Bellingham Public Schools
a collective commitment

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 8, 2022

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location:

June 8, 2022 – Options High School, 2015 Franklin St., Bellingham, WA.

1.2 Call to Order/Land Acknowledgment:

Ms. Bashaw called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She acknowledged that this meeting is being held on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish people.

1.3 Roll Call:

Present: Directors Kelly Bashaw (President), Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Mason, Superintendent Greg Baker and Sheri O'Day (recorder). Director Katie Rose was absent.

1.4 Audience:

No public testimony was offered.

1.5 Superintendent's Announcements and Report:

Summary of Dr. Baker's comments:

- Dr. Baker thanked Options High School Principal Katie Jones for hosting this evening's board meeting as well as other staff for attending. He noted that Matt Whitten and Ari Feeney are in attendance. Both will be joining the executive team in July, Mr. Whitten as assistant superintendent of human resources and Ms. Feeney as executive director of human resources.
- The talent/drag show held at Whatcom Middle School was attended by many supporters of the participating students, and last Saturday's youth pride parade was a great event that was also well attended.
- Dr. Baker shared photos from last week's staff retirement celebration.
- Last Friday was the annual fifth grade track meet supported by many staff and volunteers. The morning started out rainy, but the weather cleared up as the day went on.
- Monday, June 6 was Superintendent's Chocolate Milk Day, with chocolate milk provided from Grace Harbor Farms to all students free of charge. Dr. Baker was able to visit schools that day and shared photos of excited students.
- There will be an opportunity tomorrow evening to tour and say goodbye to the old Sunnyland Elementary School.
- Groundbreaking for the new district office will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, June 17.
- The Community Transitions graduation ceremony will be tomorrow night, and graduations for Bellingham, Options, Sehome and Squalicum high schools will take place on Saturday, June 11 at Civic Field. This year's graduation ceremonies will showcase more live music, and potentially some rain.

- There is one week, two days left in the school year, with the last day for seniors being on Friday.
- It is expected that the board will be asked to vote on the 2022-23 budget at its July 13, 2022 meeting, and Dr. Baker encouraged board members to ask questions about the budget prior to the meeting if possible.

2.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

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

2.1 Approval of Minutes of the May 12, 2022 Linkage Meeting and May 18, 2022 Regular Meeting
2.2 Approval of Expenditures and Payroll – May 2022
2.3 Resolution 10-22, Delegation of Authority to WIAA
2.4 Resolution 11-22, Transfer of Funds from Capital Projects Fund to General Fund
2.5 Award of Bid for New District Office Project
2.6 Amendment to 2021-22 Whatcom Discovery Program Interlocal Agreement (#2122-003B)
2.7 Garland/DBS, Inc. Agreements (#2122-183, #2122-184)
2.8 Washington State Department of Health Statement of Work (#2122-191)
2.9 Security Solutions NW, Inc. Contract (#2122-196)
2.10 Amendment to 2022-23 Whatcom Discovery Program Interlocal Agreement (#2223-002A)
2.11 Personnel Recommendations
2.12 Personal Services Contracts

Unanimous affirmative vote.

3.0 BOARD RESPONSE TO MONITORING

3.1 Board Response to Monitoring – EL-2, Organizational Continuity

The board discussed the feedback contained in the combined monitoring responses for EL-2 (Attachment A). Ms. Bashaw will provide a final summary version of this document which will be submitted for approval at the July 13, 2022 regular meeting.

3.2 Board Response to Monitoring – Ends 1, 2, 3 (combined)

The board discussed the feedback contained in the combined monitoring responses for Ends 1, 2, 3 combined (Attachment B). Ms. Bashaw will provide a final summary version of this document which will be submitted for approval at the July 13, 2022 regular meeting.

3.3 Board Response to Monitoring – EL-6, Academic Standards and Provisions

There was discussion regarding the summary of the board responses to the EL-6 report that was prepared by Ms. Bashaw. Following discussion, Ms. Mason made a **motion,** seconded by Ms. Diaz Hackler, to approve the monitoring response document (Attachment C). Unanimous affirmative vote.

3.4 Board Response to Monitoring – EL-8, District Calendar

There was discussion regarding the summary of the board responses to the EL-8 report that was prepared by Ms. Bashaw. Following discussion, Mr. Benjamin made a **motion,** seconded by Ms. Mason, to approve the monitoring response document (Attachment D). Unanimous affirmative vote.

4.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4.1 GP-7.2 – 2021-22 Annual Board Agenda, Revised – no action needed.

4.2 School Board Directors' Reports. Highlights of comments:

- Mr. Benjamin attended a WSSDA Board of Directors meeting on May 20 and the WSSDA Director Area 1 regional meeting on May 24, which was also attended by Dr. Baker. The primary focus of the regional meeting was to learn from region 1 directors what WSSDA is doing well and what could be improved upon. Mr. Benjamin attended Columbia Elementary School's International Baccalaureate (IB) verification visit last week and enjoyed attending the retirement dinner. The board visited Silver Beach Elementary yesterday, and he found the deeper look into reading curriculum fascinating. He shared that he learned of the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas on his way to the WSSDA regional meeting and stated that gun safety and gun control are needed. It is not a mental health problem, and he hopes support will be shown for a public health initiative regarding firearms.
- Ms. Mason noted that she was sorry to miss yesterday's visit to Silver Beach Elementary. She participated in the IB verification visit for Carl Cozier and was pleased to learn how exceptional Bellingham Public Schools is for its expansive IB offerings. She was happy to learn of Ms. Feeney's new position in the district and thought the retirement celebration was incredible. She has had many opportunities to speak with queer youth this month, and it's very meaningful how accepting this district is of all students. It means a lot to a lot of people, including those who do not even have a connection to the district. She also is happy that the board is meeting in person this evening.
- Ms. Diaz Hackler and her husband both enjoyed the retirement dinner. It is always such a lovely event and it's nice to recognize and appreciate those who have dedicated their lives to children. She noted that many of her own kids' teachers are now retiring. The students who participated in the Silver Beach visit were amazing.
- Ms. Bashaw agrees that the retirement dinner was an incredible event, and she has missed it taking place over the past two years because of COVID restrictions. She appreciates the countless hours that were put in to make it such a nice event. The Silver Beach visit was impressive. She attended the youth pride parade and noted that it's great to see how the community supports our youth. She wonders if WSSDA will be planning a coordinated effort to ensure school boards are creating a climate where students are comfortable confiding in adults, and Mr. Benjamin stated he will inquire with WSSDA.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 n/a

6.0 PERFORMANCE REVIEW

6.1 Performance Review of a Public Employee

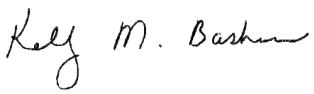
Ms. Bashaw noted that Dr. Baker's performance is evaluated by the school board throughout the school year by way of responses to policy monitoring. The board reviewed the evaluation summary, and Ms. Bashaw noted that the document will be added to the website. Dr. Baker thanked the entire team for reporting on the work done in the district that contributes to his evaluation, as well as the great board that he works with.

7.1 CLOSING ITEMS

7.1 Board Assessment of Meeting: Mr. Benjamin assessed the meeting, with an overall rating of 3 *(good).*

7.2 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Approved:



Kelly Bashaw, Board President

Attest:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved: July 13, 2022

Monitoring Response Document – INITIAL COMPILATION

Policy Monitored: EL-2, Organizational Continuity
Date Report Submitted: May 18, 2022
Date of Board's Monitoring Response: June 8, 2022

Below are my responses in connection with the report:

Ends Reports:	**Executive Limitations Reports**
1. The Board finds that the Superintendent: a. has achieved the goals established in the policy. b. is making reasonable progress towards achieving the goals. c. is making reasonable progress towards achieving the goals, but a greater degree of progress is expected in some areas.* d. is ***not*** making reasonable progress in achieving the goals established. * e. cannot be determined*	1. The Board finds that the Superintendent: **a.** is in compliance. **KB DB CDH** b. is in compliance, except for items(s) noted.* c. is making reasonable progress toward compliance.* d. is ***not*** in compliance **or** is ***not*** making reasonable progress toward compliance.* e. cannot be determined*
**see comments below (No. 3)*	

2. Please note commendable progress over the last year.

KB:

- Meetings with level administrators were changed from monthly to weekly during the pandemic.
- During 21/22 BSD hired six new principal leaders at our schools and four new district leaders.
- BSD hired a school safety support specialist to work with student services and the emergency
- preparedness implementation team.
- Phase I of security camera installations is nearing completion which focused on secondary
- schools. Elementary schools are the next group of schools to have security cameras installed.

DB:

- There is evidence that the superintendent successfully increased coordination during a time of public health emergency to meet the need for organizational continuity.
- There is evidence that appropriate procedures and policies are maintained and up to date with respect to the requirements of EL-2.
- There is ample evidence that ongoing and flexible coordination took place both internally and with the larger community during an extended and unpredictable public health emergency.
- There is evidence that security and safety planning are active and on-going.

CDH:

- The board is impressed with the increased number of meetings held with school administrators during the pandemic.

- As in previous years, the superintendent continues to upgrade safety and security capital improvements for schools. That is very important in this day and age.

3. Please note areas for additional improvement.

KB:

- None.

DB:

- None.

CDH:

- None.

4. Comments on the report itself.

KB:

- None.

DB:

- Thank you for the bolding of new items.

CDH:

- Good job on the report.

5. Possible changes to the policy.

KB:

- None.

DB:

- None.

CDH:

- None.

Monitoring Response Document – INITIAL COMPILATION

Policy Monitored: Ends 1, 2, 3 (combined)
Date Report Submitted: May 18, 2022
Date of Board's Monitoring Response: June 8, 2022

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Ends Reports:	**Executive Limitations Reports**
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2. Please note commendable progress over the last year.

KB:

- Five-year graduation rates for Bellingham students continue to improve while dropout rates continue to decline overall and for many identified subgroups of students.
- The number of Career and Technical Education (CTE) industry certifications earned by Bellingham students increased significantly once again this year, continuing a trend we have observed over the past several years.
- During the summer months of 2020, more than 17,000 books were mailed to 1,400 students at all 14 of our elementary schools. Each student participating received an average of 12 books each.
- One hundred percent attendance of parents for IEP meetings, even with families who speak languages other than English.
- The amount of families served by the meal box program during COVID.

DB:

- The district appears to be approaching the point where you cannot distinguish between students of various ethnic and socioeconomic status by their graduation rates. This is significant progress towards a very high bar.
- It is impressive to see the district drill down on various psychological factors (such as hope, optimism and determination) and how they are directly related to academic achievement and performance. And in turn develop programing that fosters and promotes these factors.

- There is evidence that the district actively uses data and a variety of measures to guide the ongoing development of their work.

CDH:

- The board continues to be impressed with all the creativity during the pandemic. A virtual middle school concert has got to be one of the highlights of the year. Not just for the young musician, but for their family as well.
- Continued increase in graduation rates *and* an increase in CTE certifications. Bravo.

3. Please note areas for additional improvement.

KB:

- Continued work on The Bellingham Promise outcomes.

CDH:

- None.

4. Comments on the report itself.

KB:

- Appreciate the amount of evidence gathered for this report.

DB:

- We appreciate hearing specific examples of different work and efforts. These sometimes go beyond the numbers in helping us understand the district's progress in many areas.

CDH:

- This is one of the best reports of this year.

5. Possible changes to the policy.

KB:

- None.

DB:

- None.

CDH:

- None.

Monitoring Response Document

Policy Monitored: EL-6, Academic Standards and Provisions
Date Report Submitted: 4/20/2022
Date of Board's Monitoring Response: 5/18/2022

The Board has received and reviewed the Superintendent's Monitoring Report referenced above. Following the Board's review and discussions with the Superintendent and his representatives, the Board makes the following conclusions:

Ends Reports:	**Executive Limitations Reports**
1. The Board finds that the Superintendent: a. has achieved the goals established in the policy. b. is making reasonable progress towards achieving the goals. c. is making reasonable progress towards achieving the goals, but a greater degree of progress is expected in some areas.* d. is ***not*** making reasonable progress in achieving the goals established. * e. cannot be determined*	1. The Board finds that the Superintendent: **a. is in compliance.** b. is in compliance, except for items(s) noted.* c. is making reasonable progress toward compliance.* d. is ***not*** in compliance **or** is ***not*** making reasonable progress toward compliance.* e. cannot be determined*
**see comments below (No. 3)*	

2. Please note commendable progress over the last year.

   Task force to explore dual language programs has exciting potential for a new way to continue to strengthen home-school connections.

   Inclusive education practices across all sites as part of University of Washington Haring Center.

   Appreciate expansion of instructional coaches and building strong leadership teams that leverage skills and resources within elementary schools.

   Expanding early literacy curriculum.

   Expanded efforts around mental health, including adding a second mental health specialist. Continued expansion of CTE classes, which has already been an area of huge growth.

   Expansion of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

   Great response to the unique needs for families that came about during the pandemic, including growth through the Bellingham Virtual Learning (BVL) program, Bellingham Family Partnership Program (BFPP) and technology solutions.

Monitoring Response Document

Policy Monitored: EL-6, Academic Standards and Provisions
Date Report Submitted: 4/20/2022
Date of Board's Monitoring Response: 5/18/2022

3. Please note areas for additional improvement.

   No areas for additional improvement.

4. Comments on the report itself.

   The succinct and outline format makes for an efficient read.

   "New" and "updated" notes are helpful!

5. Possible changes to the policy.

   No changes to the policy.

Monitoring Response Document

Policy Monitored: EL-8, District Calendar
Date Report Submitted: 4/20/2022
Date of Board's Monitoring Response: 5/18/2022

The Board has received and reviewed the Superintendent's Monitoring Report referenced above. Following the Board's review and discussions with the Superintendent and his representatives, the Board makes the following conclusions:

Ends Reports:	**Executive Limitations Reports**
1. The Board finds that the Superintendent: a. has achieved the goals established in the policy. b. is making reasonable progress towards achieving the goals. c. is making reasonable progress towards achieving the goals, but a greater degree of progress is expected in some areas.* d. is ***not*** making reasonable progress in achieving the goals established. * e. cannot be determined*	1. The Board finds that the Superintendent: **a. is in compliance.** b. is in compliance, except for items(s) noted.* c. is making reasonable progress toward compliance.* d. is ***not*** in compliance **or** is ***not*** making reasonable progress toward compliance.* e. cannot be determined*
**see comments below (No. 3)*	

2. Please note commendable progress over the last year.

   There is clear evidence that the superintendent and district worked very hard and maintained flexibility in meeting the unprecedented and unpredictable demands of the pandemic on the school calendar.

   Adapting and responding to the additional, unique needs of students coming back to school in Fall 2021 (with respect to the pandemic), including shifting schedules to allow for more planning, deploying instructional coaches and having "all hands-on deck" to cover staff shortages due to illness.

   The Family Engagement team once again shows how critical they are to the backbone of our district and family wellness. The work of this team to meet student/family needs is a really strong point for this district and something to be proud of.

   Testing, vaccination, refugee support, Latinx community engagement and support for families through the Family Resource Center (FRC) highlights not just how deeply students' ability to learn and thrive is impacted by the community but also how deeply important public schools are to our community as a whole.

Monitoring Response Document

Policy Monitored: EL-8, District Calendar
Date Report Submitted: 4/20/2022
Date of Board's Monitoring Response: 5/18/2022

3. Please note areas for additional improvement.

   No areas for additional improvement.

4. Comments on the report itself.

   Appreciate the links to show all the great work that the district is doing to support our students and families. Appreciate the clear distinction of new items from the routine. Thanks for the bold parts!

5. Possible changes to the policy.

   No changes to the policy.