Inspiring Excellence
LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING
May 28, 2025

Board Members:
Mari Taylor, President
Nina Hanson
David Iseminger
Vildan Kirby
Paul Lund
Mary Templeton, Superintendent/Board Secretary

Student Advisory Council Officers:
Riley Boerger
Aashisri Bendalam
Yostina Mosa

The Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors met in an Executive Session at the Educational Service Center. Vice President Iseminger called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

The Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors met in a Special Session at the Educational Service Center. Vice President Iseminger called the Special Session order at 5:00 p.m. The following retirees were recognized: Cindy Allred, Shelley Anderson, Pat Benjamin, Patti Bowers, Robin Burn, Chris Cecchetto, Robert Coleman, Lisa Crannell, Katherine Critchfield, Emily Davis, Kathy Eacrett, Steve Eacrett, Debbie Eichner-Hatch, Michele Gienger, Pamela Greear, Monica Grimm, Lisa Guill, Jill Hagins, Keirnen Hoyt, Teresa Johnson, Brian Koreski, Romey Koreski, Bill Kusler, Donna Leber-Buzzo, Andrew Marks, Linda Mauer, QT Nguyen, Eric Peterson, Panda Schoonover, Chris Tavares, Miriam Tencate, Becky Willis-Smith, Susan Wixon-Phillips.

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: Paul Lund, Vildan Kirby, David Iseminger, Dr. Mary Templeton and SACo members Aashisri Bendalam and Yostina Mosa. President Taylor, Director Hanson and SACo President Riley Boerger were unable to attend.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Lund made a motion to approve the May 28, 2025 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved. Director Kirby made a motion to approve the May 14, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Principal Trexel shared Sunnycrest's SEL/Behavior Goal for the year: ensuring that 80% of students will have fewer than two office discipline referrals (ODRs) by year's end. She discussed their focus on co-constructed classroom norms and regular class meetings, emphasizing the importance of every student feeling seen, heard, and valued. One key tradition supporting this work is Unity Day each October, when students and staff wear orange to promote kindness and inclusion.

She also highlighted the school's efforts to foster a sense of belonging through a variety of student clubs, including the Plant Club, Art Club, Minecraft Club, Watercolor Club, Bead Club, Crochet Crusaders, and the Little Readers Club.

In addition, Principal Trexel shared data from a recent student survey on Social Awareness, which measured how well students consider and empathize with others' perspectives. The results showed significant improvement, with 328 responses indicating that Social Awareness scores reached 71% in spring 2025. Students are demonstrating respectful empowerment and growing in their ability to listen to and understand different points of view.

Principal Trexel shared that Sunnycrest is seeing growth in the area of self-efficacy -how strongly students believe in their ability to succeed academically. Based on 328 student responses, self-efficacy scores reached 57%, indicating progress and room for continued growth.

Principal Trexel shared results from the Staff Climate and Culture Survey, as well as the Building Survey. In winter 2025, 57 staff members responded to the statement, *"I feel my building is a positive place to work,"* which received an average score of 3.37 - an improvement from spring 2024.

Additionally, the statement *"I feel a sense of belonging in my role as a member of my school staff"* received an average score of 3.44, also based on 57 responses. These results reflect positive growth in staff perceptions of workplace climate and belonging.

Principal Trexel concluded her presentation by highlighting key celebrations and positive developments within the Sunnycrest community, underscoring the collective efforts to create an inclusive and uplifting environment for both students and staff.

Hillcrest Principal Katy Rudolph shared what makes the school community proud to be Hillcrest Hawks. She highlighted key strengths such as strong collaborative teams built around district curriculum, school-wide goals and celebrations, a consistent PBIS system, a strong partnership with the PTA, and a commitment to inclusivity within special education programs.

Looking ahead to next year, Principal Rudolph expressed excitement about continuing work in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), fostering a strong sense of belonging, and blending academic learning with fun, engaging school experiences. Examples include strengthening collaborative practices to ensure consistent student experiences across grade levels, amplifying student voice through ASB and school-wide activities, and offering events such as family nights, concerts, spirit days, and science night. Principal Rudolph shared a video featuring students responding to questions by expressing their perspectives through Student Voice and sharing their personal experiences.

Principal Rudolph concluded with a snapshot of Hillcrest's preliminary data and their academic goal: 75% of students performing at grade level on the SBA in Math and Reading. To support this goal, the school is implementing several key strategies, including the

· use of district-provided curriculum, strengthening collaborative educator teams to ensure consistent instruction across grade levels, continuing intervension block with redesigned model, identifying and utilizing resources such as interim assessments to support teaching and learning, and focusing on effective Tier 1 and Tier 2 instructional practices. Additional math strategies to increase achievement would include iReady curriculum, strengthen PLC's, intervention math block, strengthen Tier 1 & 2 supports and systems and utilizing interims.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Vice President Iseminger opened the floor for community comments. Hearing none, Vice President Iseminger closed this portion of the meeting.

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

Director Kirby made a motion to approve the "Consent Agenda" items:
Approval of the May 30, 2025 Vouchers Warrant Numbered 317017 to 317188 - $1,052,208.16 manual warrants listed below drawn on the General, Capital Projects & ASB Fund(s). The sum of said VOIDS $(265.90) is covered by warrants numbered 315187 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General Fund. (E:90/25). Personnel Report: Certified Employment: Bethany Anderson, Heidi Christensen, Jennifer Degroot, Kelly Goodmansen, Christian Johnson, Cassie Plummer, Cynthis Prouty, Mike Randles, Rebecca Selby; Classified Employment: Jennifer Kitchel; Resignations: Timothy Barlow Teamsters-Trans. 5/12/25, Jessica Madden Certificated CMHS 6/20/25, Todd Martinez-Simmons Certificated LSHS 6/20/25, Jennifer Much Certificated LSHS 6/20/25, Benjamin Rice Certificated LSMS 6/20/25; Retirements: Robert Coleman Certificated LSMS 6/20/25, Katherine Critchfield Certificated Sunnycrest 6/20/25 Sep of Service, Michele Gienger Certificated CMHS 6/20/25 (E:91/25); Approval of the Co-Curricular Report (E:92/25); Acceptance of a donation from Stevens Creek PTA to Stevens Creek Elementary ASB in the amount of $123.38 (E:93/25);Acceptance of a donation from Stevens Creek PTA to Stevens Creek Elementary in the amount of $6,566.00 (E:94/25); Acceptance of a donation from Highland PTA to Highland Elementary in the amount of $5,853.02 (E:95/25); Acceptance of donation from Stevens Creek PTA to Stevens Creek Elementary ASB in the amount of $250.00 (E:96/25); Acceptance of a donation from Stevens Creek PTA to Stevens Creek Elementary ASB in the amount of $250.00 (E:97/25); The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

Director Lund motioned to approve the Final Acceptance of the Public Works Project. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved (E:98/25).

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

Service Calls

Service reader board at Hillcrest ES (Daktronics)

Service elevator hoist way at Lake Stevens HS (TKE)

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

Director Lund motioned to approve Resolution No. 11-25: Adopting the Study and Survey prepared by NAC Architecture for the Lake Stevens School District. The motion was seconded by Director Kirby and unanimously approved by a roll call vote (R: 11-25).

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent Mary Templeton wanted to highlight two important things.

First, she shared her experience attending one of the many outstanding concerts in our school district. These performances are truly stellar - so well attended that you can't even find parking! Every child is on stage, either singing or playing an instrument. What's most impressive is their professionalism - they're prepared, connected, listening deeply, thinking critically, collaborating, and performing under pressure.

She specifically mentioned the Lake Stevens High School Jazz Night, which brought together all of our secondary jazz orchestras. It was an incredible evening. She applauded the students and band directors, particularly Mr. Proff, whose leadership has brought home awards from across the state. We are truly fortunate to have such a high-quality band program, especially with its jazz component.

Second, she emphasized the diversity of languages spoken across our district, which is a tremendous strength. This diversity is reflected in our strategic plan and was one of the key reasons she was drawn to Lake Stevens. It's an exciting part of who we are.

One way we celebrate and honor that diversity is through World Language Competency Testing. These are students who are bilingual or even trilingual - a remarkable gift. This program says to them: *We see you. We honor your skills.* Students can earn up to four high school credits based on their language proficiency. And if they also score a 3 or 4 on the SBA English Language Arts assessment, they receive the Washington State Seal of Biliteracy on their transcript.

Here are some powerful stats from the most recent testing day:

58 students participated
81 CMHS and 111 LSHS credits were awarded with a total of 192
13 CMHS and 23 LSHS Seal of Biliteracy earned with a total of 36
17 unique languages were represented

These accomplishments reflect the incredible talent and cultural richness of our students - and we're proud to celebrate them.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Kirby congratulated all of the retirees. All teachers have my heart. She is excited for all of the work that is going to start. This weekend is the PRIDE weekend. Please go visit the students. Tell them they belong, they are enough.

Director Lund thanked Superintendent Templeton for her update. He is so excited to see so many of our students becoming bilingual. It's an incredible skill and such an asset. He also expressed appreciation for the building reports, saying it's always enjoyable to hear directly from the schools.

Director Lund highlighted the significance of the evening, noting that *700 years of classroom experience* were being celebrated through the retirements recognized tonight. "These retirees are truly beloved," he said. "They've made a lasting difference in our lives and in the lives of countless students. They brought not only dedication but also incredible creativity to their work. What a gift that is. I deeply applaud their service and the time they've given to our district."

SACo Vice President Aashi Bendalam greeted the room, saying, "Good evening, everyone," and thanked the schools for their building presentations. She gave a special shoutout to Hillcrest Elementary, saying, "I'm so glad you're focusing on student voice - this is exactly what we advocate for. It's great to see you learning more about it and working toward more school-wide activities based on what students enjoy."

Aashi also shared a personal highlight: "I was one of the students who received a World Language credit, and I'm really proud of myself for that achievement." She concluded by thanking Dr. Templeton for her update.

SACo Secretary Yostina Mosa wanted to highlight that the Sunnycrest Elementary presentation was focused on the environment. She thought it was incredibly powerful - everything centered around creating and improving a positive environment for both students and staff. Ms. Mosa stated, "You've implemented new strategies, and it's clear that students are responding to the environment you've built. I truly appreciate the emphasis you placed on this important work."

Director Iseminger thanked Superintendent Templeton for her update and expressed appreciation for the building presentations. "It is great to hear about the culture in our schools and the importance of the voices of our own students," he said. "That's what creates the kind of learning environment where they can truly thrive."

He also congratulated the retirees, saying, "You've been such an important part of everything we've built in Lake Stevens, and you will always remain a part of it. Thank you for your kindness, your talents, and the knowledge you've shared. Best of luck in all that lies ahead."

ADJOURNMENT

With no other objections from other directors, Vice President Iseminger adjourned the Regular Session at 7:14.

President

Secretary