Inspiring Excellence
LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
May 13, 2026

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

Student Advisory Council Officers: Aashi Bendalam, President
Abdul-Karim Marenah

The Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors met in a Special Session at the Educational Service Center at 4:30pm. The Special Session was to present Skyline Renderings and Floor Plans. No decisions were made.

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 Acting President Taylor called to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Acting President Mari Taylor, Director Paul Lund, Director Brian Kesler, Director Ryan Dickson, Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton and SACo members Aashi Bendalam and Abdul-Karim Marenah. President David Iseminger was absent.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Kesler made a motion to approve the May 13, 2026 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved. Director Lund made a motion to approve the April 29, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Dickson and unanimously approved.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

SACo President Aashi Bendalam along with SACo members, presented the SACo Award to Substitute Teacher Mr. Jordan Huntley. Lake Stevens Middle School Principal Mike Randles and Associate Principal Jamie Sinning introduced the Lake Stevens Middle School Students of the Month for April: Abby Hammer, Adam Seiber, Colt Basler, and Meribella Xiong. North Lake Middle School Associate Principal Kelly Goodmansen and Dean of Students Rachel Roosma introduced the North Lake Middle School Students of the Month for April: Sophia Bucasas, Oliver Pennock, Sai Rakkshitha Vetrivel, and Tyson Judd. Cavelero Associate Principal Raphil Hasegawa and Dean of Students Michael Moore introduced the Cavelero Mid High School Students of the Month for April: Emily Carpenter, Riley Tucker, Evan (Joseph) Hard, and Vincent Iguchi. Lake Stevens High School Principal Leslie Ivelia introduced the Lake Stevens High School Students of the Month for April: Sierra Heinke, Rylan Sekely, Lauren (LOLO) Stein, Nathaly Torres-Gutierrez, Kameryn Arford, and Ali Barkhi. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Dr. John Balmer introduced the APPLE Award Recipients: Anna Collins, Michael Garcia, Tiffany Jumper, Tina Kinnard, Monica Meadows, and Joe Michaud.

A break was taken approximately from 7:36 p.m. to 7:46 p.m. Acting President Taylor welcomed everyone back.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Matt Wyant, Principal of the Early Learning Center, provided an update on the district's PLC work, comparing the process to growing giant pumpkins through collaboration, learning from others, analyzing data, and adjusting practices to improve outcomes. He reviewed the district's three PLC goals: social-emotional learning, mathematics, and literacy, with a target of 90% of students meeting or exceeding standards. As of March, 82% of students were meeting or exceeding standards in social-emotional learning, 87% in mathematics, and 79% in literacy. Mr. Wyant highlighted growth in ECAP and ELC student performance, including increases in students meeting social-emotional and literacy standards through PLC data cycles. Mr. Wyant also shared positive staff feedback regarding collaboration and meeting student needs through the PLC process. Additionally, he reported presenting on the district's kindergarten transition practices, which generated interest from private preschools and other school districts seeking to learn more about the district's inclusive approach. Finally, Mr. Wyant noted that the program recently received its highest rating to date during its review cycle, level five.

Director Kesler asked for additional context regarding the Early Learning Center, including the ages of students served, enrollment numbers, and how families access the program. Mr. Wyant explained that the school serves three-, four-, and five-year-old students and currently serves approximately 300–325 students through morning and afternoon sessions. He shared that the program includes preschool services and state-supported programs, including ECEAP slots available through Snohomish County partnerships and state eligibility requirements.

Director Lund commended Mr. Wyant for the program's progress and outcomes, noting that the student achievement data and recognition from outside organizations were impressive. He stated that it reflects the type of district others look to for successful practices and thanked Mr. Wyant for his leadership. Director Lund also expressed appreciation for the program's continued growth, noting surprise at the enrollment reaching approximately 325 students. Mr. Wyant shared that the program has expanded to the point that former community room spaces are now being used for classrooms and that the facility is nearing capacity.

Director Taylor commented on the significant impact of ECEAP programs on children and families, noting recent long-term financial investments in early learning statewide. She emphasized that the investment reflects recognition of the importance of early intervention and the positive long-term outcomes created through high-quality implementation of ECEAP programs. Director Taylor praised the Early Learning Center's outcomes and staff, noting that the data presented demonstrates the meaningful difference early learning opportunities make for students and families. She also congratulated the program on receiving its Level 5 rating and expressed appreciation for the work being done to support the district's youngest learners.

Director Dickson asked questions regarding the transition process from the Early Learning Center into kindergarten and whether students remain within the district. Mr. Wyant explained that most students continue into Lake Stevens School District elementary schools, though some families relocate. He noted that students transition into the district's elementary schools following completion of the program. Director Dickson also asked about the Snohomish County connection to the program. Mr. Wyant explained that Snohomish County receives state grant funding and subcontracts services to provide ECEAP programming within the district. Director Dickson concluded by expressing excitement about the program's progress toward its goals and commended the students and staff for their work and achievements.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Acting President Taylor opened the floor for community comments. Hearing no further comments, Acting President Taylor closed this portion of the meeting.

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

Director Dickson made a motion to approve the "Consent Agenda" items: Approval of the May 15, 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 $6,680.92 covered by warrants numbered 9000020962 to 9000020988 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General Fund. Approval of the May 15, 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 $1,953,732.35 is covered by warrants numbers 320897 to 321017 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General, Capital Projects & ASB Fund(s). Approval of the May 15, 2026 Comp & Retail Tax 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 $249.06 covered by warrant numbered 000000014 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General & ASB Fund(s). Approval of the May 15, 2026 Voids have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said voids amounting to ($3,029.70) drawn on the ASB Fund. Approval of the April 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 $13,706,673.66 is covered by warrants numbered 320845 to 320894, ach number 9000019293 to 9000020956 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General Fund(s). Personnel Report: Certificated Employment: Jamie Santiago School ML Learner Specialist; Classified Employment: Lily Kotovic 1:1 Gen Support Para; Volunteers: Kasen Kinchen LSHS, Annika Lindberg LSHS; Retirements: Susan Asprey 8/31/2026, Michelle Reed 8/31/2026, Karen Towey 8/15/2026. Approval of Co-Curricular Report. Approval of a donation from Stevens Creek PTA to Stevens Creek ASB in the amount of $500. These funds will be used to support the spring musical "Finding Nemo". The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved.

Director Lund made a motion for approval for LSSD students to attend MOS/ADOBE US National Championship in Nashville, TN from June 14-18, 2026. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler. The motion was unanimously approved.

Director Kesler made a motion for approval of the final acceptance of public works projects. The motion was seconded by Director Dickson. The motion was unanimously approved.

Director Dickson made a motion for approval of Resolution No 13-26: Educational Specifications for the new-in-lieu replacement of Glenwood Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Director Lund praised the document presented, stating that it clearly connects the district's values and educational goals to facility design decisions. He commended the design team for balancing space, functionality, and connectivity needs within the project constraints and thanked staff for their work on multiple projects simultaneously.

Director Dickson agreed with the previous comments and noted that the planning process required balancing wants and needs while remaining aligned with the district's vision and budget. He emphasized that many decisions are made collaboratively throughout the process and thanked the team for their work on the project.

Dr. Templeton recognized Robb Stanton for his leadership and extensive work on the project document, noting that this was the third edition developed. She stated that Mr. Stanton carefully reviewed every detail and thanked him for his thorough and comprehensive work on behalf of the district.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no Discussion Items at this time.

INFORMATION

There were no information items at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Mary Templeton shared several superintendent updates, including recognition of upcoming WASA Region 109 awards. She announced that Teresa Main received the regional Award of Merit in recognition of her fiscal leadership and legislative advocacy for K–12 funding. Dr. Templeton also recognized Dr. Mike Snow for receiving the district's Leadership for Students award for his work in

developing opportunities for students to earn an associate degree while remaining on the high school campus through partnership with Everett Community College. Dr. Templeton also shared that she would be attending upcoming student performances of Finding Nemo and Questalot, and she highlighted the district's support of arts education, including participation in the Mt. Pilchuck art walk.

SACo COMMENTS

SACo President Aashi Bendalam thanked everyone who attended the meeting and congratulated the Students of the Month, Apple Award recipient, and Student Choice Award recipient. She also congratulated Matt Wyant on the Early Learning Center's Level 5 rating and praised his presentation and leadership. Additionally, Aashi Bendalam congratulated Dr. Mike Snow on the development of opportunities for students to earn an associate degree while attending high school, noting appreciation that future students will have access to those opportunities.

SACo Member Abdul-Karim Marenah congratulated the Students of the Month and staff members recognized during the meeting. He also thanked Matt Wyant for his presentation, noting appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about the Early Learning Center and its programs.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Kesler shared appreciation for the student and staff recognitions, noting the value of including families and supporters in the celebrations during board meetings. Director Kesler also commented on the district's facility design work, stating that the new school projects reflect intentional planning aligned with the district's vision for teaching and learning. He noted that the building designs thoughtfully incorporate learning spaces and student-centered features while responsibly utilizing community resources, and he expressed excitement about seeing the new facilities constructed.

Director Dickson shared belated Mother's Day wishes and thanked parents and families for their support of students. He reflected on the value of student recognition presentations and appreciated hearing students share what they value about the district, their teachers, and their future aspirations. Director Dickson noted the wide range of career goals students described, including careers in engineering, astronomy, medicine, trades, athletics, and criminology. He expressed appreciation for the district's role in helping support and inspire students as they pursue their goals and future dreams.

Director Lund congratulated the Student Choice Award winner, Students of the Month, and Apple Award recipients from across the district. He shared appreciation for hearing students describe their aspirations and noted how inspiring it is to see students engage in learning and discovery. He also thanked Matt Wyant for his report and recognized district staff, including Teresa Main and Dr. Mike Snow, for their external recognitions and contributions to student success and district achievement.

Acting President Taylor thanked everyone for their participation and briefly commented on finding a quote related to future aspirations. She concluded the meeting by noting that the executive session would not be long and wished everyone a good evening.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other objections from other directors, Acting President Taylor adjourned the Regular Session at 8:21 p.m.

The Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors met in an Executive Session at the Educational Service Center from 8:26pm to 8:49pm. The Executive Session was to discuss Real Estate. No decisions were made.

President _____ Secretary _____