Bellingham Public Schools
a collective commitment

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 14, 2021

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location:

July 14, 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:

- Guidelines in connection with COVID-19 safety protocols continue to be monitored, and it is hoped that the school board may begin meeting in person beginning in September.
- The mayor of the City of Bellingham asked that Bellingham High School Commons be opened as a cooling shelter during a heat wave at the end of June. District staff provided on-site support from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 26-28.
- The BHS Mascot Change Task Force has submitted its recommendation to change the mascot from the Bellingham Red Raiders to the Bellingham Bayhawks. The next step in the process will be to engage with graphic designers to create logo options.
- The 2021-22 draft budget has been prepared, and Dr. Baker gave a brief overview of the MSOCs (materials, supplies and operating costs) outlined in the budget. Staff will be available to answer questions between now and the August 11 board meeting when an official vote will be taken to adopt the 2021-22 budget. Dr. Baker thanked the finance and communications teams for their work to create the budget storyline for the draft budget.
- Dr. Baker gave an update on construction projects at Alderwood and Parkview elementary schools, both of which will open to students on Sept. 1, 2021. The Shuksan Middle School auxiliary gym and Bellingham High School field projects have been completed, and construction has now begun at Sunnyland Elementary School. Dr. Baker responded to questions from board members.

- With the 2021-22 school year starting on Sept. 1, many are wondering what the school year will look like. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will create guidelines related to COVID-19 safety, and states will then work to create laws and guidance for schools based on those guidelines. Once the state communicates the laws and recommendations to districts, staff will work to put them into place. Dr. Baker responded to questions from board members.

2.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

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

2.1 Approval of Minutes of the June 9, 2021 Regular Meeting with Public Hearing
2.2 Approval of Expenditures and Payroll – June 2021
2.3 Resolution 16-21, Request to Transfer Funds from the Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund
2.4 Sunnyland Elementary School Trail Easement
2.5 Sunnyland Elementary School Quit Claim Deed Conveyance
2.6 Sunnyland Elementary School Right of Way Encroachment License
2.7 Sunnyland Elementary School Covenant to Bind
2.8 Sunnyland Elementary School Lot Line Adjustment
2.9 Brock's Academy Tuition Agreements (#2021-065B, $2021-065C)
2.10 Dairy Distributing, Inc. Agreement (#2122-023)
2.11 Walton Beverage Snack and Beverage Vending Agreement (#2122-024)
2.12 City of Bellingham Housing and Human Services Financial Assistance Agreement (#2122-027)
2.13 NWESD 189 Safe Schools and Threat Assessment Agreement (#2122-032)
2.14 Malcolm Oliver Addendum to Agreement for Services
2.15 Sendan Center Second Addendum to Agreement for Services
2.16 Vamos Outdoors Project Agreement for Services
2.17 Personnel Recommendations
2.18 Personal Services Contracts

Unanimous affirmative vote.

3.0 APPOINT LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

3.1 Appoint School Board Legislative Representative

Mr. Benjamin made a **motion** to nominate Ms. Bashaw for the position of legislative representative. After discussion, Ms. Bashaw agreed to serve. Unanimous affirmative vote.

4.0 BOARD RESPONSE TO MONITORING

4.1 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. Mason will provide a final summary version of this document which will be submitted for approval at the August 11, 2021 regular meeting.

4.2 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). After discussion, Mr. Benjamin asked that his response to question 1 be changed from b to a. Ms. Mason will provide a final summary version of this document which will be submitted for approval at the August 11, 2021 regular meeting.

5.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5.1 School Board Directors' Reports. Highlights of comments:

- Mr. Benjamin attended a Critical Race Theory (CRT) training provided by WSSDA and WASA titled "Questions and Answers about CRT". He appreciates the information received at that training, as well as information on the topic from Dr. Baker. He hopes the board will continue this hard but important work.
- Ms. Bashaw enjoyed attending the June graduation ceremonies for Bellingham High School, Options High School and Community Transitions. Last evening, she watched the recorded ceremony for Sehome High School online. The weather cooperated and all the graduations went smoothly, thanks to the work of staff who did a great job transitioning between the ceremonies.
- Ms. Diaz Hackler regretfully was not able to attend graduation ceremonies due to a family health emergency. She noted that school board positions are unpaid, but it feels that attending graduation is payment for the time spent as a board member. She is appreciative of the work that staff did in connection with the graduations.
- Ms. Rose was also unable to attend the graduation ceremonies in person but enjoyed viewing the recordings. She expressed gratitude for the district for providing support to the community by opening BHS as a cooling shelter last month during the unprecedented heat wave.
- Ms. Mason agreed that graduation ceremonies were amazing. She recognizes that COVID-19 has created tension between keeping people connected and safe, and she knows a lot of behind-the-scenes work was necessary for the graduation ceremonies to be so seamless. She noted that she reviewed the report submitted by the BHS Mascot Change Task Force and expressed gratitude for those who participated in that work.

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

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 n/a

7.0 CLOSING ITEMS

7.1 Board Assessment of Meeting: Ms. Rose assessed the meeting, with an overall rating of 4 *(commendable).*

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

Approved:



Jennifer I. Mason, Board President

Attest:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved: August 11, 2021

Monitoring Response Document – INITIAL COMPILATION

Policy Monitored: EL-2, Organizational Continuity
Date Report Submitted: 6/9/2021
Date of Board's Monitoring Response: 7/14/2021

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 JM KR** 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:

- Increased level meetings to weekly instead of monthly due to the pandemic.
- At least one staff person exists at every level of management.

DB:

- The extra meeting time by leadership as demanded by the pandemic response is noted and appreciated.
- The use of entry plans at multiple leadership levels shows creativity and use of model processes.
- The upkeep and integration of administrative policies is an impressive body of work and aligns with the highest regional and state standards.
- The extensive and exhausting team work to implement COVID-19 safety measures coordinated with various health officials was evident not only in this report, but regularly at board meetings throughout the past year and a half.
- Improvements in various security measures across the district, including those taking advantage of newer technology, are noted and appreciated.

JM:

- Working with Dr. Anthony Craig on deepening EDI and remaining committed to this work even through the major COVID-19 crisis.

- Safety planning and disaster mitigation really put to the test during COVID-19. The routine coordination with various entities and then communication out to staff/families was near constant and appreciated.
- Continuing to build cohorts and remain connected through (increased) level meetings through the pandemic.

KR:

- More frequent meeting due to pandemic.
- Continued commitment to EDI work.

3. Please note areas for additional improvement.

4. Comments on the report itself.

KB:

- I very much appreciate new information is bolded.

DB:

- As in other reports, the bolding of newer items is appreciated.

5. Possible changes to the policy.

Monitoring Response Document – INITIAL COMPILATION

Policy Monitored: Ends 1,2,3 (combined)
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2. Please note commendable progress over the last year.

KB:

- LatinX/Hispanic graduation rates up from 82-85%
- Summer Reading Program
- Amplify Science Curriculum
- Learning Menus
- 100% attendance at IEP meetings (very impressive)
- All students had computers in hand by October 20th
- Increased empathy per 2021 student survey data
- Graduation rates up and the dropout rates are down
- Five-year graduation rate hit 90% exceeding the state average
- All of the work that staff did to keep our kids and their families fed
- The appreciation for all of our staff during the pandemic. Everyone scrambled to make sure that students and families had what they needed during this very difficult time
- Promise Tomorrow Initiative

DB:

- Increasing graduation rates and decreasing dropout rates is now a notable and reliable trend over at least the past seven years.
- The board appreciates efforts to find alternative data to demonstrate progress given the suspension of more tradition standardized testing.
- The new middle school science curriculum seems to show great promise.

- It is refreshing (and very important) to see the district's EDI efforts show up in traditionally academic areas, e.g., historical and cultural native perspectives and visual and performing arts.
- Calling out individual music performers shows regional and state recognition. The board congratulates those students and their teachers.
- While it may be anecdotal, the openness and support to develop a bilingual virtual reading room is not just creative but very impressive.
- This quote sums up the outstanding job by technology professionals to keep school open during a global pandemic: "I know 'skilled users of technology and information' has taken on a whole new meaning this year!" Their (tech professionals) effort is nothing short of amazing.
- Again, while anecdotal, the inclusion of many specific examples of efforts to follow through on the Ends 3.0 Character and Action Outcomes does give the board a better ground level view of what these efforts look like and what they produce.

JM:

- The district's commitment to the Bellingham Promise was really demonstrated during COVID-19 when many tough decisions had to be made about how to best serve our students. The collective commitment to the district's vision and mission was inspiring.
- 5-year graduation rates hitting the 90% mark and improvements in student subgroups.
- Demonstrated commitment to EDI work through professional development, family engagement and remaining committed to representing all students, even when there is external pressure to ban books, are shift core values.
- Continued study on declining math scores and concerted efforts at a variety of levels to address them.
- Working to go beyond simply meeting the State requirement to use the *Since Time Immemorial* (or similar) curriculum.
- Increased participation in visual/performing arts classes and wider representation across student sub-groups.
- Incredible work done to increase participation and representation in CTE programs over the last 5 years.
- From students to staff, the "skilled users of technology" was demonstrated in ways we could've never imagined across the district.
- Despite, or perhaps due to, all the challenges of the year, character outcomes show our students have a great deal of empathy and understanding of how other people feel.

KR:

- Continued growth in graduation rates and decrease in dropout rates. 90% 5-year graduation rate is particularly commendable.
- Middle school science program is promising.
- Encouraging to see efforts to ensure equitable participation in visual and performing arts courses.
- Great efforts to increase participation and improve access in CTE program.
- Technology use became of even greater importance this year and emphasizes value in it being a continuing priority.

3. Please note areas for additional improvement.

DB:

- Math at some levels continues to be a concern. The board appreciates the continued focus and acknowledgment of extra efforts needed in this area.

KR:

- As the report notes, continued examination into lower math scores at lower levels is needed as well as participation for certain after school athletic programs.

4. Comments on the report itself.

KB:

- Impressive results in a lot of areas during a pandemic.
- Appreciate the highlights as well as the challenges.
- Once again thank you for all of the examples cited to show the evidence to support Ends 1, 2 and 3.

DB:

- As in years prior, the board appreciates the personal, well written nature of this final report.

JM:

- This is a wonderful report that really highlights the work of the district and the flexibility, innovation and energy put in by educators.

KR:

- Use of anecdotal evidence is important and powerful, but it would be helpful to include broader context and be mindful of who is centered and how narrative is used. For example, First Responder lunch program is included as an example of Community Members Engaged in a broader world; however, it's also established this program is the subject of concern for some students. Their willingness to share their concerns and express them are also examples of students acting as members of the community.

5. Possible changes to the policy.