presence grow. I'm proud of all you've accomplished, and I can only imagine the great things you'll do in the future."

Director Kirby congratulated the Students of the Month, the APPLE Award recipients, and Student Choice Award honoree, Ms. Lambert. She also shared her appreciation for the building reports presented by Mt. Pilchuck and North Lake Middle School. Addressing the SACo students, she said it had been a true pleasure to serve alongside them on the board. "All three of you should be incredibly proud of the work you're doing," she said. "I can't wait to see where your adventures take you next."

Director Hanson congratulated everyone and thanked North Lake Middle School and Mt. Pilchuck for their building reports, noting that great things are happening in the schools. She also expressed appreciation for the community comments and the passion behind them.

She offered special congratulations to the SACo students, saying, "When the first SACo students were here, they were phenomenal - and then you came along and were just as phenomenal. You've been an excellent role model for my daughter. I will miss you all and am so proud of you." She also thanked everyone for the generous donations.

President Taylor thanked everyone for a wonderful evening and acknowledged a comment from SOM Sid about the strong sense of community built in their classroom, especially with the support of their teacher. She also expressed gratitude for the thoughtful community comments, saying they raised important and meaningful points.

Reflecting on a recent Highland Elementary concert, she shared a powerful story: "There were 80 kids jumping and circling the PAC when a medical emergency occurred. The way our staff, families, and students pivoted so quickly - literally switching doors, caring for the emergency, and then getting right back up on stage to perform - was an incredible demonstration of resilience. It reminded me of what SOM Rowan said about how learning can be fun and difficult at the same time."

President Taylor celebrated Aashi and Yostina, saying, "We are not letting you go!" She expressed deep appreciation for all the SACo students, adding, "The three of you have provided extraordinary leadership and have truly lifted up the voices of others in your group."

With a smile, she turned to Riley Boerger and asked, "Are you sure you want to graduate?" She concluded by saying, "I'm so excited to watch all of your adventures unfold. We are incredibly grateful for everything you've done. When SACo first started, the students were exceptional - and I wondered how we could possibly sustain that level of excellence. But you have continued to astound and inspire us all."

SACo Secretary Yostina Mosa congratulated everyone and expressed her gratitude for the kind words shared throughout the evening. She highlighted something that stood out to her during the Mt. Pilchuck presentation - the focus on teaching students how to learn to take a test, rather than simply taking a test. She noted how valuable this approach is, not only in helping students demonstrate their knowledge in the current year, but also in preparing them to understand and navigate future assessments. "Thank you," she said.

SACo Vice President Aashi Bendalam highlighted a key takeaway from the North Lake Middle School building report - their focus on attendance. She emphasized how powerful the message was: even on days when you may not feel like learning, just showing up means you'll still learn something. "Attendance is so important," she said.

SACo President Riley Boerger shared that serving on SACo has taught her valuable lessons in determination and leadership. "You're representing your entire school district, and every decision you make is under a microscope," she said. "It's been an incredible experience." She also shared that this would be her final board meeting, expressing both sadness and gratitude. Riley gave a special shoutout to Ms. Lambert, calling Ms. Lambert her all-time favorite teacher. "In her class, I wrote an essay that went on to win a national competition," she said.

ADJOURNMENT

With no objections from the other directors, President Taylor adjourned the Regular Session at 8:31 p.m.

President

Secretary