Inspiring Excellence
LAKE STEVENS
School District

Lake Stevens School District | 12309 22nd St. NE | Lake Stevens, WA 98258-9500
425-335-1500 (office) | 425-335-1549 (fax)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
July 8, 2026

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

Student Advisory Council Officers:

The Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors met in a Special Session at the Educational Service Center at 4:00pm. The Special Session was for a construction update. 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 President Iseminger called to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: President David Iseminger, Director Mari Taylor, Director Paul Lund, Director Brian Kesler, and Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton. Absent: Director Ryan Dickson

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Lund made a motion to approve the July 8, 2026 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved. Director Kesler made a motion to approve the June 10, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Lund and unanimously approved.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

There was no recognition of students, staff, and community members at this time.

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. 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 June 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 $2,196,847.72 covered by warrants numbered 321313 to 321494 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General, Capital Projects & ASB Fund(s). Approval of the June 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 $2,323.99 is covered by warrant numbers 9000022663 to 9000022693 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General & ASB Fund(s). Approval of the July 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 $1,759.061.32 covered by warrants numbered 321542 to 321641 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General, Capital Projects & ASB Fund(s). Approval of the July 10, 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 $6,677.02 covered by warrants numbered 9000024320 to 9000024365 drawn on the General Fund. Approval of the July 10, 2026 Comp & Retail Tax vouchers and invoices have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said vouchers amounting to $817.70 is covered by warrants numbered 000000016 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General and ASB Fund(s). Approval of the June 22, 2026 vouchers and invoices have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said VOIDS amounting to $(7,423.85) drawn on the General and ASB Funds. Approval of the June 26, 2026 vouchers and invoices have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said VOIDS amounting to $(112,578.76) drawn on the General Fund. Approval of the June 26, 2026 vouchers and invoices have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said VOIDS amounting to $(679.25) drawn on the ASB Fund. Approval of the July 10, 2026 vouchers and invoices have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said VOIDS amounting to $(12,676.45) drawn on the General & ASB Fund(s). Approval of the June 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 $13,889,152.25 is covered by warrants numbered 321495 to 321541, ach numbers 9000022694 to 9000024319, manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General Fund(s). Personnel Report: Certificated Employment: Kenneth Akiha CTE B&M w/Comp Sci/Math, Corynn Bardue 1st Grade Teacher, Jessica Calbreath School Counselor, Andrea Duerr5th Grade Teacher, Amanda Lane SpEd Resource Room, Megan Lewis CTE STEM/Tech Sciences, Tyler Mann 4th Grade Teacher, Clara Temer 4th Grade Teacher, Abigail Turner Kinder Teacher-Non Cont., Andrew Winter Resource Room Teacher; Classified Employment: Amie Johsnson Receptionist, Austin Lane Communications Specialist, Ginger Reid Department OP-Attendance, Ann Rolf A/P Fiscal Clerk, Emily Smock Administrative Assistant, Jessica Zahn Asst. Cross Country Coach; Volunteers: Elvis Akpla Coach-Football LSHS, Dakota Bair Coach-Tennis Summer Camp LSHS, Tanner Edenholm Coach-9th Grade Girls Soccer CMHS, Treyten Pester Coach-Football LSHS; Resignations: Kathy Day 6/16/26, Denise Holsapple 8/31/26, Kimberly Grennan 8/31/26, Michael Moore 6/30/26, Paulette Smith 6/16/26, Austin Soule 6/11/26; Retirements: Melissa Gamage 8/15/26, Kenneth Gray 8/31/26. Approval of Co-Curricular Report, Superintendent Contract, and Administrator Contracts. Approval of a donation from Purple & Gold Club in the amount of $1,000 to help with Staff EOY Celebration. Approval of a donation from LSMS PTSA to LSMS in the amount of $2,601.50. These funds will help purchase twenty-two microscopes for the LSMS Science Department. Approval of a donation from Purple & Gold Club to LSHS Tennis Club in the amount of $360. These funds will be used to purchase two iPads. Approval of a donation from Glenwood PTA to Glennwood Elementary in the amount of $1,905.32. These funds will be used for recess equipment and buses for a 5th grade field trip. Approval of a donation from KONA ICE of Marysville to CMHS ASB in the amount of $355. These funds will be used to help with future events. Approval of a donation from Mount Pilchuck PTA to Mount Pilchuck Elementary in the amount of $469.99. These funds will be used for learning enrichment in the form of a sensory path outside. Approval of a donation from LSMS PTA to LSMS PE Department in the amount of $2,106.29. These funds will be used to purchase indoor and outdoor classroom materials. Approval of a donation from Foundry10 in the amount of $12,000. These funds will be used for the mental health team's registration and travel to a national conference in March of 2027. The motion was seconded by Director Taylor and unanimously approved.

Director Taylor made a motion for approval of yearbook bid award for all secondary schools. The motion was seconded by Director Lund. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

Director Kesler made a motion for approval of Resolution No 18-26: Adoption of 2026-2031 Capital Facilities Plan. The motion was seconded by Director Taylor. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Director Taylor made a motion for approval of authorization to sign easement agreement with Snohomish PUD for electrical service at Skyline Elementary. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler. The motion was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dr. Gina Anderson, Chief of Innovation, Compliance and School Support Operations, presented the second reading of the Educational Specifications for the Lake Stevens Middle School modernization project and reminded the Board that the document serves to communicate the district's educational priorities, guide and hold design partners accountable, and meet state School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) requirements. Following the Board's initial review two weeks earlier, members were invited to provide feedback before the specifications are finalized. Dr. Anderson also reviewed the extensive engagement process, which included a community, staff, and student survey that received 912 responses, as well as listening sessions with representatives from impacted departments. Additional staff engagement is planned during the design development phase this fall.

Dr. Anderson noted that, unlike previous Educational Specifications developed for new schools, the Lake Stevens Middle School project is a modernization of an existing facility, requiring the design team to balance established design principles with the constraints of the current building. She explained that while some features, such as neighborhood learning communities and shared learning spaces, are more challenging to incorporate, the project remains focused on the district's highest priorities, including extending the building's lifespan, improving safety and security, increasing capacity, adding air conditioning, and modernizing science, Career and Technical Education, gymnasium, and special education spaces. She concluded by inviting Board feedback on the draft specifications.

Director Taylor complimented the organization of the Educational Specifications and said the document was easy to review, but noted it was more difficult to envision the final outcome because the project is a modernization rather than new construction. President Iseminger emphasized that, despite the project's constraints, he hopes the completed school will provide students, staff, and the community with a strong sense of pride and transformation. Dr. Gina Anderson welcomed the feedback, and Director Kesler agreed that the project should maximize its impact within the approved scope and budget. Executive Director Robb Stanton referenced the Lake Stevens High School modernization as a model, and President Iseminger highlighted its thoughtful design and aesthetics as an example of creating a first-class learning environment.

Director Kesler and Director Lund expressed confidence that the design team would make the most of the existing facility while maintaining the district's high design standards. Director Taylor reiterated her concern about how some design principles, such as increasing natural light, could be achieved in the existing building, and Mr. Stanton encouraged the Board to continue identifying areas where they wanted to see improvements. President Iseminger reaffirmed the importance of delivering exceptional results within the district's financial means, while Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton committed to completing the project on budget and as promised to the community. Director Lund also praised the Educational Specifications document, and Director Kesler concluded by emphasizing the importance of improving special education spaces as part of the modernization.

INFORMATION

Assistant Superintendent Teresa Main presented the final General Fund budget prior to its required submission to the Educational Service District, noting the budget remains fiscally sound despite a significant, unexpected increase in insurance costs caused by statewide liability claims. She reviewed key budget assumptions, including conservative revenue projections, a projected 5.3% ending fund balance for 2026–27, long-term financial planning, and the district's continued focus on directing the majority of expenditures to classroom instruction. Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton added that the insurance increases are affecting districts across Washington and shared that she is advocating for additional state funding and tort reform. She also emphasized the importance of maintaining adequate cash reserves to protect the district from state funding delays.

Director Kesler thanked Ms. Main for her thorough long-range financial planning and asked whether any unexpected issues had arisen during budget development. Ms. Main responded that the only major surprise was the 51% increase in insurance costs, but noted the district had anticipated other financial challenges and continues to prepare for future funding changes. Dr. Templeton commended Ms. Main's legislative knowledge and ability to anticipate fiscal impacts. Later, Director Lund thanked Ms. Main for highlighting students throughout the presentation and asked how upcoming school openings would affect transportation planning. Ms. Main explained that additional buses are being purchased to accommodate temporary transportation needs during construction, and that surplus buses are retained for activities and field trips or sold when no longer needed.

Executive Director Mike Weatherbie presented an update on the World Language Proficiency Assessment and Seal of Biliteracy program, highlighting continued growth in student participation, with 89 students earning 315 world language credits and 64 qualifying for the Seal of Biliteracy. Director Lund asked clarifying questions about when students earn the Seal and whether they can retake the assessment, and Mr. Weatherbie explained that students receive the Seal upon graduation after earning four competency-based credits and may retest to improve their scores. Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton noted that students who do not earn the Seal can still earn world language credits that support graduation and college admission requirements. Director Lund encouraged celebrating all students who participate in the assessment, regardless of the credits earned, while Director Kesler asked about the long-term value of the Seal. Mr. Weatherbie responded that it can benefit students in both college admissions and future careers, and Director Taylor added that many state agencies recognize bilingual and biliterate employees with additional compensation.

Executive Director Mike Weatherbie presented proposed revisions to Policy 1800, Electronic Resources, to align it with the current WSSDA model policy, including updated internet safety language, the addition of ethical AI guidance, and new language addressing wearable technology capable of recording audio or video. Director Lund asked whether the policy should more clearly define where it applies, and Dr. Mary Templeton agreed to review the language for additional clarity while noting that the accompanying procedures provide further guidance. President Iseminger recommended defining "artificial intelligence" when first referenced, standardizing capitalization of "Internet," and strengthening the policy to prohibit the use of recording-capable wearable technology without district permission. Director Taylor suggested focusing the policy on prohibiting inappropriate recording behavior rather than specific technologies, recognizing that devices will continue to evolve. Director Lund thanked staff for their work, and Mr. Weatherbie concluded by reviewing updates to the accompanying procedures, which consolidate technology use agreements and device loan agreements for staff and students into a single, streamlined process.

Executive Director Mike Weatherbie presented proposed updates to Policy 5470, Child Abuse and Neglect, and indtroduced a new digital reporting form designed to guide staff through the reporting process while improving communication and recordkeeping. Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton noted that the updated form incorporates principles of high reliability by providing clear roles, communication, and checklists to reduce the risk of errors. President Iseminger asked whether partially completed forms could be captured so staff could provide support if someone did not finish a report, and Dr. Templeton said staff would verify that capability. Director Taylor praised the guided digital process as a valuable tool for supporting mandated reporters through a difficult responsibility, and Mr. Weatherbie agreed that the step-by-step format makes the reporting process more manageable. President Iseminger clarified that his suggestion was intended to ensure staff could offer support to individuals who begin, but do not complete, a report.

Executive Director of Secondary Schools Brad Abels presented updates to Procedure 5045, explaining that while the policy itself remains unchanged, the procedure has been revised to clarify student check-out and return-to-campus processes, establish expectations for unauthorized departures, and add visitor procedures to promote safe and orderly school operations. Director Lund asked whether the visitor procedures should include a formal check-out process to document when visitors leave campus. Mr. Abels explained that visitors typically check out through the office using the SafeVisitor system, and Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton agreed to clarify that expectation in the procedure, thanking Director Lund for the suggestion.

Dr. Gina Anderson presented proposed updates to Policy 4900, Maintaining Professional Staff/Student Boundaries, explaining that the revisions align with the current WSSDA model policy, clarify expectations for staff with dual roles in the community, address evolving technology and social media, strengthen procedures for identifying and reporting boundary concerns, and expand staff training. Director Lund recommended using broader technology language that will remain applicable as communication platforms evolve and later asked how unfounded allegations would be documented. Dr. Anderson and Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton

agreed to refine the language, explained that all reports would be investigated and documented appropriately, and noted that findings of no misconduct would formally close the matter. Director Kesler observed that the policy already provides a broad framework for future technologies, while Director Taylor praised the clarity of the revisions, emphasizing that clearly defined professional boundaries protect both students and staff. Dr. Templeton added that the updated policy and procedures will be incorporated into administrator and staff training, including scenario-based exercises, to reinforce expectations and support the profession.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Mary Templeton expressed appreciation to all district staff for their dedication throughout the summer, recognizing both employees on a well-deserved break and those continuing to support district operations and construction projects. She highlighted the many staff members voluntarily participating in professional learning opportunities, including leadership conferences, math, behavioral health, and Professional Learning Community (PLC) training. Dr. Templeton commended teachers, administrators, and guiding coalition teams for their commitment to continuous improvement, noting that their dedication reflects the district's culture of professionalism and pursuit of excellence.

SACo COMMENTS

No SACo Members Present.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Lund thanked staff for the informative construction work session, commending the collaboration among district staff, project managers, design teams, and GCCM partners, and expressing the Board's appreciation for their work on the district's construction projects. He also praised the proposed policy updates, noting they demonstrate the district's commitment to keeping students and staff safe while supporting learning. Director Lund concluded by congratulating Brad Abels on his new role and thanked everyone for their continued dedication to the district.

Director Taylor thanked staff for the evening's presentations, including the construction, budget, and policy updates, and expressed appreciation for the thorough work that went into each topic. She concluded with a lighthearted remark about the district's record for the shortest Board meeting, noting that while this meeting did not set that record, she appreciated everyone's dedication and engagement.

Director Kesler reflected on the district's strong leadership, comparing its steady management to walking on a smooth, well-maintained path despite the financial and operational challenges facing many school districts. He thanked the executive directors and district leadership for their thoughtful management of finances, facilities, curriculum, and operations, noting that it gives both the Board and the community confidence in the district's direction. He also emphasized the importance of providing thorough training on newly adopted policies so staff clearly understand expectations and can implement changes successfully, concluding by thanking staff for an excellent evening of presentations.

President Iseminger echoed the Board's appreciation for staff, thanking everyone for their work in building a strong foundation for the district through thoughtful planning, collaboration, and leadership. He remarked that the evening's presentations reflected the district's continued progress and concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation.

ADJOURNMENT

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

President

Secretary