

CASHMERE SCHOOL DISTRICT #222
Regular Board Meeting
February 23, 2026

Call to Order: Chairman Nick Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Declaration of Quorum: Board members Aaron Bessonette, Sara Pipkin and Aaron Lowers were present. Board member Roger Perleberg was absent. There were eighteen others in attendance, including Superintendent Johnson.

1.0 Flag Salute – Chairman Nick Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda –

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

3.0 Reports, Correspondence and Program

3.1. Board Report – the Board shared some highlights from the State Wrestling Championships held at the Tacoma Dome. The Cashmere School District girls took 10th place overall, and the boys placed 3rd, with two individual state titles going to juniors Jance Novak and Mack Pell. Board member Sara Pipkin stated she had recently been present at the FFA kick-off meeting, where she noted strong participation numbers compared to past years. She went on to share highlights from Vale's science fair, where she saw a number of impressive projects. She stated one of the participants, whose project was about the Titanic, had even been selected to participate in the middle school's science fair. Lastly, middle school teacher Rose Shook shared how proud she was of the students who participated in the Math Is Cool competition. She went on to add that the 6th grade group received 1st place, and the 7th grade group had placed 3rd. Ms. Shook stated that Math Is Cool is a program that is truly thriving!

3.2. CHS Student Report – high school senior, Eliana Thomas, was present to update the Board on the latest CHS activities and sporting events. Ms. Thomas reported that the middle school is preparing to present the play *Robin Hood*, and that a number of high students are lined up to help with this production. She also noted that all seniors are currently working on scholarship applications. The basketball seasons have concluded, with both teams eliminated in loser-out games. Ms. Thomas went on to share wrestling had a historic run at the state wrestling championship, with the girl's placing 10th and the boy's placing 3rd.

Ms. Thomas also reported that spring sports informational meetings were held during lunch today, and that students are excited for the start of the season. She went on to add FFA is preparing for their spring competition as well as preparing for the spring FFA plant sale. FBLA is preparing to attend the state competition later this month,

with 13 students qualifying. Additionally, Key Club is planning a dance for the month of March.

3.3. Superintendent Report –

- 3.3.1. Budget/Enrollment Update – business Manager Bo Charlton provided the Board with an update on the district’s budget and enrollment. He noted that the months between January and April are an important period for districts to review apportionment reports and compare them with prior years in order to better project revenues for the remainder of the school year and begin planning for the upcoming budget cycle. Mr. Charlton reiterated that the district has begun this planning process earlier than in previous years in order to better understand the overall financial picture.

He then reviewed January’s apportionment report in depth with the Board. On the enrollment side, high school numbers showed a slight uptick in January after a couple of running start students returned to the high school and were reflected in this month’s enrollment count. This resulted in a gain of approximately 4 FTE, bringing the district’s total FTE to 1,530, just below the budgeted amount. Mr. Charlton added that besides the running start numbers, enrollment for all three buildings remain fairly stable.

- 3.3.2. Legislative Session Update – business Manager Bo Charlton provided the Board with an update on the current legislative session. He noted that this is a short session with only a couple of weeks remaining. Mr. Charlton stated there continues to be many unknowns in this area, that the three key bills—referred to as “the Big Three”—focus on Special Education, Materials, Supplies and Operating Costs (MSOC), and student transportation, continue to be priority areas for which school districts across the state are advocating, as they remain among the most significantly underfunded areas for school districts.

- 3.3.3. High School Internship Program Update – Superintendent Johnson stated that both the high school counselor, Marcia Fall, and high school principal Craig MacKenzie were invited to provide the Board with an update on the current internship program.

Principal MacKenzie began by highlighting the positive impact the program has had, noting Ms. Fall’s significant investment and leadership in its development. Ms. Fall shared that the internship program is relatively new and originated from an idea proposed by Principal MacKenzie. She went on to present the attached [PowerPoint](#) to the Board. Ms. Fall explained that all participating interns are juniors and seniors. This year, students are placed in Cashmere, Dryden, East Wenatchee, Leavenworth, Peshastin, and Wenatchee. Internship sites include the Cashmere School District, Cashmere

Chamber of Commerce, Cashmere Library, Cashmere Newspaper, Cascade Auto, City of Wenatchee, Confluence Health, Crunch Pak, as well as several other community partners. She noted that the variety of internship opportunities has grown significantly. Ms. Fall emphasized that the program serves a diverse range of students, supporting both high and lower performing students. She shared some internships are paid, while others are unpaid. She also highlighted key benefits of the program, including career direction, networking opportunities and resume building. Enrollment has increased rapidly since the program's inception. Several staff members in attendance shared positive feedback regarding their own students' or children's experiences in the program.

- 3.3.4. National ESEA Distinguished Schools Award – Superintendent Johnson invited Vale Elementary Principal Sean McKenna and Assistant Principal Rhett Morgan to share information about their school's recent recognition through the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Award.

Mr. McKenna stated that his team had the opportunity to attend the recent Distinguished Schools Award ceremony held in Denver, Colorado. He then presented the attached [PowerPoint](#) to the Board, outlining various key components of this special recognition. Vale Elementary was selected in Category 1 – Schools exhibiting exceptional student performance and academic growth, placing it among the top 5% of elementary schools in Washington State and as one of only two nationally recognized elementary schools! Mr. McKenna also explained how the team selected to attend the conference was determined. Those chosen were federally funded staff members who provide academic interventions and who also have seniority within the Cashmere School District. He reviewed several breakout sessions offered at the conference, highlighting one in particular led by Robert Jackson, an international speaker and award-winning author. Mr. McKenna concluded by sharing additional key takeaways from the sessions attended by staff.

- 3.3.5. CMS/CHS Board Visitations – Superintendent Johnson reminded the Board of the upcoming school visits scheduled for the week. A visit to the middle school is planned for Thursday, February 27, followed by a visit to the high school on Friday, February 28. He stated these visits have been posted as special meetings.

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

5.0 Consent Agenda –

- 5.1 Approval of Board Minutes – On a motion by Aaron Bessonette, the Board approved the January 26, 2026 and the February 6, 2026 minutes as presented.

5.2 Approval of Warrants and Financial Reports –

Pay date of February 12, 2026: Warrants #327749 – #327825 totaling \$169,145.84

General Fund	\$153,493.97
Capital Projects	\$190.78
ASB	\$15,461.09

Pay date of February 27, 2026: Warrants #327840 – #327896 totaling \$122,505.98

General Fund	\$101,303.58
Capital Projects	\$14,849.25
ASB	\$6,353.15

Pay date of February 27, 2026: Payroll in an amount totaling \$1,900,011.68, including benefits.

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

6.0 Action Items

6.1 Board Policy 2108 “Learning Assistance Program” (Second Reading)

On a motion by Aaron Bessonette, the Board approved Board Policy 2108 – Learning Assistance Program as presented.

6.2 Personnel Report –

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

Name	Position	FTI Request/Reassignment
Bonnie Foust	Vale – Librarian	Retirement
Nancy O’Donnell	Vale – Paraprofessional	Retirement

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

3. Recommendation for Employment/Transfer/Return from Leave of Absence

Name	Position	FTE	Comments
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3a. Contract Approvals/Renewals 2025-2026

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

Position	FTI Comments
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CO-CURRICULAR/SUPPLEMENTAL POSITIONS

1. Resignations/Releases

Name	Position	Comments
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2. Non-Renewals

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

Name	Position	Comments
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Mike Wagner	CHS – Asst Tennis Coach	Replaces Tasha Key
Molly Thies	CMS – Asst Track Coach	Replaces Rett Hartmann
Sierra Christensen	CHS – 0.5 Asst Volleyball Coach	Replaces Corine Blankenship
Brandon Eygabroad	CHS – 0.5 Asst Volleyball Coach	Replaces Corine Blankenship

On a motion by Sara Pipkin, the Board approved the Personnel Report.

- 8.0 Executive Session – Superintendent Johnson requested an approximate 30-minute executive session on a personnel matter with no action to follow per RCW 42.30.100(1)(g).

On a motion by Sara Pipkin, the Board moved into executive session at 7:05 PM.

On a motion by Aaron Lowers, the Board moved out of executive session at 7:45 PM.

- 9.0 Adjournment – On a motion by Aaron Bessonette and there being no further business to discuss, Chairman Nick Wood adjourned the meeting at 7:46 PM.

Secretary

Chairman