Inspiring Excellence

LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
August 27, 2025

Board Members:
Mari Taylor, President
Nina Hanson
David Iseminger
Vildan Kirby
Paul Lund
Mary Templeton, Superintendent/Board Secretary

Student Advisory Council Officers:
Aashisri Bendalam
Afebia Aemere
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: President Mari Taylor, Director Vildan Kirby, Director Paul Lund, Director David Iseminger, Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton and SACo members Aashi Bendalam, Afebia Aemere and Yostina Mosa. Director Hanson attended via Zoom.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Lund made a motion to approve the August 27, 2025 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved. Director Kirby made a motion to approve the August 13, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved. Director Hanson abstained due to being unable to attend the August 13, 2025 school board meeting.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS/ STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

There were no recognition of students/staff, and community members.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Executive Director of Special Services Jeff Jorgensen provided an update on Special Education Services. Mr. Jorgensen shared a brief background about himself, including his 30 years of experience in Special Services and his move from Minnesota three years ago.

He presented information on Special Education enrollment in comparison to overall LSSD enrollment, noting that Special Services has grown yearly at rates between 3.1% and 6.2%. Since the 2021–22 school year, Special Services enrollment has increased by 14.4% compared to a 5.6% increase in overall student enrollment during the same four-year period. Students with special needs between the ages of 3 and 5 years old, increased by 32.6% over the same period with the largest growth happening between the 2022 and 2023 school years. The department currently includes 136 certified staff and approximately 187 classified staff.

Mr. Jorgensen also reviewed budget revenues and expenditures, noting key changes for this year, including the extension of Transition services through the end of the school year after students turn 22. He concluded with an overview of the department's focus areas, which center on advancing inclusionary practices. These goals include increasing the percentage of students served in an LRE Level I (80% or more of their school day in the mainstream setting), fostering student independence, promoting agency and autonomy, and strengthening collective teacher and provider efficacy.

Executive Director of Student Learning and Family Engagement Sarah Danielson provided an update on Student Learning and Family Engagement, with a focus on the Multilingual Learner (ML) Program. She noted that 15% of current LSSD students (1,586 students) have participated in the ML program at some point.

Ms. Danielson shared key data about Multilingual Learners, including that 20% also receive support through an IEP, 13.5% of students who have been in the program have qualified for HiCap, and that once students reach proficiency, they are more likely than their peers to score at Level 3 or 4 on the SBA. She also presented information on WIDA proficiency and expected progress, explaining factors that influence growth and highlighting the role of GLAD training. She also explained the support and resources they receive. Multilingual Specialists Kristen Odegaard and Cassandra Clark shared information on the GLAD Training, including feedback from both staff and students. To date, 72 LSSD teachers have completed the GLAD certification training.

Executive Director of Student Learning and Family Engagement Sarah Danielson concluded by emphasizing program strengths, ongoing Be GLAD professional learning, including intentional student placement, effective tools to monitor progress, ESL classes for families, and the continued support of ELL Student and Family Liaison, Nora Jimenez-Gonzalez.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Taylor opened the floor for community comments. President Taylor opened the floor for any comments or discussion regarding the 2025-2026 Budget Hearing (Associated Student Body Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Debt Service Fund, General Fund and Transportation Vehicle Fund). After hearing no comments Presidents Taylor opened the floor for any comments regarding the Hearing justification for using the Alternative Subcontractor Selection Process. Allison Raduziner of Pilchuck Business Consulting, representing both Delta Mechanical and Pipe Construction Inc., spoke in support of pursuing the EC/CM and MC/CM approach, noting it was a great idea. She asked what stage the district was currently in regarding pre-construction. President Taylor reminded attendees that the public hearing was an opportunity for the board to receive comments, but not to respond. Ms. Raduziner concluded by stating that this is an ideal stage to bring in EC/CM and MC/CM. President Taylor then asked if there were any additional community comments.

Dan Kesler sent a community comment to the Board: President Taylor, Members of the Board of Directors, SACO Members, Dr. Templeton. Mr. Kesler stated: "I attended the August 13 board meeting and was so impressed by the two main presentations on the agenda. The school construction update from Executive Director Robb Stanton was clear, concise, and laid out in easily understood terms the current status of the Skyline/LSMS remodel and the plans for the new elementary. Especially impressive was his overview and introduction of the various design and construction teams involved with the projects. The final budget overview from Executive Director Teresa Main was equally impressive, and served to reassure anyone listening that the district finances are in great shape for the next four years. Director Main showed us that the board's conservative budgeting and wise spending have kept financial reserves in place during a time of uncertainty and even upheaval in school district financing in our state. I spoke to both Director Main and Director Stanton after the meeting and told them that if every Lake Stevens voter had been present at the meeting to hear their reports, the district would have absolutely no problem passing the next levy or bond measure! Thanks to the board and the executive leadership of our district for your management of our resources. Well done all!!"

Hearing no other 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 August 29, 2025 sum of said payroll and/or vouchers and invoices amounting to $1,249.60 is covered by warrants numbered 9000006409 through 9000006420 and manual warrants listed below drawn on the General Fund (E:148/25). Approval of the sum of said August 29, 2025 Voids amounting to (1,044.09) drawn on the General Fund (E:149/25). Approval of the sum of said August 29, 2025 Voids amounting to (34,566.37) drawn on the General and Capital Project Funds (E:150/25). Approval of the sum of said August 29, 2025 Voids amounting to ($22.99) drawn on the General Fund (E:151/25). Approval of the sum of said August 29, 2025 payroll and/or vouchers amounting to $883,747.66 is covered by warrants numbered 317993 to 317993 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General, Capital Project & ASB Fund(s) (E:152/25). Personnel Report: Certified Employment: Wendy Desmond 1:0 LSHS TRUST Teacher, Jennifer Miller 1.0 LSHS Resource Room Teacher, Carla Porter 1.0 LSHS Transitions Teacher, Anna Randall 0.4 LSMS Science Teacher, Scott Sifferman 1.0 LSHS Student Life & Leadership, William Swearingen 1.0 Admin. Director Business Services, Ethan Watts 0.8 CMHS ELA/Wellness Teacher, Adam Weiss 1.0 NLMS School Counselor; Classified Employment: Parker House NonRep ESC Payroll/Fiscal

Supervisory, Kaylee Lee PSE-OP LSMS Bookkeeper OP, Jennie Long NonRep ESC Human Resources Supervisor; Resignations: Katharine Appleton, Seth Becker, Joanne Burgess, Euna Campbell, Michael Conner, Joanie Gorhum, Lilly Hartman, Rhianna Hopkins, Charlotte Lamb, Elsa Leal, Mary Murphy, Rylie Read, Marty Shaw, Maile Shoopman, Owen Stults, Bethany Walker (E:153/25). Approval of the Co-Curricular Report including 2025-26 Non-Rep Salary Schedule, Teamster Driver and Mechanic Salary Schedule, Teamsters Custodians Salary Schedule, Coaches Salary Schedule (E:154/25). The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

Director Lund made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 14-25: Budget Resolution. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved by a roll call vote (R:14-25).

Director Kirby made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 15-25: Imprest Funds. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved by a roll call vote (R:15-25).

Director Iseminger made a motion to approve the LSSD volleyball program to attend the out-of-state Southern California Invitational in San Diego, CA on October 10 and 11, 2025. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved (E:155/25).

Director Lund motioned to approve the Final Acceptance of the Public Works Project. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved (E:156/25).

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

Install breakers in auxiliary gym at North Lake MS (Quality Electric)
Add receptacle for welder at Transportation (Quality Electric)
Annual fire door testing and inspection (Won-Door)

Service Calls

Service intercom at ESC (Dimensional Communications)
Service intercom at Glenwood ES (Dimensional Communications)
Replace window in portable at Mt Pilchuck ES (Pacific Glass and Door)
Replace window in portable at Lake Stevens MS (Pacific Glass and Door)

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

Director Kirby made a motion to approve to award a contract to geotechnical engineering services to Certerra Northwest. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved (E:157/25).

Director Iseminger made a motion to approve the Transitional Bilingual Program (TBIP) program/grants. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved (E:158/25).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Schools Chief of Innovation, Compliance and School Support Operations Gina Anderson gave the first reading to changes for Policy #5462: ANAPHYLAXIS PREVENTION AND RESPONSE. This Policy will be brought back to the September 10, 2025 School Board Meeting for a decision.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Executive Director of Communications Jayme Taylor presented the results of the Annual Family Survey, noting that 1,024 families completed the survey this year. Families were asked a variety of questions, a separate survey for each of their students' schools, including assigning a letter grade to their school. Reported as A/B grades, results included: LSHS at 74%, CMHS at 65%, middle schools averaging 69%, elementary schools averaging 82.1%, ELC at 93%, and HomeLink at 63%. Districtwide, the overall average was 77.53%.

The survey focused on areas such as student support and the overall learning environment. Key themes that emerged included the positive impact of staff and teachers, student well-being, family communication, learning and instruction, as well as facilities, schedules, and operations. When asked about communication preferences, families identified email as their top choice, with strong interest in receiving weekly updates on curriculum and learning, school events and activities, and enrichment opportunities. Next steps include sharing the results with staff and families, as well as carefully reviewing both the length and timing of future surveys.

Executive Director of Communications Jayme Taylor also presented the revision of Procedure for Policy #1410: Community Use of School Buildings, Equipment and Grounds.

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations Teresa Main presented the revision of Procedure for Policy #5560: Student Fees, Fines, Charges.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent Mary Templeton shared that today's kickoff was a big and joyful moment as teachers returned. She reflected on the Foundation for Excellence, emphasizing its deep meaning as a promise of hope and opportunity - the "golden ticket" - for 10,000 children. She noted that success does not come from simply working harder or seeking something entirely new, but from coming together to grow a little better each day.

Dr. Templeton noted that Assistant Superintendent Dr. John Balmer also delivered a powerful and inspiring message to the team. His words resonated deeply, leaving many saying, *"I want to be part of this."* His vulnerable and reflective approach called everyone to rise to excellence, reinforcing that nothing stands in the way of achieving it.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Hanson shared her excitement at seeing the SACo students at the board meeting. She warmly welcomed Executive Director of Special Services Jeff Jorgensen, expressing her enthusiasm for the work ahead. She also thanked Allison Raduziner for her thoughtful community comments. Speaking as a parent, Director Hanson noted the strong communication between schools and families, and she closed by cheering on teachers, saying, *"You go, teachers - I'm rooting for you!"*

Director Kirby thanked Jeff Jorgensen, Sarah Danielson, Jayme Taylor, and Gina Anderson for their presentations and extended her appreciation to all who shared. She concluded by wishing everyone a good evening.

Director Iseminger thanked everyone for attending, extended a warm welcome to Executive Director of Special Services Jeff Jorgensen, and wished all a good evening.

Director Lund welcomed Jeff Jorgensen to the team and thanked him for his presentation. He also extended a warm welcome back to the SACo members.

SACo member Aashi Bendalam thanked Executive Director Jeff Jorgensen, sharing her gratitude and noting that his passion for his work was evident. She also expressed appreciation for the ML Program and was delighted to see Mrs. Odegaard, one of her former teachers. Additionally, she commented that the GLAD strategies were wonderful.

SACo member Yostina Mosa thanked Mrs. Pollestad for everything she does.

SACo member Afebia Aemere thanked everyone for their presentations, sharing that she especially enjoyed learning about Special Services, the ML Program, and GLAD strategies. She noted that it is wonderful how people from different backgrounds can all learn together.

President Taylor thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She shared that the Welcome Back Breakfast earlier that morning was wonderful and highlighted the strong connection Dr. Templeton and Dr. Balmer made with staff during their presentation. She expressed her appreciation to both for their outstanding work, welcomed Jeff Jorgensen, and thanked Sarah Danielson for her presentation on the ML Program.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other objections from other directors, President Taylor adjourned the Regular Session at 8:36 p.m.

President

Secretary