Bellingham Public Schools
a collective commitment

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 15, 2021

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location:

September 15, 2021 – via remote Zoom meeting.

1.2 Call to Order/Roll Call:

Ms. Mason called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. She acknowledged that this meeting, while attended from various locations, is being held on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish people. Present: Directors Kelly Bashaw, Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Mason (President), Katie Rose, Superintendent Greg Baker and Sheri O'Day (recorder).

1.3 Audience:

Ms. Mason noted that, because of our current emergency status due to COVID-19, public participation is limited to written submissions only, and all written comments received will be shared with the school board directors. Each board member has seen all messages received.

1.4 Superintendent's Announcements and Report:

Summary of Dr. Baker's comments:

- The 2021-22 school year is off to a great start. Alderwood and Parkview elementary schools opened their new buildings to students on Sept. 1. Construction is underway at Sunnyland, with students using Memorial Park for recess and P.E. Dr. Baker shared first day photos from schools across the district.
- There have been some challenges due to the pandemic. The COVID-19 team continues to monitor cases, perform contact tracing and communicate with affected families. The mask mandate has been a topic on the local and national level and some peaceful protestors gathered with signs outside of the District Office in August one afternoon. Staff have worked with students and parents opposed to masks over the first few days of school. The human resources department is contacting employees who have not yet provided proof of vaccination, and it is predicted that a high percentage of staff will be vaccinated prior to the state's deadline. After questions from the board, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Jay Jordan and Executive Director of Operations Jessica Sankey provided a short update about processes being used, including principal support and close contacts. Dr. Baker noted that the district is adhering to the Department of Health requirement that we maximize in-person instruction and minimize transmission. For individual students who are out of the classroom due to exposure, teachers are working directly with the student to receive instruction. If an entire class is required to quarantine, remote learning will be put into place, similar to last year. The

district has assisted with COVID-19 testing for some athletic programs, with the assistance of Director of Athletics and Activities Laurel Peak.

- Like other districts, our district is looking to hire bus drivers, and some paraprofessional positions are not yet filled. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Bob Kuehl and Ms. Sankey responded to questions from board members regarding the bus driver shortage.
- Food services has experienced supply chain issues and are adjusting menus when deliveries are not received.
- Dr. Baker shared that student enrollment this fall is similar to last fall, with enrollment being approximately 250 students fewer than at the beginning of the pandemic. Bellingham Virtual Learning and Bellingham Family Partnership Program enrollment have increased, while elementary enrollment has decreased. Middle school enrollment decreased by a small amount, while high school enrollment increased a little. Enrollment estimations were accurate, so the budget has not been negatively impacted. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Kristi Dominguez and Mr. Kuehl responded to questions regarding kindergarten enrollment. Executive Director of Family Engagement Isabel Meaker responded to a question regarding how students are being connected to higher education.
- Last week a request for applications to a Facilities Planning Task Force went out. The task force will include approximately 30 members including high school students, community members/partners, City of Bellingham representatives and parents and staff from Carl Cozier, Columbia, Roosevelt and Community Transitions. The task force will begin meeting on Sept. 23 and will be looking at the possible replacement of Carl Cozier, Columbia and Roosevelt elementary schools, using a swing space concept; a new Community Transitions location and district-wide improvements. The task force will also discuss current projects, including Sunnyland; high school fields and tennis courts; the District Office and the environmental education site. The work of the task force is slated to conclude in November, and its recommendation may lead to the board being asked to approve a resolution to place a bond measure on the Feb. 2022 ballot.

2.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Rose indicated that she is employed by the Opportunity Council, and agenda item 2.8 contains an agreement with the Opportunity Council. To avoid a conflict of interest per RCW 42.23.030, Ms. Rose will recuse herself from voting on item 2.8 (Opportunity Council-Early Learning and Family Services Inter-Agency Agreement). Mr. Benjamin made a **motion** to vote on item 2.8 separately. Ms. Bashaw seconded the motion. Unanimous affirmative vote.

Ms. Rose made a **motion,** seconded by Mr. Benjamin, to approve the following consent agenda items:

2.1 Approval of Minutes of the Aug. 11, 2021 Regular Meeting with Public Hearing and Aug. 25, 2021 Special Meeting

2.2 Approval of Expenditures and Payroll – August 2021

2.3 Resolution 21-21, Transfer of Funds from the Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund

2.4 Policy 2255 – Alternative Learning Experience Programs
2.5 Anacortes SD #103, Burlington-Edison SD #100, Sedro-Woolley SD #101 Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (#2122-023)
2.6 Whatcom Community College Inter-Agency Agreements (#2122-044, #2122-045, #2122-046)
2.7 Whatcom Family YMCA Before and After School Care Agreement Addendum (#2122-047A)
2.9 Bellingham Technical College Running Start Program Agreement (#2122-055)
2.10 Cerium Network, Inc. Support Contract (#2122-056)
2.11 Aperture Education Agreement (#2122-059)
2.12 Bellingham Public Schools Foundation Agreement (#2122-064)
2.13 Salish Sea Deaf School Contracts (#2122-065, #2122-068)
2.14 Microsoft Premier Renewal (#2122-066)
2.15 Whatcom County CTE Dual Credit Program Partnership Agreement (#2122-067)
2.16 Northwest Evaluation Association MAP Testing Sales Order (#2122-069)
2.17 DreamBox Learning Master Software and Services Agreement (#2122-070)
2.18 City of Bellingham – Civic Field Event Supervision (#2122-071)
2.19 Highline School District Inter-District Cooperative Agreement (#2122-072)
2.20 Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance
2.21 Personnel Recommendations
2.22 Personal Services Contracts

Unanimous affirmative vote.

Ms. Diaz Hackler made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Bashaw, to approve the following consent agenda item:

2.8 Opportunity Council-Early Learning and Family Services Inter-Agency Agreement (#2122-051)

Affirmative votes: Ms. Bashaw, Mr. Benjamin, Ms. Diaz Hackler, Ms. Mason.
Abstention: Ms. Rose.

3.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3.1 School Board Directors' Reports. Highlights of comments:

- Mr. Benjamin noted that today is the due date for completing the WSSDA self-assessment. WSSDA contacted him today to indicate that three people have completed the assessment, leaving three that need to be completed. The deadline is midnight tonight and he will send the link to everyone.
- Ms. Diaz Hackler shared that she and Ms. Bashaw toured the new Parkview following the board retreat on Aug. 25. She was impressed with the amount of light in the new building and looks forward to the playground opening. She would also like to tour the new Alderwood building.
- Ms. Rose thanked Sheri for her clear instructions relating to the meeting agenda.

- Ms. Mason, as a parent, thanked Dr. Baker and the executive team for getting the school year off to a great start. It was a joy to arrive at school on the first day and see staff working hard to give students and families the best school experience they can.

3.2 **GP-7.2 – 2020-21 Annual Board Agenda, Revised** – general review.

4.0 **NEW BUSINESS**

4.1 n/a

5.0 **CLOSING ITEMS**

5.1 **Board Assessment of Meeting:** Mr. Benjamin assessed the meeting, with an overall rating of 4 *(commendable).*

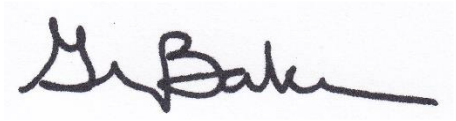
5.2 **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Approved:



Jennifer I. Mason, Board President

Attest:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved: October 13, 2021