Inspiring Excellence

LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
WORK SESSION MINUTES
October 8, 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

The Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors met in a Work Session at the Educational Service Center. President Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is for a Solution Tree PLC Presentation. There were no decisions made at this meeting.

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 Paul Lund, Director David Iseminger, Director Vildan Kirby, Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton and SACo members Aashi Bendalam, Afebia Aemere. Director Hanson was unable to attend.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Lund made a motion to approve the October 8, 2025 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved. Director Iseminger made a motion to approve the September 24, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved. Director Kirby abstained due to being unable to attend the September 24, 2025 meeting.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Lake Stevens Middle School Principal Mike Randles and Associate Principal Jamie Sinning introduced the Lake Stevens Middle School Students of the Month for September: Isla Carruthers, Samuel Lewis, Carter Sharpe and Haevyn Troya. Carter Sharpe and Haevyn Troya were unable to attend. North Lake Middle School Principal Brad Ables and Associate Principal Kelly Goodsmansen introduced the North Lake Middle School Students of the Month for September: Humay Amanova, Clara Dykstra, Zoe Delos Reyes and Ellis Lamb. Cavelero Principal Shannon Tarrach and Janelle Parken introduced the Cavelero Mid High School Students of the Month for September: Laine Cooper, Abigail Ferguson, Cameron Alena Harris and Habib Oumarou. Laine Cooper was unable to attend. Lake Stevens High School Principal Leslie Ivelia and Associate Principal Jason Pearson introduced the Lake Stevens High School Students of the Month for September: Katelyn Hall, Ginelle Sarpong, Abbilynne Holmes, Christian Mooeny, Keegan Brown and Genesis Hernandez-Duran. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Balmer introduced the APPLE Award Recipients: Tina Beckstrom, Janelle Bradley, Shantelle Dinsmore, Muhammad Ali Khdair and Nick Weissert.

A break was taken approximately from 7:32 p.m. to 7:40 p.m. President Taylor welcomed everyone back.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

North Lake Middle School Principal Brad Abels presented the school's improvement goals, which focus on increasing student achievement and building a professional, collaborative culture.

Their academic goals include increasing ELA SBA scores from 55% to 65% in 6th grade and 66% to 72% in 7th grade, and Math SBA scores from 55% to 65% in 6th grade and 54% to 64% in 7th grade. The school also aims to improve its Sense of Belonging Survey results from 77% to 80% and attendance from 78% to 85%.

Principal Abels spoke about the school's work as a Professional Learning Community (PLC), including their "Laying the Foundation" initiative. He shared that North Lake's mission is a community of learners committed to ensuring that every student learns at high levels, engages effectively in their classrooms, and feels a deep sense of belonging in their school community. The school is currently developing a vision statement, establishing community commitments, and operationalizing the PLC process within teams.

Their work is framed around Tier 1 instruction, using PLCs to identify essential standards, co-create common formative assessments, develop a common grading tool, and ensure calibration across teams. Each team will also select an additional strategy to strengthen instruction.

Assistant Principal Kelly Goodmansen spoke about Sense of Belonging stating staff will retool advisory lessons with clear, consistent routines and create a climate survey that reflects the needs of the North Lake community. To support attendance, the school will conduct weekly check-ins for Tier 2 attendance concerns and make face-to-face connections with students upon their return to school.

Assistant Principal Goodmansen and Principal Abels discussed renewing the focus on the "3 R's," reinforcing learning expectations, common area agreements, and the Refresh IT process. Principal Abels concluded by highlighting the success of North Lake's student-led pep assembly.

Lake Stevens High School Principal Leslie Ivelia presented information on the school's on-time graduation rate, which increased from [illegible]% to 96%, as well as the LSHS School Improvement Goals for the year.

Their goals include improving Math proficiency from 39% to 44%, ELA from 71.5% to 76%, Science from 41.4% to 52%, and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) from 75.8% to 85%.

Assistant Principal Dan Alderson outlined the LSHS administrative team's roles and responsibilities, emphasizing their shared belief that all students can learn at high levels. The school's focus areas include:

- Teaching and Learning – ensuring students learn deeply and meet standards across all classrooms.
- Student Services and Support – providing the right support at the right time to keep students on track to graduate.
- Student Life and Leadership – helping students feel seen, valued, and meaningfully connected to the school community.

Principal Ivelia shared efforts to strengthen Student Life and Leadership to reach more students and elevate student voice. Associate Principal Alderson spoke about initiatives focused on academic and behavioral readiness, along with interventions to support student success. Under Dr. Alex Johns' leadership, after-school interventions have been expanded to better serve students in need. With Jason Pearson's leadership, the school has developed a Behavioral Readiness and Intervention program, and under Tonya Grinde's guidance, they have focused on improving attendance and supporting students requiring additional intervention.

Principal Ivelia concluded by reflecting on the school's history, culture, and vision for the future, noting that one defining characteristic among staff and students alike is grit - the perseverance to keep moving forward together.

Leslie Ivelia shared a quote from Dr. Garrick Peterson "Every time we as adults get a little bit better, a couple more students learn. And at the other end of that learning are lives and generations that are changed."

Lake Stevens Middle School Principal Mike Randles presented the school's improvement goals. For English Language Arts, the goal is to increase 6th-grade SBA proficiency from 65% to 73% and 7th-grade proficiency from 67% to 75%. In Math, the goals are to raise 6th-grade SBA scores from 57% to 65% and 7th-grade scores from 47% to 55%.

The Sense of Belonging goal aims to increase from 65.6 in fall 2025 to 75.6, while the One Trusted Adult goal seeks to grow from .9% of students identifying an OTA to 80%. For students receiving multilingual services, the goal is to increase those making expected progress from 46% to 56%.

Principal Randles emphasized the school's commitment to every student's belonging and success, with the School Improvement Plan focusing on three key areas: multilingual learners, academics, and social-emotional learning. They will increase the number of students exiting LAP by combining targeted interventions, GLAD strategies in every classroom, and the collaborative PLC cycle – especially through CFA work that sharpens instructional practices and support. They aim to raise 6th and 7th grade proficiency on the SBA by 8 percentage points and they will do this through the PLC process – teachers working together around essential standards, common assessments, and collective responses to student needs. They are building a community culture where every adult takes collective responsibility. Students are not my students or your students – they are our students. Their theme, *Building Belonging Beyond the Classroom*, reflects how student opportunities at LSMS build more than memories - they drive attendance, strengthen mental health, improve academics, and ensure every student feels they belong. Principal Randles concluded with a pyramid chart representing their focus on Interventions & Extensions, Essentials & Assessments, PLC Mindset, Belonging, and Connections.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Taylor opened the floor for community comments. Parent Keiko Sagami Sullivan spoke about Bus Route 505, expressing concerns about the location and safety of her children's bus stop. Cavelero student Parker Bock also addressed the same bus stop that he and his sister walk to. With no further comments, President Taylor closed this portion of the meeting.

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

Director Kirby made a motion to approve the "Consent Agenda" items: Approval of the October 2025 sum of said payroll and/or vouchers and invoices amounting to $984,452.29 is covered by warrants numbered 318567 to 318675 and manual warrants listed below drawn on the General, Capital Projects & ASB Fund(s) (E:181/25). Approval of the October 2025 Comp. & retail Tax sum of d payroll and/or vouchers and invoices amounting to $1,216.64 is covered by warrants numbered 000000006 and manual warrants drawn on the General and ASB Fund (s) (E:182/25). Approval of the sum of said October 2025 payroll and/or vouchers and invoices amounting to $1,281.57 covered by ACH numbers 9000009311 through 9000009328 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General Fund (E:183/25). Approval of the October 2025 VOIDS amounting to ($475.00) is covered by warrants numbered 318355 drawn on the General Fund (E184:/25). Personnel Report: Certified Employment: Elizabeth Demaris 1.0 CMHS CTE Digital Media Teacher -Temp.; Classified Employment: Judy Lagerman PSE-Lake HLD Para 1:1 Elementary Support, Sinead McLoughlin PSE-Lake HLC Para – Temp 1:0 Elementary Support, Roxie Mead PSE-Lake HLD Para – 1:0 Specialized Program, Janelle Sullivan PSE-Lake SUN Para- 1:1 Specialized Program, Andrew Thor PSE-Lake NLMS Para – PBS Behavior Support, Jessica Zahn PSE-Lake Homelink Para-ALE Gen Support; Resignations: Heather Schneider Classified LSMS 9-26-2025 (E:185/25). Approval of the Co-Curricular Report (E:186/25). Approval of the September 2025 Payroll warrants 318517 to 318566 amounting to $13,318,826.42 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General fund(s) (E:187/25). Approval of a donation from the Lake Stevens Education Foundation (LSEF) in the amount of $2,415.00 for the spring Innovative Teaching and Learning Grants (E:188/25). The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and unanimously approved.

Director Lund made a motion to approve the revision of the following Policies – 1020: Equity, 1410: Community Use of School Buildings, Equipment and Grounds, 4005: Staff Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action, 4010: Personnel Recruitment Selection and Assignment – Nondiscrimination, 5090: Student Nondiscrimination, 5580: Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying, 5585: Hate Speech and Bias Incidents. The motion was seconded by Director Iseminger and was unanimously approved (E:189/25).

Director Kirby made a motion to approve the Final Acceptance of the Public Works Projects. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved (E:190/25).

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

District-wide annual fire system confidence testing and repairs (Commercial Fire)

Service Calls

Service fire alarm panel at Hillcrest ES (Pye Barker)

Service chiller at Cavelero MHS (Sno Valley Process Solutions)

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no discussion items at this time.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Executive Director of Communications & Community Services Jayme Taylor presented the S360 Survey results. The survey, which included 400 respondents across various demographics, showed that more than three in five residents continue to hold a positive opinion of the school district. Residents identified hiring more teachers to reduce class sizes and improving safety as top priorities. They also placed greater importance on technological investments when those were described as positively impacting student achievement. Executive Director Taylor also discussed how parents and non-parents receive school information and concluded by outlining the district's next steps. Ms. Taylor concluded by highlighting the district publication *The Lake*, which is distributed four times a year and provides residents with clear, concise, and high-quality information about the district.

Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations Teresa Main presented an overview of the Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy. She also shared information on the district's levy and bond history, property values, and tax rates. Assistant Superintendent Main reviewed the EP&O Levy History with rollback, explained the relationship between the ballot tax rate and the actual tax rate, and provided a countywide tax rate comparison. She concluded by discussing the 2026 Special Election timeline, including resolution filing dates and additional considerations.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent Mary Templeton expressed her appreciation to the Transportation Department and Supervisor Robert Thueringer. She noted that the district has 1,400 more students riding the bus this year, with eleven new drivers currently in training and several others on leave. She shared her gratitude publicly, recognizing the hard work and dedication of the entire transportation team.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Kirby congratulated the Students of the Month and APPLE Award recipients and thanked North Lake, Lake Stevens High School, and Lake Stevens Middle School for their School Improvement Plan presentations. She also expressed her appreciation to Executive Director Jayme Taylor and Assistant Superintendent Teresa Main and the team for their hard work and dedication.

Director Iseminger congratulated the Students of the Month and the APPLE Award recipients. He thanked everyone for their presentations and longevity.

Director Lund said it was an amazing night celebrating the Students of the Month and APPLE Award recipients. He shared a quote from Superintendent Templeton as she returned from presenting the awards, saying, "Yeah, baby - this is why."

President Taylor said, "Maybe that's my board comment too - 'Yeah, baby, this is why.'" She thanked everyone for their time and energy, expressed her appreciation, and wished them all a wonderful evening.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other objections from other directors, President Taylor adjourned the Regular Session at 9:34 p.m.

President

Secretary