

Good evening, everybody. Welcome to our regular school board meeting. Today is Wednesday, October 19, 6:00 PM. Can we stand up for the Pledge of Allegiance? Roll call, please.

Director Alvarez.

Here.

Director Espinoza.

Here.

Director Holien.

Present.

Director Tidholm.

Present.

President Van.

Here. Any calls or changes or additions to tonight's board meeting agenda? OK, hearing, seeing none. With that, we'll move on to our acknowledgment and appreciation. And to my left here is our superintendent, Dr. Ivan Duran.

Thank you, President Van. Good evening, everyone. Thank you for being here today. Tonight I have the privilege of introducing new administrators. Some of these individuals are new to Highline. And some are taking on new roles in Highline. Thank you to everyone for all they do on behalf of our students. I look forward to working with all of you. As I read your name and share a little bit about you, please stand up to be recognized. After all the names have been read, I would like to invite everyone, including your families, who have come with you, up to the stage for a group photo.

All right, first up, Chad Kodama, principal at Tyee High School. Chad joined Tyee High School as principal in early summer 2026. He previously served as principal of Sylvester Middle School, where he helped strengthen instructional practices, inclusive learning environments, and student supports. Prior to Sylvester, he served as assistant principal at Cedarhurst Elementary and worked as a school administrator and teacher in Seattle Public Schools.

Mr. Kodama brings a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Idaho, a master's degree from Seattle University, and a principal credentials from the City University of Seattle. Congratulations. Good to see you.

Don Miller, Principal Choice Academy-- Don Miller joined Choice Academy as principal after serving as assistant principal at Tyee High School. During his career in Highline, he has worked as a multilingual coordinator, humanities teacher, and program coordinator, with a focus on sustainability, leadership, and support for multilingual learners.

He earned a bachelor's degree in secondary English education from Illinois State University and a master's degree in language literacy and culture from the University of Washington. Mr. Miller also completed University of Washington's Danforth Educational Leadership Program. And rumor has it he can swim across Lake Washington. Congratulations, Don.

Annie Parker, principal of Shorewood Elementary School-- Annie joined Shorewood Elementary School as principal in 2026. She most recently served as principal at Bryn Mawr Elementary School in the Renton School District. Ms. Parker also spent five years as assistant principal and 10 years as an elementary teacher in Seattle Public Schools. She holds a Bachelor's degree in education from Western Washington University and master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Western Governors University. Welcome and good to have you here in Highline.

Micael Haskins, assistant principal, Cascade Middle School. Micael was selected as assistant principal of Cascade Middle School for the 2026-27 school year. He most recently served as assistant principal at an elementary school in Hawaii and brings extensive K through 12 special education and leadership experience.

Mr. Haskins has also worked as a special education teacher in Seattle, Hawaii, and Tennessee. He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Vanderbilt University, a master's degree in special education from Lipscomb University, and principal certification through the University of Washington's Danforth Educational Leadership Program. Welcome, Micael.

Kelsey Roehner, assistant principal, White Center Elementary School. Kelsey was selected as assistant principal of White Center Heights Elementary School in 2026. She began her career at White Center Heights as a third grade teacher and later served as an instructional specialist and administrative intern. Ms. Roehner holds a bachelor's degree in English from Whitman College and a master's degree in elementary education from the University of Washington. She is a nationally board-certified teacher and administrator, credentialed through the University of Washington's Danforth Educational Leadership Program. Congratulations, Kelsey.

All right, Kristi Suznevich. Get it right? All right. Assistant principal at Tyee High School-- Kristi serves as assistant principal of Tyee High School. She mostly worked as an academic student success coach at Sylvester Middle School and began her career as a fifth grade teacher at Midway Elementary School. Ms. Suznevich also taught at Chinook Middle School and served as administrative intern at Beverly Park Elementary School. She holds a bachelor's degree from Seattle Pacific University, a master's degree from Seattle University, and a principal certification from University of Washington's Danforth Educational Leadership Program. Congratulations.

All right, Alex Haas, director of inclusion-- Alex was named director of inclusion in spring 2026 after serving as principal of McMicken Heights Elementary School since 2014. Her experience includes roles at elementary and middle school teacher, instructional coach, and Title I coordinator. She holds bachelor's and master's degree from The Evergreen State College and a master's degree in educational administration from California State University, Los Angeles. Alex also holds a professional administrative certificate and a P3 Executive Leadership certificate. Congratulations, Alex.

All right, Steve Jones, director of transportation-- Steve serves as director of transportation and brings extensive leadership experience in transportation, logistics, and operations. Before joining the district, he served in senior transportation and logistics roles, Evergreen, Goodwill, FedEx, waste management, and Seattle Public Schools. He began his career as a cargo handler at FedEx and advanced into multiple leadership positions. Steve holds a bachelor's degree in operations management and human resources from the University of Washington. Welcome, Steve.

Dr. Rebecca Rae, assistant director of special education-- Rebecca was selected as assistant director of special education, effective July 1, 2026. She most recently served as an inclusion specialist at Bow Lake Elementary and previously worked with the University of Washington demonstration sites as an inclusion specialist, educator, and research assistant. Rebecca holds a master's degree in education from the University of Colorado Boulder and a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Western Washington University. She received a PhD in special education at the University of Washington. Congratulations.

And Audrey Thomas, facilities supervisor-- Audrey serves as facility supervisor, leading the district's maintenance, mechanical, structural, and grounds team. She previously served as a maintenance supervisor for the Washington State Department of Transportation, overseeing operations across 37 sites and more than 200 buildings.

Early in her career, she worked as an operations manager with responsibilities that include scheduling, budgeting, purchasing, and project management. Audrey holds multiple industry certifications, including building operator, EPA Section 608 Universal, which I'm not sure exactly what all that is, and Mitsubishi certifications. Congratulations, Audrey. Great to have you here in Highline. All right, I'd like to invite everybody up to the [AUDIO OUT].

--all of our new administrators. I'm glad they stuck around. So I do appreciate the fact that I have Team Tyee behind me. So you can, I'm sure, share it with your colleagues-- appreciate that, neighbor. So one, welcome. Free unsolicited ideas from the Highline Education Association-- feel free to partner with your building reps. Feel free to reach out to me or other HEA leaders. We're not scary. I'm not, usually.

It's absolutely OK not to know everything. I certainly don't. We value relationships in the district and strive to get to yes and strive to do it right. Not always easy, but we get there. And so just some little things-- I look forward to seeing folks in their new sites. People are excited about it. My email is starting to ping. So that's how we go.

I want to thank the group of peer mentors and folks who did the onboarding event at Tyee High School last week. It was lovely to see the about 88 new educators there able to serve lunch from-- free unsolicited plug to Now Go Make Me a Sandwich. They did great catering job. So that was kind of fun to see that and support a local business to do that.

I look forward to the equity symposium next week to go through. But I just want to thank the folks who we're working with. Lots of work into the new school year that hasn't started yet, but we'll start definitely on the 3 of September. So thank you very much. Appreciate you.

Thank you, Jeb. Appreciate that. And that concludes my comments this evening. Thank you.

Thank you so much for that, Dr. Duran. Move on to our director's reports. We're going to start with Director Holien.

Thank you, President Van. I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. We tried to play this video back in July, but we seem not going to be able to make it work. But talking about a senior spotlight this summer, we highlighted graduating seniors preparing for the futures that they choose.

Ana Gomez, a 2026 graduate from Mount Rainier High School, discovered a passion for aerospace through a program at Puget Sound Skills Center. Her goal is to work at Boeing and become a pilot. Let's play a short video about Ana and how her experiences in Highline shaped her goals and prepared her for what comes next.

[VIDEO PLAYBACK]

- My name is Ana. I go to Mount Rainier High School, and I attend Puget Sound Skills Center in the Aerospace Manufacturing Engineering Core Plus Program. My experience at Highline prepared me to know more about my future and just really help me to take advantage of the opportunities that they're given. Being at school and being at Puget Sound Skills Center really opened my skills not only hands on, but also being active and just speaking out more in class.

Because I joined Puget Sound Skills Center, I got the opportunity to apply to a Boeing internship. And because of the experience I had, creating plates and riveting and just using all these tools and skills that I've gained, I got into the internship. And so at the end, I felt really accomplished and just really good with myself and feeling like I can actually do it again. The biggest role model is definitely my dad, knowing how much your parents give to you for you to be here. And just like my dad says, never give up.

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

That's a really big statement, I feel, also, for Hispanic communities because it carries all of your ancestral sacrifices. And it's telling you to never give up and always be there for your family and provide for them. One of my long-term goals is to not only attend university and also training during the weekends or in summer of the Marine Corps Reserve, later on join Boeing while also becoming a mobility pilot in the reserves. I feel like the choices that I've made align with my goals. And I feel really positive about them.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[END PLAYBACK]

Great video. Glad it worked. That is all for me. President Van.

Thank you so much. Dr. Espinoza.

OK. Hi, everyone. It's such a great video with Ana. I think Ana's also on one of our billboards in White Center, I believe. OK, so it's been a busy summer. Earlier in July, I attended the Local Progress National Convening, the national conference for elected officials.

So before that, I participated in a cohort with a local progress for newly-elected officials. And they basically walked us through a crash course of how to use your role as elected officials to advocate and to support the families and the students that you are here to support.

At the conference, I learned quite a bit. I attended sessions on AI, specifically on frameworks that school districts can implement and design to make sure that student learning happens in the most fertile environment, alongside with AI.

I also participated in conversations and forums about policy development for school districts that really center the experiences and the voices of families and students and staff. So it was a really enriching experience. And I was really grateful to be there.

Let's see. As a board, we've also worked on a statement, a letter that we are hoping to agree upon today and to pass along to the Port of Seattle. Our students, our staff, and our families and ourselves, we live in the Highline area. We're impacted by the Sea-Tac Airport on a daily basis.

And its impending expansion will only increase that impact on our families. And so as a board, we have a duty to advocate for the Port of Seattle to invest in our schools, help us to protect our students, and to really do right by their commitments that they have made to our students and schools to be able to mitigate against the harms of expansion of the airport.

So we worked hard on a letter. And I think it's important for you all to hear what the letter says. It's much more eloquent. OK, I can read it to you in just a second. That's fine. Thank you.

Thank you so much for that, Dr. Espinoza. Director Tidholm.

Good afternoon, folks. I appreciate our collaboration on the letter and the collaboration of surrounding cities. Like Director Espinoza said, our communities are impacted. And in an area where we have a lot of marginalized families that are already impacted from so many different levels and so many different angles, I appreciate the coordination to advocate because they're already being impacted. So there needs to be some mitigation efforts to mitigate the future impact for the airport expansions.

Summer meals-- so this summer, Highline did make sure that students in our community had access to free nutritious meals in collaboration with USDA, who provided the summer meals through the month of July. Our nutrition service staff served close to 5,000 meals at some of our Highline Schools. And the meals featured some of the best of Washington, including fresh cherries, asparagus, peaches, and plums. I hear the crowd favorite was smoked salmon Caesar salad, which was a lunch that we had.

I also had the pleasure of attending the local progress conference this year with Director Espinoza, a number of really good workshops that I attended in sessions. A couple of them that really stood out to me, conversations around cell phones-- y'all know I'm a huge, huge advocate for what that looks like in schools, having the opportunity to talk to some people from LA.

If you're not aware, LA has done some work around banning cell phones in their schools-- and then also housing, getting to hear from different districts, apologies, across the nation and how they're coordinating with community partners and using their resources or their properties to provide affordable housing for family, for staff, for different people in the community. It was really interesting to hear all the different pieces about that.

But really good conference, really refreshing, really exciting to be around people doing the same work across the nation and see all the things going on, including the common theme that education is not fully funded really anywhere at this point, and really hoping that this year our state fulfills its paramount duty to fully fund education. And that's all that I have.

Thank you so much, Director Tidholm. Director Alvarez.

Hello, everyone. I am so glad that we are-- today, I heard Dr. Duran talk about the first day of the Kindergarten Jump Start! And it made me think back about not just my kids and then my grandkids. And then it made me think back about now it's going to be first day of school pretty soon.

So the first day of school is in two weeks. So please get ready for the new year. We encourage families and parents to download and activate their ParentSquare account. This is our two-way school-to-home communication tool for families to connect with their school and teachers. You can set your notification preferences and preferred language in the app.

So you can visit the Highline website to learn more about the ParentSquare and download the app. I encourage people to do this. I actually see a lot of information on there, and you can also connect with your teachers there and see a lot of your students' information there, your grades. You can connect on all kinds of stuff on there, so encourage all families to connect and download your app.

It's been a busy summer for some of us as well. I'm excited to be able to-- what I love about-- actually, my grandson goes to Highline High School. It feels like almost every day, even though it was summer, he was able to connect with some of his classmates. And they were either going out running, doing something active.

And I appreciated that. So he wasn't just staying home. And I appreciated that he was able to still connect and go running. So he's ready for cross country. And I'm excited that he's on the go. So that's it.

Thank you so much, Director Alvarez. It's my turn. So first and foremost, I want to welcome all of our new leaders and our leaders in new roles within the district. We're looking forward to getting out there and seeing what you're doing in your school. So welcome to Highline.

In addition to Tove recognition, our communications team also earned a 2026 Gold Medallion Award for the Education Levy Campaign from National School Public Relations Association. So the Gold Medallion is the association's top program award, recognizing superior, comprehensive, and strategic school communication programs. So there's only 15 Gold Medallion winners that were selected out of more than 100 entries from across the country. So congratulations to the communications team and to you, Tove.

And that concludes my director's report. We do have some scheduled communications tonight. We have four speakers this evening. Going to wait. Here we go.

So on behalf of the board, we sincerely appreciate you taking the time to join us and sharing your thoughts with us this evening. You'll notice that our norms and guidelines are displayed on the screens for your reference. Please remember that you are addressing the board. And there may be students present, who are watching or listening carefully to what you're saying. Please note that while the board is unable to respond directly to your testimony during the meeting, we value your input. So thank you, again, for being here and speaking with us.

I also want to make everybody aware of an update to our public testimony process. Highline Public Schools received council that under the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission, the PDC, rules regarding the use of public facilities for campaign purposes, public testimony may not be used to advocate for/against a measure once it's on the ballot.

This means that through the November election, speakers may not use public testimony to advocate for or against Highline bond or levy or any other measures on the ballot. If testimony moves into advocacy for or against any ballot measure, I will need to interrupt and ask the speaker to move on to another topic. With that said, our first speaker this evening-- and she's remote-- Kristen Price.

Ms. Price, can you hear us?

Yes. I don't have prepared--

One second.

Sorry.

[INAUDIBLE]. Go ahead.

OK, I can't see the timer anyway. Good evening. I don't have prepared remarks. I did want to thank President Van for removing the agenda item that reallocated some Pacific Middle School funds without competition to tennis courts at Mount Rainier.

I also want to call attention to the ongoing issues of psychological safety that are impacting staff. We've got a sidelined principal that is still employed by the district now relegated to administrative duties at the district office, not a great use of taxpayer funding and a disservice to our students. I'm looking forward to the start of the year and increased transparency and collaboration from this board. Thank you.

Thank you very much. Katie Kresly.

Good evening, board directors. This is Katie Kresly from *The Highline Journal*. Board directors, thank you in advance for taking student safety seriously, supporting the Teamsters and other unions represented, possibly tonight, and honoring your promise of transparency. That promise is why I'm asking you to postpone tonight's vote for the \$9 million HopSkipDrive contract.

Last year, HopSkipDrive received a one-year contract. It introduced in August and was voted on in September. Tonight, you're being asked to introduce and immediately approve a three-year contract with an annual rate increase of at least 6%.

Why is this year different? The public has not been shown last year's cost, performance, or safety data. Why are we outsourcing millions, \$4 million or more, in transportation services annually to three private companies instead of investing in district-employed union-represented drivers? Is outsourcing less expensive? Is it safer? What's that comparison?

HopSkipDrive uses drivers who are not hired or directly vetted by Highline. And they share student information. HopSkipDrive in 2023 had a data breach, which led to nearly a \$2 million settlement. What information about our most valuable students is being shared? Who can access it? And what control does Highline retain? If there was time to wait two weeks last year, then there's time to properly review this contract.

Tonight I ask you, directors, please, will you wait a week and just take a special meeting next week and if that's not possible approve just one year tonight then develop a plan to recruit more district drivers? Transparency is not a promise. It is practice. Please practice it tonight and postpone this vote. And by the way, Port of Seattle letter, great job.

[AUDIO OUT] very much. Our next speaker is remote, Mr. Robert Ribaudo.

Mr. Ribaudo, can you hear us?

Yeah. Can you hear me?

Yes.

All right.

Go ahead.

Hello?

Yes, go ahead.

Do I start now?

Yes.

So this is Robert Ribaudo. We've obviously met before. I ran for school board last year. When I asked to volunteer, I was told that my paperwork was no good, and I could not volunteer at this time. And that is due to the fact that my time was interfered by three employees, including the principal, and has been very hostile towards me.

I want nothing best for our children. That's why I ran for school board. That's why I'm Cub Scouts of America. That's why I'm YMCA. And now I'm the new coach for the Federal Way National Little League. My paperwork was interfered with. I'm not even allowed in the school, when before, I was volunteering on the campus without even doing paperwork. I was in the classrooms.

What's funny is you hired somebody that's related to my son that has been fired from their job three times for substance use. You allow them around children, but you won't allow me. And I want to now refer the rest of my time to my mom, which is on the phone. Thank you.

Hi, my name is Michelle. I'm a Puyallup High School alumni. I graduated in 1987. My grandson is very important to me because we've lost a lot of family in the last three years. And our family would very much like to be involved when the end of his fifth grade--

And I would hope that the principal will keep an open mind to all discussions and not just shut out and listen to one side. And that's the way we've been treated. And I hope the school board can understand that and help with this process, as my son is also a disabled vet and does need assistance. And I would hope that this could be--

Thank you so much.

--helpful and resolved. Thank you.

Thank you so much. Our next speaker is Malick Yusufu.

Good evening. Am I good? Good evening, everyone, president, board, and the Highline community. My name is Malick Yusufu. And I'm the newly elected ASB president at Tyee High School. I'm here because I believe Tyee students deserve the same opportunities, investments, and support as students at every other high school in our district.

Before I go into what I mean exactly, I want to give a little bit of a reminder and context to those who are unaware. Not too long ago Tyee was not just one unified high school. There were many other education institutions and programs going on at the Tyee Educational Complex. I remember driving past that sign every day as a little kid. I remember my brother's ID card saying, "Global Connections High School."

As of now, Tyee is now unified under one high school. We have had very little time to develop an actual stable school identity in student government. We recently moved into a new campus. And this year we're welcoming a new assistant principal. While other schools are already preparing for the upcoming year, we're still facing challenges, facing instability, and still trying to build our foundation.

This summer, I attended a program where we encouraged the students to organize against issues we were challenged with. And from that program, I walked out with my own framework, something I like to use to deal with issues. I like to call those Malick's Three A's. Remember that.

We start with acknowledgment, acknowledge our issues, know what's before us. Then we go into awareness, kind of spreading what the issue is, making sure everybody around us is aware of what we're dealing with, and then we go into action. What are we going to do against this?

And I've already started putting this into practice, not just myself, other students at Tyee. We have our vice president. She helps me a lot. We met with Dr. Espinoza. We spoke with her about what we needed at Tyee. We met with the deputy mayor. We got Titan Day. At city hall, we attended a city hall meeting. What I write to--

Thank you so much, Malick. Can you make sure that Adriana gets the rest of that? And we'll be in contact with you. Thank you so much. That concludes our speakers for this evening. We'll move to our consent agenda. Are there any questions or comments in regards to our consent agenda? Hearing, seeing none. Can I please have a motion?

I move that the Highline School Board approve the consent agenda. May I have a second?

I second that.

All those in favor?

Aye.

Aye.

Any opposed? Hearing, seeing none. We move to our consent agenda. We don't have any items removed. We're going to move to our action items. 8.1, this is motion to approve the annual renewal with Brown & Brown, Incorporated and School Insurance Association of Washington for district insurance coverage. We do have a presentation this evening. Dr. [? Grubb. ?]

Good evening, President Van, members of the board, Superintendent Duran. I have the delightful honor of just introducing our risk manager. You've seen him at the podium before, Phil Crocker. And, Phil, I just want to thank you for the work that you do to ensure that students are safe and that our risks across district are mitigated and that the premiums that we pay for insurance are the most reasonable that we can get. And why don't you talk to us a little bit about that and place these premium increases maybe in some regional context?

Sure. Thank you, Steve. President Van, directors, Dr. Duran, if \$8 million reasonable, that is a tough one. So as part of my job, I do focus on student and staff safety, also on making sure that we meet compliance elements. But then there's the financial piece also and helping ensure that the district is a good steward of the public funds.

Insurance, as we all know, is an expensive piece. And in the state of Washington, we're required to carry it. We have over \$1 billion in property valuation that we have to insure every year. So we're on the scale of a major corporation. And our insurance is covered by the global marketplace.

In previous years, we've seen increases go up because the property increases across the country, gone up with the wildfires in LA, for example, that year. That's not the case this year. Almost all increases across all school districts this year are related to the lack of tort reform in Washington State and the legal environment. We're getting pretty regularly claims from the '60s and '70s that can be very expensive claims for the insurance company to settle. All school districts are receiving these.

Sometimes we even receive them on other school districts' letterhead. The attorneys are just blanketing them out. So it's happening not only to school districts but also to state agencies. So that has been the largest piece of our increase. We did have a cyber claim, and we did have a property claim where we had a fire. And so that also factors in a little bit.

We were told we would have a 20% increase, which we budgeted and managed for. And we looked across the-- we look at major corporations and what would they be in our situation. And that actually seemed fairly reasonable. Our brokerage did an excellent job for us and got us down to 17%.

We had heard rumors that there are two pools in the state-- I think I shared that last time-- really only two options because no insurer will insure school districts in Washington State because of the lack of tort reform. So there are two state pools where districts have come together to self-insure.

We had heard the other district had higher renewable premiums. So I did some calls around. And the responses I got were 40% to 45%. So we would see another \$2 to \$4 million if we were in those other pools.

We evaluate the pools each year. And about every four or five years, we have a conversation with the other pool to see if there's any reason for us to change, do diligence. And there's never been a good financial reason for us to change.

We actually did explore the open market. There was one insurer that was interested in school districts. We put our name out there. And the numbers came back as staggering. And then they decided that they just weren't going to do it. So there was really no model. So we are where we are, but that is the context in which our premiums--

And when we do check with SIAW, our insurance pool, and we ask them, what can we do to reduce things, our claims, they usually give us kudos on excellent risk management across the board. That's not a compliment to me. It's the mature systems we have in place in our purchasing departments. Sometimes we're slow to get a big check out the door because there's many checks and balances. And that saves us.

In our IT area, we're top notch. And in our facilities, transportation, we're making constant improvements in safety. We get nods from our insurance pool. I don't want to say I feel great about \$8 million, but I do feel very good that we've got the best renewal we can get.

Thank you so much, Phil.

Directors, any follow-up questions or comments that you would like to ask?

No question, but just a comment. Having conversations with districts across the state and across the nation, just knowing what's going on-- and as you said, it's happening for everybody. There's districts that I've spoken to that have claims that they've had to settle and have actually lost their insurance and just don't have any at this point. So it's definitely an issue. And I appreciate your due diligence and making sure that we get the best rates that we can given what we can.

Thank you, Director Tidholm.

So I do have a question. Thanks for sharing that information. So the insurance here is for our facilities?

We cover a broad range. So the primary expense we have is for what's called property and casualty, which is all of our properties, our billion-plus valuations, and then also for liability, so when we get a claim that we've done something wrong and across a wide range. We also have specialized insurance because we run maritime schools. And any exposures over water fall into different categories.

And there's gaps in our insurance policy. So our broker has helped us fill those gaps with specialized policies. We have underground tanks, specialized policies. We can have a long list. So we basically insure many different aspects of liability and property. And think of liability as safety related things. Does that help?

Thank you. And then just one other question, you had mentioned you all had projected a 20% increase. And then actually, because of your good work and your team's work or everyone's good work, it decreased to 17%. So what was the savings? Approximately [? \$1 ?] million.

So our broker is the one that interfaced with the insurers. That's Brown & Brown on your list. So they keep Steve and I abreast. And then we help them structure if there's programmatic pieces. The main change was there's so much to insure. About half the school districts in the state are in our pool in one way or another. And they make an estimate, but the insurance companies don't lock it in until almost 30 days.

Our purchasing staff needs to make budgets well before then. So we ask them to give us estimates. They give us estimates. Actually, we received a memo that it might be 22% after the 20%. But then we pressed them. And then they came back and said, no, it's 17%. But to your question, I pressed our broker on, is there a change in coverage? Is there anything material to us in that 17%? And I was assured there was not. It's a good question, though.

Thank you.

Thank you so much. Other directors, any other follow-up questions? Thank you so much. Appreciate it.

Thank you.

That said, can I please have a motion?

I move that the Highline School Board approve the annual contract renewal expenditures with Brown & Brown, Incorporated for \$485,000 and improve the annual contract renewal expenditures with Schools Insurance Association of Washington for \$7,616,852.56, for a combined total of \$8,101,852.56, with minor modifications or adjustments, as approved by the superintendent for the 2026-27 school board. May I have a second?

I'll second that.

Roll call, please.

Director Tidholdm.

Yay.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

Director Alvarez.

Yay.

Director Holien.

Yay.

President Van.

Yay.

This motion passes five to none.

Thank you so much. And that concludes our action items this evening. Moving to our intro and action 9.1, motion to approve the August 2026 Highline Public School board letter to the Port of Seattle. I'm going to kick this off to Dr. Espinoza to continue on with what she shared earlier on her board report.

Sounds good. So just to reiterate, we all worked very hard on this letter. And I just wanted you all to hear our statement. So as members of the Highline Public School Board of Directors, we are entrusted by our community to advocate for our students and protect the education they deserve. That responsibility is especially urgent as plans for Seattle-Tacoma International Airport expansion move forward.

Our students already carry an unequal share of the airport's impacts. Expanding the airport without stronger protections and greater investment will only deepen that burden. Growth is not sustainable when it asks children and families to absorb more, while their health and well-being go unprotected.

In Highline, these impacts are already felt in our schools. Our schools are where children learn, families connect, and communities build belonging. Across South King County and in Highline, families already face some of the greatest gaps in health and life expectancy. And those burdens fall hardest on communities of color and lower income families. Children are among the most vulnerable to the environmental conditions that shape those outcomes.

Our students need classrooms where they can hear their teachers, breathe clean air, and learn without any type of disruption. Noise, traffic, and construction and air pollution may seem like separate issues, but together they shape the conditions that define a daily life for students and families in Highline. Highline is the only school district with schools in the area identified in the airport's environmental review as potentially affected by the expansion.

Our students already learned under aircraft flight paths. And not all of our schools have the sound protections they need. The Port has invested in sound insulation at some Highline Schools, but others still need protection. The impacts are not hypothetical. Expanding the airport without addressing them first would only add to the burden Highline Schools are already carrying.

Investment in the airport should be matched by investments in the schools, cities, and communities that carry its impacts. Before expansion proceeds, decision makers must fulfill outstanding commitments and establish clear and enforceable protections for the future. This means completing sound insulation at all affected Highline Schools, investing in ventilation and air filtration for healthy classrooms, and monitoring air quality at schools and in surrounding neighborhoods.

It also means reducing traffic impacts on students and families and ensuring impacted communities have real power so they can shape their own future, not simply respond to decisions that are made for them. And commitments already made by the Port must be fully delivered and evaluated. And that accountability must reach beyond our school walls.

The cities and the neighborhoods and families who live closest to the airport deserve investment too. Regional growth should bring regional benefits. It should not shift a greater share of the cost onto the communities already bearing them. Students are the future of this region. Their health, safety, and education should not be the price of regional growth. If the airport grows, the investment in the people who live in its region and with its impacts must grow with it.

So thank you so much, Dr. Espinoza. I just want to first thank you for helping us craft this letter and taking lead on this. Directors, any follow-up questions or comments that you would like to share?

I'll just say thank you, Dr. Espinoza, for taking the lead on this. And I think it was-- everybody's, I think, adding a little bit of their own to make sure that everybody's voice is in it and making sure that we're elevating the voices of all our students or our community's voice in there as well. Thank you for taking the lead on this.

Directors? Director Tidholm, Director Holien? OK, thank you so much. With that, can I please have a motion?

I'll make a motion. I move that the Highline School Board approve the attached letter and submit it to the Port of Seattle during the public comment period.

Can I please have a second?

I will second that.

Roll call, please.

Director Alvarez.

Yay.

Director Holien.

Yay.

Director Tidholm.

Yay.

Director Espinoza.

Yeah.

President Van.

Yes.

This motion passes five to none.

Thank you very much. Directors, if you can stay after, we'll make sure that this gets signed and sent off this evening. Our second intro in action item is 9.2. This is motion to approve a multi-year contract with HopSkipDrive for McKinney-Vento students' transportation. And we have a presentation tonight.

Hi, Claire.

Hi, guys.

Welcome.

Thank you. So intro action for HopSkipDrive, which was one of our providers for McKinney-Vento services, we explored a five-year contract. We explored a three-year contract and a one-year contract again. And we negotiated with HopSkip, our council to negotiate the best terms of services and in the transition wanted to give the opportunity for Steve Jones, our new director of transportation, to review the contract and have his input as well.

And we decided with the three-year contract was the best terms of service. And they were the same as the five. So we didn't lose out on any opportunity to save and have opportunities to reduce costs through the contract. So I can take any questions about the contract or service or the term.

Thank you for that.

I have a question. So what type of savings do we have between a one-year and a three-year and a five-year?

Between the three and the five, there's no difference. Between the one and the three, I don't have the specifics. But in the contract, there's details about incentives of ridership and service. If we have a certain level of ridership for a specific month, we get a savings on service.

And between the three-year and the one-year, we don't get all of those savings opportunities. And so it depends on ridership and things that we can predict based on last year but are very variable depending on student population and need.

Another question, is there language in the contract that allows us to be released from the contract for any reason within that three years?

That's a great question. I can get back on the specifics. We do have a clause. I just don't know the specifics of the clause for you right now.

Thank you.

[AUDIO OUT] Alvarez, there was a follow-up question.

Yes. It's going to come back. My wondering was about-- it'll have to come back. I brought it down. Go ahead.

I have, I guess, a comment and a question. Hi, Claire.

Hi.

If ridership would go down, would we still be paying the same amount of money? I tried to look through the contract. But I can't see exactly what that would look like.

So the bar is for at the high end what we would expect. So we hope not to spend the whole amount annually. So our hope would be we don't spend the whole amount. And that is depending on student need and the variables needed for the service. And then the total amount would be dependent on the ridership compared to the base rate and then some of the other rates that are considered in the monthly payment of service. Does that makes sense?

Yeah. And then my comment is that looking at the types of transport vehicles. I don't know, as a district, do I have access to all of those types of vehicles to keep it within house or anything like that?

That's a really good question.

Because it seems like they offer a lot more than what we might potentially have the capabilities to actually handle.

And one of the main reasons that we need this service is because, generally speaking, the transportation is happening either from within our district, outside of our district, or for somebody who lives outside of our district who's experiencing homelessness, and we're transporting them back into our district so they can remain at their school.

So because of that, we evaluate in every case whether our transportation service could provide for that family and student. But if not, then the service, similar to a ride share car-- kind of a good example-- would transport that student or several students in that general vicinity to and from the school.

Thank you very much. That answered a lot of questions.

It's a good question.

Thank you, Claire. And I just want to note, I did take a look at the agreement again. It can be terminated by either parties without showing cause just with 30 days notice. So I just wanted to put that out there if anybody else was curious. Thank you.

One last question in regards to ridership, on average, has it gone up in the last five years, year over year, or what is the fluctuation and the increase?

I'd like to get back to you on the actual numbers. I think it's been-- I think there's a little bit of variable but about the same. And we've been asking for similar contracts numbers in most recent bars.

Thank you very much on that. Directors, any other follow-up questions?

Finally, it came back. My question was just that-- and I had to go and dig through it, but it was about just keeping-- basically it was the amount of money, and it was per trip that were getting charged. And have we used up all the money in the last years? is basically the question you were just asking around, what was the average? Have we used up the whole contract last year? And are we expected to have any savings?

And if we went with a three-year contract, if we didn't use it-- it seems like if we go with a three-year contract, the expectation is that we most likely might not be using the whole amount of the contract is what I'm seeing. And I think one of the things that we agreed upon is that before, it was costing us more money to be coming to the board. And let's keep adding to the contract, adding to the contract. And it was costing us more money.

So we're being smarter this year. And let's just have our best based on the numbers we've been using is allocated. And with the understanding, most likely we're not going to use it, but we're not going to be coming to the board and keep adding and keep adding and approving more and more and more when we're now having best estimates of what we're going to be using.

[? That's ?] a great question.

[INAUDIBLE]. That's correct. Ridership is variable, just like with Uber rides. They vary. And the utilization this last year was 2.5 million. And so we're building in a cushion. We're asking for the authority for 3 million for each of the three years. But we don't expect that we'll have to maximize that level of authority. But we don't want to create a condition where we're coming back and forth to the board.

And one reason I just came up to-- and I know everyone on the board knows this, but this is public information. McKinney-Vento is a federal and a state requirement. But it is also a deeply ethical and moral aspect of the work that we do.

What McKinney-Vento allows us to do is provide essential stability and the lives of students who are experiencing homelessness, so that they are not constantly in and out and changing schools. Very important program, and it does require, to the question about the kinds of vehicles, a lot of flexibility.

We could have students 20, 30, 40 mile radius and beyond that we have to provide individual transportation to. And their lives, they change. And we're trying to provide that stability. So it's important, essential work. That's why we do it. And Claire and Steve are doing great work trying to do it as most as cost effectively as we can.

I do have one follow-up question that you just sparked my thought here. What about the safety, the background checks of HopSkip drivers, and how are they being vetted before they even come close to our students?

They do have significant background check requirements similar to what we require. And we have had occasion where we've needed to verify that. And we've done so when we've been impressed with what has come back with HopSkipDrive.

Thank you so much.

[INAUDIBLE]

OK, another question, here we go.

Well, I guess it's a question and a comment. So, Dr. Grubb, just reiterating what you said about providing the stability for young people in our district to stay in our district, to keep their connections with educators and friends. In my day job, I support families who are experiencing homelessness in our area. And it's such an important service that we're able to provide. Because it's based in federal law, is there any type of reimbursement that we get because of fulfilling that mandate?

We can find out what the reimbursements are. The federal and state landscape around this is in flux. And one of the questions I thought we might get around the three-year contract is, what happens if there's federal changes in either the reimbursement rates or in just the requirements to do McKinney-Vento?

I had a conversation with Holly in preparation for the eventuality of that question. And she shared that, thankfully, Washington State has encoded in state law many of the requirements to mirror the current federal legislation. So we think that there is stability in at least the legislative expectation that we do this, even as there could be changes in how the feds or the state fund McKinney-Vento.

OK, thank you.

Directors, any other questions? Great questions. Thank you so much.

Thank you for the questions and the oversight.

Thank you.

With that said, can I please have a motion?

I move that the Highline School Board approve a three-year contract with HopSkipDrive, Inc. for the period of 2026-27 through 2028-29 in the amount of \$3 million per fiscal year, to provide transportation services for students who qualify with minor modifications or adjustments as approved by the superintendent. I'll need a second.

I will second that. Roll call, please.

Director Espinoza.

Yes.

Director Tidholm.

Yay.

Director Holien.

Yay.

Director Alvarez.

Yay.

President Van.

Yay.

This motion passes five to none.

Thank you. Thank you, Claire and Dr. Grubb for presentation as well. That concludes our intro and action items. We have five intro items this evening. 10.1, this is motion to approve [? LA03-26. ?] This is the interlocal agreement with 1GPA National Purchasing Cooperative. Any questions or comments? Hearing, seeing none.

10.2, motion to approve learning assistance program, which is our LAP Readiness to Learn partnerships, any questions or concerns on this? Thank you. We'll move to 10.3, motion to approve revisions to salary schedules between the Highline School District and Teamsters I, Teamsters II, Teamsters III, and Teamsters IV staff, any questions or comments?

I just have a comment. I want to thank everyone who is involved in those negotiations to get it all locked and loaded before the school year.

Thank you. Any other comments or questions?

Sure.

Sara Baker, executive director of HR. Thank you for saying that, Director Holien. I just want to clarify, because you said that all of these [? Teamsters, ?] I, II, II, IV, have not negotiated this year. So what's happened in this bar, III and IV are currently in negotiation. It's in progress. I and II are continuation years.

So this bar is written specifically so that we can pay people the right rates in the next month. But III and IV are subject to change. And you may see them again wrapped up in a new CBA at the point that we get to tentative agreement.

Thank you for clarifying that.

But thank you for your kudos.

I guess I need more clarification. So what is this?

Sure. Let me take a breath. Teamsters I and Teamsters II are already in multi-year CBAs. Each year we bring salary schedules, too, because what we post to the internet has some sort of change. So for them, we're posting the already-agreed-upon, already-board-approved 2026-27 salary schedules. So you'll see that in the documents that are listed as redline and for approval.

For III and for IV, when a collectively bargained agreement has expired and negotiations have not concluded, we just continue the CBA that has just expired until we reach tentative agreement. So for those two groups, this is a continuation of the salaries that they had for '25-'26.

And they'll keep those salaries until we reach a tentative agreement. That will go to the membership to vote and ratify. It will come to you to ratify. And then, if we agree that the start date is 9/1/2026, they'll get a retro back for any difference that would have existed. Does that help clarify?

So III, IV, right?

For Teamsters III and Teamsters IV, correct.

And we're expecting that it's going to happen.

We're engaging in good faith. And it's a strong partnership. And I'm confident that we'll see an updated CBA this year.

OK, thank you.

I think I missed just looking at salary schedules. So thank you, Sara.

No, we'll always take a shout-out. Don't apologize for that.

Thank you so much. Any directors, any other follow-up questions? We have two weeks as well, if there's any other-- you want to bring up. Thank you very much.

10.4, this is motion to approve revisions to salary schedules between the Highline School District and professional technical non-represented staff. Comments, questions? Seeing none. 10.5, motion to approve revisions to salary schedules between the Highline School District and central office administration and building administrators-- questions or comments? Seeing none. 10.6, we had--

A question on, what is this, 10.0--

10.5.

10.5.

Yes, ma'am.

OK. So no change for 2026-2027. So am I reading this correctly?

Yes, you're well on your way. So when you passed the budget in July, what that included was that central office administrators were not going to get a cost of living adjustment, so that the only change on that schedule is just the years. And then for building administrators, they have one of those continuing association agreements, where we've already agreed upon their salary changes. And you'll see more red lines in that attachment.

So this is still reflective of that agreement that there wouldn't be--

For the building administrators?

I understand that was previous prior agreement. But the agreement that we agreed upon when we voted for the budget--

This is reflective of your previous decision.

This is a reflection [? of here, ?] yes.

Thank you.

Sorry for misunderstanding that question.

Directors, any other follow-up questions? Thank you so much. Appreciate it. And 10.6, this item was pulled yesterday. With that, that concludes our intro items this evening.

So on to agenda item number 11, any calls or additions to the upcoming consent agenda-- but before, I'd like to have any initial conversations around any items that the director would like to consider for the consent agenda. Any ideas, any directors have any ideas that could be moved to consent?

I make a motion that we move 10--

So I'm just asking for ideas.

My idea is 10.1, since it's an interlocal agreement with the national purchasing co-op but normally is something that we normally try to-- it's about saving money and the partnerships that we have that we normally-- it's almost like an annual thing that we do.

OK, thank you so much. Any other directors have any ideas or thoughts about moving any items to the consent agenda? Hearing, seeing none. OK, now I would like to open-- any directors like to open to move 10.1 to the consent agenda?

I motion to move 10.1 to the consent agenda. May I have a second?

Do I have a second?

I second.

All those in favor?

Aye.

Aye.

Aye.

Any opposed? That concludes our agenda number 11 there. With that, can I please have a motion to adjourn?

I make the motion we adjourn.

Second, please.

I second that.

All those in favor?

Aye.

[AUDIO OUT] very much. Everybody have a great evening.