



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 18, 2025**

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location:

September 18, 2025 – District Office, 1985 Barkley Blvd., Bellingham, WA.

1.2 Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement

Ms. Mason called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She acknowledged that this meeting is being held on the ancestral homelands of the Lummi people and Nooksack tribe.

1.3 Roll Call

Present: Directors Doug Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Mason (President), Scott Ritchey, Katie Rose, Superintendent Greg Baker and Sheri O'Day (recorder).

1.4 Audience:

- Brian Gass is a resident and real estate agent in Bellingham. He spoke to the board about the City of Bellingham purchasing property for the Greenways Program. While it's noble that the Greenways program provides trails, parks and open space, the land becomes untaxable which decreases funding for schools. He'd like to see the City of Bellingham provide lost funding to the school district due to the Greenways Program.

1.5 Superintendent's Announcements and Report: Summary of Dr. Baker's comments:

- We are just finishing the third week of the new school year, and it has been an outstanding start. He shared photos from the annual Block Party, the district staff kickoff at Sehome High School and the first day of school.
- District staff have been working hard to refine student enrollment, and it looks like actual enrollment will be within 25-50 students of the projections.
- Dr. Baker shared photos of Baile Folklorico! assemblies at Alderwood and Happy Valley elementaries, as well as the third annual Sehome High School Mom Clinic where the moms of Sehome football players run drills with the student athletes and learn about safety precautions.
- New phone apps for Bellingham, Sehome and Squalicum High Schools allow families to follow sports teams, get game information and sign up for notifications.

- The College Fair, an annual tradition for all four high schools to hear from colleges and about career opportunities, will be hosted by Sehome High School 6-8 p.m. on Oct. 9, 2025.
- Dr. Baker shared a video related to the two levies that are on the November ballot. Ballots will be received by voters in about a month and principals will be helping to share information about the levies at upcoming parent group meetings.

2.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

Mr. Benjamin made a **motion** to approve the following consent agenda items:

- 2.1 Approval of Minutes of the August 21, 2025 Regular Meeting and August 21, 2025 Special Meeting**
- 2.2 Approval of Expenditures and Payroll – August 2025**
- 2.3 Resolution 24-25, Transfer of Funds from Capital Projects Fund to General Fund**
- 2.4 Updates to Policy 2020, Course Design, Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials**
- 2.5 Updates to Policy 3241, Student Discipline**
- 2.6 Updates to Policy 4260, Use of School Facilities**
- 2.7 Updates to Policy 6804, District Office Café Operation**
- 2.8 Office of System and School Improvement (OSSI) School Improvement Plans**
- 2.9 Washington State Department of Commerce Contract Amendment (#2325-225D)**
- 2.10 Whatcom County Health and Community Services Interlocal Agreement (#2324-237A)**
- 2.11 Zervas Group Architects Agreement – Community Transitions Architectural Services (#2425-245)**
- 2.12 Northwest Educational Service District 189 – Whatcom Discovery Program Addendum to 2025-26 Interlocal Agreement (#2526-010A)**
- 2.13 Camp Fire Samish Outdoor Education Program Agreements – Fifth Grade Outdoor Educaion (#2526-074)**
- 2.14 Skagit Valley College Interlocal Agreement – Dual Credit for CTE (#2526-076)**
- 2.15 HUB International Northwest, LLC Contract (#2526-078)**
- 2.16 Walton Beverage Vending Agreement for Services (#2526-079)**
- 2.17 Northwest Educational Service District 189 – ECEAP Contract (#2526-082)**
- 2.18 Youth Care of Utah, Inc. Agreement for Services (#2526-083)**
- 2.19 FLO Analytics Agreement (#2526-085)**
- 2.20 Jostens, Inc. Agreement for Graduation Supplies (#2526-088)**
- 2.21 Faber Construction Agreement – Roosevelt Elementary School Rebuild (#2526-089)**
- 2.22 Microsoft Enterprise Services Work Order (#2526-090)**
- 2.23 Personnel Recommendations**
- 2.24 Personal Services Contracts**

Mr. Ritchey seconded the motion. Unanimous affirmative vote.

3.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3.1 GP-7.2 2025-26 Annual Board Agenda, Revised – general review.

3.2 School Board Directors' Reports. Highlights of comments:

- Ms. Diaz Hackler enjoyed the school board retreat in August as well as the all-district staff kickoff. She volunteered at Parkview Elementary School on the first day of school, and it appeared to go very well. She asked the board if they would be interested in drafting a letter to the community about school district budgets, similar to the letter that was written last year. After discussion, it was suggested that this be added to the special meeting agenda when the board attends the WSSDA conference in November.
- Ms. Rose agreed that the all-district staff kickoff was great, and she appreciated that a separate space was provided at the all-district staff kickoff for anyone who may have been overwhelmed by the number of people attending. She will be participating in the virtual WSSDA General Assembly on Saturday.
- Mr. Ritchey is impressed that the all-district staff kickoff provides a space full of optimism focused on students. He finds it personally rewarding and encouraging. He attended parent night at Sehome High School and talked about a teacher who has unbelievable energy that she brings to her profession. He recently sent Ms. Mason and Dr. Baker an analysis comparing our governance policies with those of the Northshore School District. It may be an opportunity of reflection for us. He has pride in The Bellingham Promise and how we frame what success looks like. He would be interested in making comparisons to additional districts.
- Mr. Benjamin shared that the WSSDA Regional Director Area 1 meeting will be in Arlington on April 20, 2026. The WSSDA General Assembly is this Saturday. It's virtual and can be attended by any of the board members at no cost. He shared that, after considerable thought, he has decided to not run again for the state WSSDA board. He thanked the board and Dr. Baker for the support they provided him over the years while he served on WSSDA's board. He enjoyed the board's August retreat and the all-district staff kickoff, which is one of his favorite events of the year.
- Ms. Mason thanked Mr. Benjamin for his service on the WSSDA board. The all-district staff event was great. She wishes everyone could attend that event or the retirement dinner to see public servants doing good work for our next generation. She especially loved the video highlighting what custodians do over the summer to get the schools ready for students. She expressed appreciation for the bus drivers and paraprofessionals who relay information to her about her student's day. The transportation staff's flexibility during these first weeks of school is amazing. She read an interesting article in the New York Times about unemployment rates in the United States being higher for people with college degrees due to artificial intelligence, and she will share the article.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

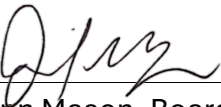
4.1 n/a

5.0 CLOSING ITEMS

5.1 Board Assessment of Meeting: Ms. Rose assessed the meeting, with overall ratings of 3, 3, 3 and 3.

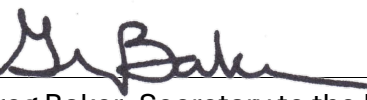
5.2 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Approved:



Jenn Mason, Board President

Attest:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved: October 16, 2025