SUMNER-BONNEY LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN.

Board of Directors
Kevin Lewis, President
Bill Gaines, Vice President
Erin Markquart, Member
Johanneke Smith, Member
Tom Watson, Member

Our Promise

We will **know**, **value**, and **support** every student, helping them **graduate ready** to pursue a **promising future**.

May 12, 2026 - Study Session Minutes

Sumner High School Phase 1 (Library)
1707 Main Street
Sumner, WA 98390

Call to Order

School board President Kevin Lewis called the May 12, 2026 board study session for the Board of Directors at Sumner-Bonney Lake School District No. 320 to order at 6pm

Translation and Interpretation (TNI) Program

Director of Career and College Readiness, Aaron Tomyn, along with Nohelia Braswell - SHS Instructor, Jeanie Lovino - BLHS Instructor, and Various students from both programs presented the Translation and Interpretation Program to the Board of Directors. Aaron shared that the program is connected to Goal 5 of the strategic plan because of their commitment to help students successfully navigate critical transitions as they leverage their multilingual skills for high-demand wage careers through real world application, cultural competence and professional communication.

Jeanie Lovino shared that this program assists students in building confidence in a structured and supportive environment where they learn teamwork, goal setting and problem solving. There is focus on language development; currently the emphasis is on the Spanish speaking language but the hope is to expand the program as other students apply.

Nohelia Braswell shared that the curriculum places a strong emphasis on ethics of the field, cultural awareness to build bridges and helping communities build connections. Student presenters shared their experiences as they participated in events that include Multi-lingual night, STEM night and Literacy Night to name a few. These events provided an opportunity for them to bridge the gap for

Director Bill Gaines shared that all the students' presentations they've attended this year emphasize a commitment to ALL students and the level of work on the part of staff to make that consistently happen everyday. He mentioned how important connections with other students and adults are key to student success because of the sense of community that is developed. He shared that the job of an educator is to show students how to use the skills to take advantage of any opportunity. He looks forward to seeing how the program grows to reach students earlier.

Director Tom Watson echoed Director Gaines sentiments about student skills and how they will take students into productive futures.

Directors Erin Markquart and Kevin Lewis both spoke to the district's commitment to take what students already possess and show them how to enhance those skills in the translation and interpretation program. They shared how this superpower enhances a skill that is usable now and look forward to the prospect of bringing other languages into the program (i.e. Ukrainian).

Director Bill Gaines shared the desire to do something for the tech department; he suggested everyone sign a card and providing treats once he returns. The board would like to recognize their work to address the recent security issue in the district.

Dr. Laurie Dent shared a high level takeaway from her recent conference was the time spent focusing on positive things happening for students and the level of cooperation among superintendents (ie. they all agreed to wear star wars masks).

Study session adjourned at 7:12pm

Attest

Laurie Dent, Secretary
Board of Directors

Kevin Lewis, President
Board of Directors