Inspiring Excellence
LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
January 14, 2026

Board Members: David Iseminger, President
Mari Taylor
Paul Lund
Brian Kesler
Ryan Dickson
Mary Templeton, Superintendent/Board Secretary

Student Advisory Council Officers: Aashisri Bendalam
Abdul-Karim Marenah

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 Iseminger called to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: President David Iseminger, Director Paul Lund, Director Mari Taylor, Director Brian Kesler, Director Ryan Dickson, Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton and SACo members Aashi Bendalam and Abdul-Karim Marenah.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Taylor made a motion to approve the January 14, 2026 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved. Director Lund made a motion to approve the December 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Dickson and unanimously approved.

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 December: Jocelyn Edwards, Kai Lawson, Analisia Eno, and Kasen Fleming.. North Lake Middle School Principal Brad Ables and Associate Principal Kelly Goodsmansen introduced the North Lake Middle School Students of the Month for December: Evelyn Kimball, Lukas Liaw, Amelia Szuberla, Elise Peterson. Cavelero Principal Shannon Tarrach and Associate Principal Raphil Hasegawa introduced the Cavelero Mid High School Students of the Month for December: Lily Peabody, Sophie Rosell, Kathleen Chencellor, Marvin Williams. Sophie Rosell was not able to attend. Lake Stevens High School Principal Leslie Ivelia and Associate Principal Dan Alderson introduced the Lake Stevens High School Students of the Month for December: Isabella Granados, Lohith Thimmichetty, Amanda Pfiester, Nehemiah Slavens, Mia Ingram, and Bea Merrifield. Amanda Pfiester, Nehemiah Slavens, and Mia Ingram were not able to attend. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Balmer introduced the APPLE Award Recipients: Wyatt Blankenship, Kelsey Dart, Kendall McCoy, Christina McFadden, and Mike Miller. Wyatt Blankenship was not able to attend. SACo President Aashi Bendalam presented the SACo Award to Lake Stevens High School Food Service Staff.

A break was taken approximately from 7:26 p.m. to 7:36 p.m. President Iseminger welcomed everyone back.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Transportation Supervisor Robert Thueringer provided an update on the Lake Stevens School District Transportation Department, which also serves Granite Falls School District. Lake Stevens serves approximately 10,400 students, with a ridership to eligibility rate of 58 percent, while Granite Falls serves approximately 2,300 students with a ridership to eligibility rate of 51 percent.

Mr. Thueringer reported there are 91 contracted drivers and 17 substitute drivers, an increase from the prior year, with no additional routes added. The department operates 60 General Education routes and 31 Special Education routes. The Lake Stevens fleet includes 94 buses, with 12 additional buses on order, and Granite Falls operates 27 buses. Approximately 53 percent of buses are on the depreciation schedule. Shop staff maintain 121 buses plus the white fleet, with no vehicles on deadline and fewer than 4 percent out of service due to WSP inspections.

Mileage increased in both districts during the prior year. Lake Stevens logged 938,865 total miles, an increase of 73,098 miles, and Granite Falls logged 357,745 total miles, an increase of 15,404 miles.

Operational improvements this year include the use of shadow buses on the first day of school, shorter routes serving more schools, updates to the training program, and the transition to a web-based routing system. No routes have been canceled in the past 26 months.

Executive Director of Student Learning and Family Engagement Sarah Danielson provided an update on the Highly Capable (HiCap) Program. She reviewed program structures across grade levels, including elementary cluster classrooms with trained teachers, increased challenge during "What I Need" time, and weekly extension groups for students in grades three through five. At the middle school level, qualifying students are placed in the most rigorous math and ELA courses, with challenge science available in eighth grade. At the high school level, Pre-AP courses begin in ninth grade, with AP, College in the High School, and Running Start options available for students in grades ten through twelve.

Ms. Danielson outlined best practices for increasing access to the HiCap program, including universal screening, assessments during the school day, use of multiple data points, open referral processes, and targeted, multilingual communication, with a focus on underrepresented student groups. She noted that "What I Need" time at the elementary level supports both intervention and enrichment, including extensions such as Beast Academy, book clubs, and critical-thinking enrichment. A recent enrichment highlight included a Student Cybersecurity Challenge at Mt. Pilchuck Elementary, where a student was named the December winner.

Ms. Danielson shared future goals of expanding professional learning opportunities to enhance instruction and enrichment and continuing efforts to achieve proportionate representation in the HiCap program.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Iseminger opened the floor for community comments. Nancy Cummins, a Sno-Isle bus driver, shared the importance of the Sno-Isle program and the impact that having an AM and PM program have had on the students.

Rebecca Moore, a Sno-Isle bus driver, echoed the previous comments regarding the importance of the Sno-Isle program for students.

Kim Shipman, a community member, commended both the transportation department for their willingness to speak to the board and the board's approachability.

Hearing no further comments, President Iseminger closed this portion of the meeting.

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

Director Dickson made a motion to approve the "Consent Agenda" items: Approval of the December 2025 vouchers and invoices have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said payroll and/or vouchers and invoices amounting to $3,217,579.01 is covered by warrants numbered 319391 to 319535 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General, Capital Projects & ASB Fund(s) (E:1/26). Approval of the December 2025 vouchers and invoices have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said payroll and/or vouchers and invoices amounting to $1,581.66 is covered by ACH number 9000012598 through 9000012612 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General Fund (E:2/26). Approval of the sum of said December 2025 voids have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said voids amounting to ($297.96) drawn on the General Fund (E:3/26). Approval of the January 2026 vouchers and invoices have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said payroll and/or vouchers and invoices amounting to $1,234,902.12 is covered by warrants numbered 319596 to 319707 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General, Capital Projects & ASB Fund(s) (E:4/26). Approval of the January 2026 vouchers and invoices have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said payroll and/or vouchers and invoices amounting to $2,505.45 is covered by warrants numbered 9000014203 through 9000014232 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General Fund (E:5/26). Approval of the sum of said January 2026 voids have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said voids amounting to ($52.76) is drawn on the General Fund (E:6/26). Approval of the January 2026 comp & retail tax have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said payroll and/or vouchers and invoices amounting to $1,150.56 is covered by warrants numbered 000000010 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General & ASB Fund(s) (E:7/26). Personnel Report: Certificated Employment: Amanda Lane Temp Resource Room Teacher, Chelsea McMillon K-5 Instructor, Stuart Potter Resource Room Teacher; Classified Employment: Krystle Apilado Para- 1:1 Specialized Program, Maryann Craig MS Bookkeeper, Amanda Estrada Temp. DD Para, Zach Leduc Asst. Wrestling Coach, Tsubasa Wing Li Payroll Specialist, Lydia Stoutah DD Para, Robyn Sturgeon Swing Custodian; Volunteers: Trevor Wilson Volunteer Coach- Wrestling LSHS; Resignations: Catherine Duffy Certificated Teacher 12/5/2025, Erica Hall Non-Rep Nurse 12/9/2025, Brad Pollestad Custodian Sub 12/17/2025; Retirements: Debby Ames OP- MS Bookkeeper 12/30/25, Sandy Pollestad Non-Rep Admin Assist 1/7/2026 (E:8/26); Approval of the Co-Curricular Report (E:9/26). Approval of the December 31, 2025 payroll sum of said payroll and/or vouchers and invoices amounting to $13,603,500.78 is covered by warrants numbered 319536 to 319595 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General Fund(s) (E:10/26). Approval of a donation of a grant from Les Schwab / Lake Stevens to LSHS Football program (ASB) in the amount of $800.00. These funds will be used to cover football program expenses (E:11/26). Approval of a donation of a grant from Dorian Studio to Mt Pilchuck Elementary in the amount of $700.00. These funds will be used for the general building budget (E:12/26). Approval of a donation from Chipotle Mexican Grill in the amount of $457.41 to the Cavalero Class of 2029 (ASB). These funds will go towards future events for the class (E:13/26). Approval of a donation from North Lake Middle School PTSA in the amount of $7,000. These funds will be used for North Lake ASB student activities (E:14/26). Approval to surplus tech. equipment items (E:15/26). The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

Director Kesler made a motion to approve the HiCap program plan to be submitted to OSPI annually in order to receive funding. The motion was seconded by Director Dickson and unanimously approved (E:16/26).

Director Lund made a motion to approve the Final Acceptance of the Public Works Projects. The motion was seconded by Director Dickson and unanimously approved (E:17/26).

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.

<u>Projects</u>

BOND PROJECT – Secure Portables at multiple locations (LONG Building Technologies)
Resurface the gym floor at North Lake MS (A Higher Plane)
Replace gutters on batting cage at Lake Stevens HS (Axiom)

<u>Service Calls</u>

Replace leaking sprinkler at Lake Stevens MS (Viking)

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

Director Taylor made a motion to approve Resolution No. 1-26: Acceptance of the Value Engineering Report and Implementation for New Elementary School Eight. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved by a roll call vote (R No. 1-26).

Director Taylor made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2-26: Approval of Guaranteed Maximum Price amendment one to the GC/CM contract for New Elementary Eight. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved by a roll call vote (R No. 2-26).

Director Lund made a motion to approve the Authorization to Solicit bids for E-Rate Projects. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved (E:18/26).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no Discussion Items at this time.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Robb Stanton, Executive Director of School Planning & Construction, and Jayme Taylor, Executive Director of Communications & Community Services, provided a construction update. 14 projects that are bundled into 5 major and three minor projects. There are projects in each phase of work. A couple of projects have recently been moved into new phases this month. Elementary School Number Eight is out to bid on the major portion of the work. Several projects have moved into permitting. Permits have been submitted for secure receptions, special education and the Hillcrest gym. The first project to move to completion has just been accepted, the secure portable project.

The newest issue of Lake Schools will be sent out soon and should hit mailboxes by Friday January 23rd. There is information regarding the upcoming levy as well as a bond update for the community. Executive Director Jayme Taylor mentioned that while continuing to do printed mailers is an investment, noting that some districts are moving away from them, it is the only way to push information out to all of the residents whether they have a connection to our district or not.

There will be an open house on February 18th for Elementary School Number Eight from 5:30-6:30 at Stevens Creek Elementary School. Official groundbreaking for Elementary School Number Eight will be later this spring. More bids will be opening at the end of January with final bids in March and a full contract expected sometime in April. There is a lot of interest from companies in the area to do the site work.

Projects up next are Skyline and Lake Stevens Middle School Modernizations projects, they are currently in the design phase. Skyline project is set to start in the fall with Lake Stevens Middle School in the next couple of years. Field lighting at Cavalero Mid-High and North Lake Middle School is slated to be completed by early February. Construction of Hillcrest Elementary School's new gym will begin this spring. Mt Pilchuck Elementary School's new gym begins in 2027, Glenwood and Skyline will each receive new gyms as part of their new schools' buildings, and Lake Stevens Middle School will have a new gym and a new auxiliary gym as part of its modernization.

On January 7th, there was an event held by our contracting partners Cornerstone Speed West and Bailey Construction presented. It's a public outreach project about all of LSSD's projects. It gave people an opportunity to learn about our projects and talk with our contractors directly. It's designed to reach out to small and local businesses, businesses that are underserved, such as minority, women, and veteran owned. The goal is to drive as much local business as possible.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Templeton emphasized the I Love Lake Stevens Schools campaign to celebrate our students, employees, and schools. She shared that she presented to chamber and are expanding the concept to I Love Lake Stevens because together, we are a community. The school district is a big part of that, but so are our local businesses and the community that lives here. There will be a kickoff rally on

January 26th from 3:00pm – 5:00pm. There are three locations to choose from, 20th street Trestle Station, Highway 9 & Soper Hill Road, and Lundeen Park.

Dr. Templeton yielded the rest of her time to Sarah Danielson, Executive Director of Student Learning and Family Engagement, to share information about a company called Souls for Souls. Souls for Souls is an international nonprofit that our family engagement specialists discovered. They will be donating 250 pairs of shoes to LSSD to be able to provide to our families in need for free. There will be an invitation sent out to those families to come in on a Saturday to pick out shoes. The sizes range from men's size 14 all the way to children's.

SACo COMMENTS

SACo members not present for comments.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Lund congratulated all of the students of the month, apple award winners, and the student's choice award from SACo, also mentioning how amazing it is that it went to 13 people in our cafeteria and food service. He expressed his gratitude for the reports on transportation and HiCap, two incredible programs that we have. He welcomed Director Dickson and Director Kesler again, noting that he appreciated their contribution to the board and the construction update. He also noted that the construction plan is a great plan and it's important for them to know what is going on so the board members can communicate about it.

Director Taylor thanked everyone for a great night and echoed all of Director Lund's sentiments. She highlighted a comment from a student of the month recipient who thanked the staff for making him feel wanted at school. She noted that the love, support, and care our students receive and give in our community is pretty impressive.

Director Dickson wished everyone a Happy New Year, noting there is a lot to do this year. He congratulated all of the student of the month recipients and apple award winners. He echoed the comments and appreciation that the students had regarding the teachers and staff across the district. Noting the students appreciate being pushed to achieve more, finding creative ways to connect with the students, being able to trust teachers, being encouraged to reach their goals in fun ways.

Director Kesler congratulated all of the award winners of the night. Noting that he got to present a former student with an apple award, which was a special honor for him. He mentioned his experience with the Sno-Isle Skills Center and that he was encouraged to hear the community comments from the night and what Dr. Templeton had to share as well. A difficulty with the Sno-Isle program is the differing bell schedules between Snohomish and Island county school districts. Students are often a few minutes late for a class or would need to leave early to catch the bus to the Skills Center, however, he recalled that those students tended to stay current with his class as they were dedicated and motivated to stay in the Sno-Isle program.

President Iseminger thanked everyone for their presentations and congratulated the students of the month, apple award winners, and the SACo award recipient. He shared his appreciation for the construction updates and all of the communication that goes out regarding those updates. He encouraged people to read about the measures that will be on the ballot coming up and make sure to vote.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other objections from other directors, President Iseminger adjourned the Regular Session at 9:19 p.m.

President

Secretary