Inspiring Excellence

LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
March 11, 2026

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

Student Advisory Council Officers: Ginelle Sarpong, secretary

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, Director Brian Kesler, Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton and SACo member Ginelle Sarpong. Director Ryan Dickson joined via zoom.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Lund made a motion to approve the March 11, 2026 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved. Director Kesler made a motion to approve the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Taylor 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 February: Gia Solomon, Iliya Moiseyev, Jose Avalos, and Camryn Siu. North Lake Middle School Principal Brad Ables and Associate Principal Kelly Goodmansen introduced the North Lake Middle School Students of the Month for February: Oscar Hogue, Luciana Correa, and Allie Weaver. Henry Nies was unable to attend. Cavelero Assistant Principal Janelle Parken and Dean of Students Michael Moore introduced the Cavelero Mid High School Students of the Month for February: Addyson McMonagle, Ibrahima Ndiaye, Eva Leblond-Manzano, and Cole Williamson. Lake Stevens High School Principal Leslie Ivelia and Assistant Principal Jason Pearson introduced the Lake Stevens High School Students of the Month for February: Ryan Campbell, Lenaya Frazier, Star Knaak, Laila Njie, Maddox "Nacho" Arellano, and Trevin Walker. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources John Balmer introduced the APPLE Award Recipients: Naomi Baker, Shelly Bernstein, Shyleen Bucasas, Elena Nagamatsu, Emily Rodriguez, and Matt Wyant. SACo Secretary Ginelle Sarpong, along with SACo members, presented the SACo Award to Office Professional Lisa Hale.

A break was taken approximately from 7:35 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. President Iseminger welcomed everyone back.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

There were no Reports of School Buildings and Programs at this time.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Iseminger opened the floor for community comments. Lake Stevens High School student, Ella Harden, gave comments regarding the use of AI tools in school. Her father, Michael Harden, also gave comments, noting his pride in his daughter.

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

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

Director Kesler made a motion to approve the "Consent Agenda" items: Approval of the February 26, 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 $1,161.30 is covered by warrant numbered 320229 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the Capital Projects Fund. Approval of the March 4, 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 $12,604.42 is covered by warrants numbers 320231 to 320234 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General, ASB & Transportation Vehicle Fund(s). Approval of the March 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 $2,665.47 covered by warrants numbered 9000017519 to 9000017542 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General & ASB Fund(s). Approval of the March 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 $1,310,185.08 covered by warrants numbered 320235 to 320356 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General, Capital Projects, ASB & Transportation Vehicle Fund(s). Approval of the March 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 $1,417.60 is covered by warrants numbered 000000012 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General and ASB Fund(s). Approval of the February 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 $13,710,966.68 is covered by warrants numbered 320185 to 320228, ach numbers 9000015909 to 9000017518 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General Fund(s). Personnel Report: Classified Employment: Lea Banks Temp General Support Para; Riley Guerrero 1:1 Specialized Program; Jalon Lumar 8th Asst. Track Coach; Will Ruefenacht Temp Field Tech II; Jacob Schmitt 8th Asst. Track Coach; Resignations: Augustina Asonye 2/20/2026; Jinger Johnson 2/20/2026; Nick Page 2/23/2026. Approval of the Co-Curricular Report. Approval of a donation of a grant from Glenwood PTA to Glenwood Elementary in the amount of $14,135.61. These funds will be used for special teacher requests. Approval of a donation of a grant from Special Olympics Washington to LSHS Unified Sports in the amount of $1,000. Approval of a donation of a grant from Kiwanis Club of Lake Stevens to LSHS Key Club in the amount of $750. This donation was for services rendered by Key Club at Aquafest 2025. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

Director Lund made a motion for approval for the final acceptance of public works projects. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler. Director Lund mentioned that this line item encompasses all of the work that is done to keep our buildings, classrooms, grounds beautiful and ready for students. He expressed gratitude to the teams that continue to make that happen. Director Kesler noted the broad scope of this item. The motion was unanimously approved.

Director Taylor made a motion for approval to award a contract for network upgrades at LSHS. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

Director Taylor made a motion for approval to award a contract for wireless access upgrades at Lake Stevens High School and North Lake Middle School. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved.

Director Kesler made a motion for approval to award a contract for new network equipment at new Elementary School Eight. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

Director Lund made a motion for approval to award a contract for dark fiber leases to district facilities. The motion was seconded by Director Taylor. Director Kesler noted that he had to look up the term 'dark fiber.' Superintendent Templeton then asked Executive Director of Innovation and Educational Technology Mike Weatherbie and IT Project Coordinator Selena Robinson to provide a definition. They explained that it involves bringing internet connectivity to district schools, maintaining existing infrastructure, and expanding service to Elementary School Eight. The motion was unanimously approved.

Director Taylor made a motion for approval to sign an inter-local agreement with ESD 112 for building commissioning services from the ESD's Construction Service Group for new Elementary Eight. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler. President Iseminger noted that this is one step in the bond process to support construction and other voter-approved projects. The motion was unanimously approved.

Director Lund made a motion for approval to award contract for special inspections and testing services for new Elementary School Eight. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved.

Director Kesler made a motion for approval of Resolution No. 4-26: Acceptance of the Constructability Review Report and Implementation Plan for the new Elementary School Eight Project. The motion was seconded by Director Taylor. President Iseminger noted the value of the collaborative discussion and early organization, which allows for constructability review and resolution of issues prior to construction. He expressed appreciation for the process. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Director Taylor made a motion for approval for LSSD students to attend the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Atlanta, GA from April 24-29, 2026. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler. Director Lund highlighted this as a significant opportunity for students, noting the value of competing, collaborating, and engaging with peers in a new environment. He described it as a strong example of experiential learning and expressed pride in supporting such opportunities. The motion was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no Discussion Items at this time.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Steve Burleigh, Executive Director of Elementary Schools, presented information on the upcoming School Board school visits scheduled for April 1, 2026. He shared that the purpose of the visits is to provide Board members the opportunity to observe teaching and learning in classrooms and to better understand the connection between School Improvement Plans (SIPs), Professional Learning Community (PLC) work, and classroom instruction. The visit will begin at 8:15 a.m. at Cavelero Mid High School, with additional stops at Lake Stevens Middle School, Skyline Elementary, and Glenwood Elementary. Sites were selected to include both elementary and secondary levels while maximizing time in classrooms. At each school, Board members will meet informally with school leadership, visit classrooms, and participate in a brief debrief. Lunch will be provided at Lake Stevens Middle School, where Board members will also have the opportunity to engage with students. Mr. Burleigh noted this is the first of what may become a recurring opportunity and expressed confidence in the value of the experience.

Director Kesler commented that he thinks it's going to be a wonderful day and is really looking forward to it.

Director Lund expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming visits and noted a potential concern regarding the variability of classroom activities during brief observations. Mr. Burleigh responded that principals are aware of the visit schedule and will coordinate classroom visits aligned to School Improvement Plan (SIP) goals and Professional Learning Community (PLC) work. He emphasized that while teachers will know the visits are occurring, instruction will reflect typical daily practice rather than staged lessons. He added that, at the elementary level, Board members may have the opportunity to observe intervention time and how student needs are addressed across classrooms.

Director Lund asked whether Board members would have the opportunity to interact with students during classroom visits or serve as silent observers. Superintendent Templeton responded that interaction is encouraged, noting that students are accustomed to classroom visitors and are generally open to sharing their learning. She added that Board members are welcome to engage with students and ask questions about their work.

Director Lund asked whether Board meetings would continue to be held at school sites or if the visits would replace that practice. Mr. Burleigh clarified that Board meetings will continue to be held at schools; however, full tours and staged classroom demonstrations previously conducted in conjunction with those meetings will no longer take place.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

President Templeton recognized Education Support Professionals Week and expressed appreciation for the district's classified staff. She highlighted the contributions of more than 800 employees, including paraeducators, bus drivers, maintenance and grounds staff, technology staff, office professionals, custodians, food service workers, and other support personnel. She emphasized their vital role in supporting student success and the overall functioning of the district.

President Templeton also shared excerpts from a proclamation by Governor Bob Ferguson recognizing March 9–13 as Education Support Professionals Week, noting that these staff members are essential partners in maintaining safe, supportive learning environments and in supporting student achievement. She expressed gratitude for their dedication to the district, its students, and staff.

SACo COMMENTS

SACo Secretary Ginelle Sarpong congratulated SACo President Aashi Bendalam on her completion of the FCCLA state competition. She also reminded the Board of the upcoming Student Voice Fair on Tuesday, March 24, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at North Lake Middle School. She shared that the event is focused on building connections, with participation from Board members, administrators, and students. Planned activities include student-led booths, a Socratic seminar, and dinner. She encouraged attendance.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Taylor expressed appreciation for the evening and extended thanks to the district's classified staff, noting the significant impact they have on students, as reflected in student recognitions. She also highlighted the theme of experiential learning discussed throughout the meeting and expressed appreciation for the upcoming classroom visits. She commended SACo Secretary Ginelle Sarpong for her contributions during the meeting.

Director Lund thanked the AP Government students for attending and expressed hope that the experience provided insight into Board processes and collaboration. He emphasized the importance of working in environments built on trust, where individuals can contribute meaningfully and enjoy their work. He also expressed appreciation for the district's educational support professionals and recognized the state's designation of Education Support Professionals Week. Director Lund congratulated staff across all buildings, as well as the students recognized during the meeting, and thanked Mr. Burleigh in anticipation of the upcoming school visits.

Director Kesler expressed excitement for the upcoming Student Voice Fair and shared a personal story about a paraeducator who positively impacted a student in his classroom. He noted that paraeducators make similar contributions daily in classrooms, lunchrooms, and on buses. He also recognized the Apple award winners and student award recipients, highlighting the meaningful reflections they shared about teachers. Director Kesler quoted a statement he saw on a poster about the influential role of teachers, noting that successful educators choose to be "instruments of inspiration" each day. He concluded by expressing appreciation for the meeting, the prior session, and the innovative work happening across district schools.

Director Dickson expressed appreciation for everyone involved in the meeting and conveyed regrets for being unable to attend in person due to travel. He recognized the efforts of the district and community in supporting students and noted the excitement of being part of a district where so many are committed to the mission. He thanked classified staff for their contributions and expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming school visits, noting he looks forward to reporting back on the experience.

President Iseminger expressed appreciation for the district's classified staff, noting their important role in making Lake Stevens a great place to live, learn, and thrive. He reflected on the special session construction updates, recognizing the detailed work involved and the value of the Board's feedback as representatives of the community. He commended the district team for their openness to questions and their thoughtful responses.

President Iseminger also congratulated award recipients, noting the inspiring and unique contributions of students and staff. He expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming school visits to observe teaching and learning firsthand and acknowledged the complexity and effort involved in the district's ongoing construction projects.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other objections from other directors, President Iseminger adjourned the Regular Session at 8:25 p.m.

President

Secretary