Inspiring Excellence
LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
February 11, 2026

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

Student Advisory Council Officers: Aashisri Bendalam
Afebia Aemere

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 Mari Taylor, Director Paul Lund and SACo members Aashi Bendalam and Afebia Aemere. Director Ryan Dickson and Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton joined via zoom. Director Brian Kesler was absent.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Lund made a motion to approve the February 11, 2026 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Taylor and unanimously approved. Director Taylor made a motion to approve the January 28, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Lund 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 January: Camden Loftus, Rosemary Schnippel-Smith, Adam Allen, and Scarlett Vollans. North Lake Middle School Principal Brad Ables and Associate Principal Kelly Goodsmansen introduced the North Lake Middle School Students of the Month for January: Adriana Powers, Skylar Lincoln, Ariana Etheridge, and Owen Brandt. Cavelero Principal Shannon Tarrach and Dean of Students Michael Moore introduced the Cavelero Mid High School Students of the Month for January: Areen Elhassadi, Jaren Whitley, Noah Anderson, and Michael-Tristan Gilmore. Lake Stevens High School Principal Leslie Ivelia and Student Life and Leadership Coordinator Scott Sifferman introduced the Lake Stevens High School Students of the Month for January: Zale Ganal, Diego Pulido Hernandez, Halle Boyland, Alejandra Robles, Kloe Jones, and Logan Loftin. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Balmer introduced the APPLE Award Recipients: Katelyn Vincent, John Trivett, Heidi Whitman, Zackary Bowman, and Melissa Kilgore. SACo President Aashi Bendalam presented the SACo Award to Paraeducator Kameswari Regulagedda.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Molly Langum, Food and Nutrition Services Manager, presented updates of her department. Nutrition Services operated the Summer Feeding Program at the Early Learning Center (ELC) for 24 days, serving over 2,000 meals to children ages 1–18, with an average of eight adults per day also purchasing meals and participating alongside students. The department, supported by 71 employees districtwide, continues to focus on creating welcoming lunchroom environments, particularly for incoming kindergarten students. Filling a couple of key roles this year, the team welcomed Jessica Padilla as Assistant Supervisor and Joshua King as Temporary Field Assistant. For the 2025–2026 school year, ELC remains approved for free meals for all students through June 30, 2029. Mount Pilchuck, Skyline, and Stevens Creek qualify under House Bill 1238 by meeting the 30% free and reduced application benchmark, with Skyline currently meeting the threshold. Mount Pilchuck, Stevens Creek, and Sunnycrest are 15–23 applications short, and targeted outreach efforts are underway to encourage eligible families to apply and maintain funding. Across Stevens Creek, Mount Pilchuck, and Skyline, meal participation has increased by 159% compared to last year.

The department is also exploring development of a Central Kitchen to serve as the primary receiving and distribution hub for most district schools. The vision includes large-batch scratch cooking and transitioning from a "hot ship" to a "cold ship" model, in which meals are freshly prepared, rapidly chilled, distributed, and reheated on site. This approach is designed to improve quality, temperature control, and freshness, ensuring high-quality meals are served to students each day.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Iseminger opened the floor for community comments. Community member Elizabeth Malan gave comments regarding the recent student organized ICE protests.

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

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

Director Taylor made a motion to approve the "Consent Agenda" items: Approval of the February 3, 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 $10,000 is covered by warrant numbered 319920 to 913321 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the Capital Projects Fund (E:28/26). Approval of the February 13, 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 $2,382.02 is covered by ACH numbers 9000015853 through 9000015877 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General Fund (E:29/26). Approval of the February 13, 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 $3,175,283.39 covered by warrants numbered 319922 to 320038 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General, Capital Projects, ASB & Transportation Vehicle Fund(s) (E:30/26). Approval of the February 13, 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 $511.88 is covered by warrants numbered 000000011 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General and ASB Fund(s) (E:31/26). Approval of the January 2026 payroll has been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said payroll and/or vouchers and invoices amounting to $13,673,681.33 is covered by warrants numbered 319863 to 319919, ach numbers 9000014255 to 9000015852 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General Fund(s) (E:32/26). Personnel Report: Certificated Employment: Breanna Smith Science Teacher-Non-Cont.; Classified Employment: Tucker Fontaine Payroll Technician; Volunteers: Colten Richards LSHS; Retirements: Robert Davis 8/30/2026 (E:33/26); Approval of the Co-Curricular Report (E:34/26). Approval of Non-Contract Athletic Supervisions Salary Schedule Middle, Mid-High & High School and Auxiliary, Student and Casual Labor Worker Hourly Rate Schedule (E:35/26). Approval of a donation of a grant from Hillcrest PTA to Hillcrest Elementary in the amount of $20,000.00. These funds will be used to allow all students to attend field trips. (E:36/26). Approval of a donation of a grant from North Lake Middle School PTSA to North Lake Middle School ASB in the amount of $12,500.00. These funds will be used to fund ASB student activities (E:37/26). Approval of a donation of a grant from North Lake Music Boosters to North Lake Middle School in the form of an electric piano valued at $1,822.97. This item will be used for the choir at North Lake Middle School (E:38/26). The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no Discussion Items at this time.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Robb Stanton, Executive Director of School Planning & Construction, and Dr. Gina Anderson, Chief of Innovation, Compliance and School Support Operations, addressed the board regarding the educational specifications for the Secondary Innovative Learning Center (SILC) and welcomed suggestions and/or questions.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Templeton expressed gratitude to the community for supporting the renewal of the EPO educational programs and operations levy and the educational technology levy for four more years, noting that both measures are currently passing well. She highlighted the district's diverse student body, emphasizing that their varied interests, beliefs, and perspectives are a core strength. She reiterated the district's commitment to its mission of developing all students into contributing members of society and lifelong learners, valuing feedback, and striving for excellence. She closed by underscoring the role of public education in Lake Stevens as a foundation for democracy, opportunity, and community, expressing her enthusiasm for leading the district.

SACo COMMENTS

SACo members not present for comments.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Lund praised the meeting, noting it was inspiring for first-time attendees. He highlighted the diverse trajectories and voices of students and the pride of their families, emphasizing the significance of the SACo Student Choice Award. He thanked the community for supporting the levies, which help the district reach every child's potential, and expressed appreciation for staff and student achievements. He also acknowledged the importance of community comments and participation in public meetings.

Director Taylor thanked attendees for a great evening with students, families, and staff. She recognized the sacrifices of community members who support schools through voting on bonds and levies, and commended the district's handling of student-led protests, emphasizing safety, order, and respect for free speech. She praised students, staff, and administrators for modeling responsible civic engagement, and congratulated award recipients.

Director Dickson reflected on the board's role in ensuring equal access to education for all students. He emphasized the importance of evaluating the effectiveness of programs and highlighted student achievements, teacher support, and extracurricular engagement as indicators of success. He expressed gratitude to the community, teachers, and support staff for contributing to the district's mission and stewardship of taxpayer resources.

President Iseminger congratulated students and award recipients and thanked staff for presentations and contributions. He emphasized the district's responsible stewardship of resources, including levies and bonds, and noted the importance of investing in student success and lifelong learning. He highlighted the district as a safe and supportive place for all students, where diverse opinions are respected, and reaffirmed the community's role in sustaining this environment.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other objections from other directors, President Iseminger adjourned the Regular Session at 8:43 p.m.

President

Secretary