



Issaquah School District #411 Board Minutes – January 29, 2026

OFFICIAL

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – 6:04 p.m.

Board President A.J. Taylor called the January 29, 2026, meeting of the Issaquah School Board to order in regular session in the boardroom of the ISD Administration Center at 6:04 p.m. Present along with Director Taylor, were Board Directors Natalie Anderson, Matt Coyne, Harlan Gallinger, and Sydne Mullings, Superintendent Heather Tow-Yick and ISD Administrators.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Please note: Because regular Issaquah School Board meetings are recorded and made available in their entirety, minutes will reflect board action/direction and general topic discussion only.

Public Comment – 6:05 p.m.

Superintendent Tow-Yick acknowledged January as School Board Recognition Month, expressing gratitude to the Board for their many hours of service to the district, and read the Governor's proclamation in their honor.

Public Comment:

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| • Patricia Mathis, Liberty | Re: Threat assessment / communication |
| • Vale Crain, Issaquah High | Re: Math pathway |
| • Leah Karpenko, Issaquah High | Re: Math pathway |
| • Rochelle Eixenberger, Issaquah High | Re: Math pathway |
| • Ben Reed, Issaquah High | Re: Math pathway |
| • Lauren Bartholomew | Re: New high school |
| • Ayaan Thaker & Ayush, Pine Lake | Re: New high school |
| • Molly Petersen, Skyline High | Re: OE-14 implementation |
| • Steph Tolonen, Maywood MS | Re: Behavior and safety concerns |
| • Michelle Bennett, Maywood MS | Re: Student behavior |
| • Jeanne Walford, Maywood MS | Re: Student safety |
| • Julie Hartel, Issaquah High | Re: Math pathway |
| • Camille Wright, Maywood MS | Re: Student behavior |
| • Ashley Kay Smith, Skyline High | Re: OE-14 block class |

Approval of Consent Agenda – 6:39 p.m.

Board Director Mullings moved the consent agenda be approved as presented. Director Coyne seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda items are as follows:

1. Approved the district's Highly Capable Program Annual Plan, as presented;
2. Approved the following gifts/donations: 1) \$14,400 has been donated by the Issaquah High School Booster Club to the Issaquah High School Girls Basketball team. This is revised from the previous gift, approved by the Board on 1/15/2026, of \$12,000, as presented;
3. Approved the minutes for the January 15, 2026 Regular Board Meeting and the January 15,



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- 2025 special board meeting – work study, as presented;
4. Approved the Certificated Employee Resignations/Retirements/Non-Renewals (2025-26), as presented; *
 5. Approved the Certificated Employee Leaves of Absence (2025-26), as presented; *
 6. Approved the Supplemental Contracts/ Employee Agreements for co-curricular and additional assignments;*
 7. Approved the Classified New Employee Contracts (2025-26), as presented; *
 8. Approved the Classified Employee Resignations/Retirements/Terminations (2025-26), as presented; *

*Personnel listings are available by clicking on the appropriate item on the [archived agenda](#) for this meeting.

Establishment of the Agenda – 6:39 p.m.

There were no changes to agenda topics. This morning, the Capital Projects presentation was updated with the revised date for the Hearing Examiner's decision. It had been this Friday, January 30, but will now be next Friday, February 6.

Report out on Day on the Hill – 6:40 p.m.

Members of the Board, ISD Administrators, and Board Student Representatives went to Olympia, WA for Day on the Hill on January 27, 2026. The Board and Student Representatives summarized the highlights.

Work Study Recap – 6:53 p.m.

The Board provided an update on the work study that was held before the Board Meeting to discuss Results 2 Academics (Work Study 2 of 2).

Works in Progress – 6:57 p.m.

Superintendent Tow-Yick updated the Board on various projects and activities around the district.

New High School Update – 7:07 p.m.

Prior to tonight's regular meeting, the Board met with ISD Administrators for a work study on the new high school. They recapped that discussion during the meeting and also received a presentation from ISD Administrators.

Capital Projects Updates – 7:56 p.m.

Tom Mullins, Director of Capital Projects, presented an update on Capital Projects. Tom also shared two upcoming retirements in the Capital Projects department – Royce Nourigat, Assistant Director of Capital Projects, has over 40 years in the district, and Debbie Rossen, Construction Specialist, has been with the department since 2015.



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Monitoring Report for Operational Expectation 9 Communicating with the Public (OE-9) – 8:07 p.m.
Director Mullings moved the Board accept the monitoring report for OE-9 Communicating with the Public, as presented. Director Coyne seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board and Administration held a discussion prior to the vote.

Public Comment:

None

Legislative Update – 8:45 p.m.

Director Anderson brought forward items regarding legislation as it pertains to education.

Announcements and Correspondence – 8:48 p.m.

This is a standing opportunity for the Board to share announcements and correspondence. Please note that correspondence related to specific students and staff are not listed, in alignment with our district regulation on student privacy and civility.

The Board reported the following correspondence since the last meeting:

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| • K. John | Re: Positive Experience with IB at Skyline |
| • K. Flynn | Re: Maywood Middle School |
| • S. Mundru | Re: Grading scale |
| • T. Mathis | Re: School Safety |
| • C. Eldridge | Re: District spending trends |
| • L. Bartholomew | Re: New high school |
| • V. Christensen | Re: Block classes at Skyline |
| • B. Bajwa | Re: Block classes at Skyline |
| • Student | Re: Block classes at Skyline |
| • P. Park-Hewardt | Re: Block classes at Skyline |
| • Student | Re: Block classes at Skyline |
| • Student | Re: Block classes at Skyline |
| • Student | Re: Block classes at Skyline |
| • A. Faraci | Re: Block classes at Skyline |
| • L. Woldendorp | Re: Block classes at Skyline |
| • Student | Re: Block classes at Skyline |
| • Student | Re: Block classes at Skyline |

This list reflects correspondence sent to individual Board members since the last board meeting:

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| • J. Barnaby | Re: Quick update |
| • Deputy Mayor Charbonneau | Re: City of Newcastle / ISD Meeting |



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Calendar and Future Agenda Items – 8:48 p.m.

The Board also reviewed and identified topics for future board meeting agendas as well scheduled special meetings and work sessions.

- 2026-27 Board Meetings Calendar Draft
- Board Retreat Agenda Planning
- Digital Promise – League of Innovative Schools Spring 2026 Convening

Director Mullings moved the Board accept the 2026-27 School Board Meetings Calendar, as presented.

Director Coyne seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board and Administration held a discussion prior to the vote.

Adjournment: 8:56 p.m.

These minutes were approved as presented at the February 12, 2026 board meeting.