

CASHMERE SCHOOL DISTRICT #222
Regular Board Meeting
January 26, 2026

Call to Order: Chairman Aaron Bessonette called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Declaration of Quorum: Board members Paul Nelson, Roger Perleberg, Nicholas Wood and Sara Pipkin were present. There were fourteen others present. Superintendent Johnson was absent.

- 1.0 Flag Salute – Chairman Aaron Bessonette led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2.0 Approval of Agenda – Chairman Aaron Bessonette requested to move item 3.3.6. Future Ready Graduation Requirements, up and to be presented following item 3.3.1 Advanced Energy Management Program.

On a motion by Sara Pipkin, the Board approved the agenda as revised.

3.0 Reports, Correspondence and Program

- 3.1. Board Report – Board member Roger Perleberg shared that he recently attended the SCAC Duals in Royal City, Washington, where high school teams from Royal, Wapato, Zillah, and Cashmere competed in head-to-head dual wrestling meets. He noted the event was very enjoyable and commended the hard work and dedication of our student-athletes as they pursue a championship season. Board member Nick Wood acknowledged the celebration held at Vale Elementary recognizing the school's designation as a National Distinguished School through the ESEA Distinguished Schools Award Program, honoring its outstanding achievement and commitment to student growth. This prestigious recognition reflects the dedication of Vale's students, staff, and families and reflects the school's continued focus on excellence. Board Chairman Aaron Bessonette remarked that the second semester is already underway. Lastly, Superintendent Johnson reminded the Board of the upcoming building visitations which have been scheduled for February 6th, 26th, and 27th.
- 3.2. CHS Student Report – High school ASB Secretary, Rylan Reiber, was present to update the Board on the latest CHS activities and sporting events. Mr. Reiber stated the beginning of the new semester was underway. He also spoke about the upcoming high school play, Once Upon a Mattress, with performances on January 30th & 31st, February 5th, 6th, and 7th. All performances will begin at 7PM. Tickets will be available for purchase in advance at the CHS office or at the door. He went on to highlight the recent regional DECA Conference held in Yakima, WA, where about 20 students qualified for nationals.
- 3.3. Superintendent's Report –
 - 3.3.1. Advanced Energy Management Program – Superintendent Johnson introduced Ron Brown and his team to present on the Advanced Energy Management (AEM) Program. He explained that about 18 months ago, new state energy requirements prompted the district to hire an engineer, who confirmed the buildings were compliant and issued certification.

After later attending a Superintendent Advisory Committee meeting and hearing about the AEM student internship program, Superintendent Johnson saw value in taking a deeper look at district facilities beyond basic compliance. He noted that some districts have faced significant penalties for noncompliance.

The AEM program uses paid student interns, at no cost to the district, who collaborate with maintenance staff, the PUD, and other partners to identify efficiency improvements. While a few areas for improvement were identified, the district's buildings remain generally aligned with high efficiency standards.

Ron Brown went on to provide a brief overview of his role, explaining that he mentors the interns, while the analytical and project work is completed by the students. Interns serve as energy analysts on real projects using AEM tools, gaining experience in data analysis, energy reporting, and operational optimization. They also develop workplace skills such as teamwork, communication, project management, and client interaction while helping building owners reduce energy costs. The interns concluded by presenting the attached [PowerPoint](#) to the Board to further explain how the AEM program works.

- 3.3.6 Future Ready Graduation Requirements – Superintendent Johnson introduced Riley Acheson, who was selected last year to serve as a student representative on the Washington State Board of Education. He shared that she and Mr. MacKenzie were present to provide an update on the Future Ready Graduation Requirements work.

Ms. Acheson explained that in addition to serving on the State Board, she is a member of the FutureReady Initiative, Washington's effort to update high school graduation requirements to better prepare students for the future economy and postsecondary opportunities. She stated that the current focus of the committee is reviewing credit requirements and identifying areas that may need revision or improvement. As part of her role, Ms. Acheson conducted student listening sessions at local schools to gather feedback on potential updates to graduation requirements. She shared that the committee will spend this year developing recommendations and drafting policy proposals to bring forward during the 2027 Legislative Session. Through the listening sessions, students expressed that they often feel underprepared in the area of financial literacy and identified it as a key area for consideration in future graduation requirements.

- 3.3.2 Wellness Committee Update – Superintendent Johnson introduced CTE Director Rebecca Swanson, who also leads the district's Wellness Committee, to provide an update to the Board.

Ms. Swanson reported that the Wellness Committee met last week to fulfill the Triannual Wellness Policy Committee requirement. She explained that school districts are required to establish and maintain a Local School Wellness Policy Committee to ensure the district's wellness policy is effective, compliant, and

responsive to the needs of students and families. As mandated by the USDA, districts participating in federal child nutrition programs must review and update their wellness policy at least once every three years. The committee includes a diverse group of stakeholders, such as parents, students, school administrators, food service personnel, teachers, and community members. Part of the review process involves documenting any updates or changes, and making the updated policy and assessment results publicly available, typically via the district website.

Ms. Swanson then provided a recap of the recent triannual review, which included feedback from all three buildings, as well as district-wide and community input. The review addressed what has been implemented, how the district ensures the Wellness Policy and Procedures are being followed, whether any changes were needed, and areas identified for potential improvement.

- 3.3.2. Fiscal/Enrollment Report – Business Manager Bo Charlton reported that he continues to closely monitor district enrollment. He noted that there has been very little change overall, with only a slight decrease at the high school level of approximately 2 FTE. Mr. Charlton stated that, overall, enrollment numbers are tracking as projected.
- 3.3.4. Legislative Session Update – Business Manager Bo Charlton reported that key focus areas for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) during the current legislative session include Special Education funding, Materials, Supplies and Operating Costs (MSOC), and student services, including transportation. Mr. Charlton emphasized the importance of closely monitoring developments in these areas over the coming months, as they may have a direct impact on district funding and operations.
- 3.3.5. ADA Accessibility Grant – Business Manager Bo Charlton reported that the district recently applied for three grants and of those it was awarded the ADA Access Compliance Grant. This grant supports facility improvements that ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and related state accessibility requirements. The district was awarded \$50,000. Mr. Charlton explained that the grant funds will be used to replace the high school bleachers, which were identified as not ADA compliant. The district's insurance provider had also advised that the bleachers needed to be replaced. The total cost for the new ADA-compliant bleachers is approximately \$55,000. Mr. Charlton noted that the awarded grant funds will cover roughly 95% of the total project cost.

4.0 Visitors – There were visitors in attendance but none elected to speak.

5.0 Consent Agenda

5.1. Approval of Board Minutes – On a motion by Nick Wood, the Board approved the December 15, 2025 and January 12, 2026 minutes as presented.

5.2. Approval of Warrants and Financial Reports

Pay date of December 31, 2025: Warrants #327568 - #327605 totaling \$307,052.77

General Fund	\$302,672.76
ASB	\$4,380.01

Pay date of January 12, 2026: Warrants #327606 - #327660 totaling \$174,131.97

General Fund	\$141,087.44
Capital Projects	\$18,124.48
ASB	\$14,920.05

Pay date of January 30, 2026: Warrants #327673 - #327748 totaling \$163,112.20

General Fund	\$144,767.87
ASB	\$18,344.33

Pay date of December 31, 2025: Payroll in an amount totaling \$1,866,586.67, including benefits.

Pay date of January 31, 2026: Payroll in an amount totaling \$1,851,407.84, including benefits.

On a motion by Aaron Lowers, the Board approved the warrants and payroll as presented.

6.0 Action Items

6.1. Personnel Report

1. Retirements/Resignations/Releases/Terminations, etc.

Name	Position	FTE	Request/Reassignment
Jeff Kenoyer	CHS – Teacher		Retirement
Cheri Beardsley	CMS – SpEd Paraprofessional		Retirement
Kathy Lindell	CMS – Librarian		Retirement
Makenzie Knowles	Vale – SpEd Paraprofessional		Resignation
Tom Stone	CSD – Bus Driver		Resignation
Kelsey Fahey	CMS – 6 th Grade Teacher		Resignation

2. Requests for Leave/Transfer/Change in Hours/Additional or New Assignment

Name	Position	FTE	Request/Reassignment
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3. Recommendation for Employment/Transfer/Return from Leave of Absence

Name	Position	FTE	Comments
Shawn Christman	Vale – Custodian		Replaces Osvaldo Ibarra
Lee Blomquist	Vale – SpEd Paraprofessional		Replaces Alejandra Gonzalez
Jeanene Moore	Vale – SpEd Paraprofessional		Replaces Makenzie Knowles

3a. Contract Approvals/Renewals 2025-2026

4. Recommendation/Request for Approval of Positions to be Posted

Position	FTE	Comments
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5. Status of Staff Vacancies Posted, this date:

Position	FTE	Closes
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CO-CURRICULAR/SUPPLEMENTAL POSITIONS**1. Resignations/Releases**

Name	Position	Comments
Andrew Groce	CHS – Leadership Teacher	Resignation
Dennis Tronson	CHS – Head Girls Soccer Coach	Resignation
Corine Blankenship	CHS – Asst Volleyball Coach	Resignation
Rett Hartmann	CMS – Asst Track Coach	Resignation

2. Non-Renewals

Name	Position	Comments
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3. Recommendations for Employment/Renewals: Co-Curricular Contracts for Activities

Name	Position	Comments
Tasha Key	CHS – Head Tennis Coach	Replaces Trevor Kert
Rett Hartmann	CHS – Asst Golf Coach	New Position

Superintendent Johnson noted an error in the retirement section of the personnel report where Kathy Lindell was inadvertently listed as a librarian at Vale Elementary instead of at Cashmere Middle School. The correction has been made and is reflected in these minutes.

On a motion by Sara Pipkin, the Board approved the personnel report as revised.

- 6.2. Board Re-Organization – On a motion by Roger Perleberg, the Board unanimously voted on the following Board Re-Organization:

Board Chairman: Nick Wood
 Board Vice-Chairman: Sara Pipkin
 Legislative Representative: Aaron Lowers
 WIAA Representative: Roger Perleberg

- 6.3. 2025-26 Highly Capable District Plan – Assistant Principal Rhett Morgan presented a PowerPoint to the Board outlining the 2025–26 Highly Capable District Plan. He highlighted various key program components such as the number of Highly Capable (HiCap) students receiving services, universal screenings, the identification process, and program goals. Mr. Morgan noted that approval of the Highly Capable District Plan is an annual requirement established by OSPI.

On a motion by Nick Wood, the Board approved the Highly Capable District Plan as presented.

- 6.4. Board Policy 2108 – “Learning Assistance Program” (1st Reading) – Superintendent Johnson presented the Board with Board Policy 2108 “Learning Assistance Program” for a

first reading. He stated that the policy will be brought back at next month's board meeting for a second reading and consideration of approval.

- 6.5. Board Policy 6220 – "Bid Requirements" (2nd Reading) – Superintendent Johnson presented the board with Board Policy 6220 "Bid Requirements" for a second reading.

On a motion by Sara Pipkin, the Board approved Board Policy 6220 "Bid Requirements" as presented.

- 7.0 Adjournment – On a motion by Roger Perleberg and there being no further business to discuss, Board Chairman Aaron Bessonette adjourned the meeting at 7:59 PM.

Secretary

Chairman