

Highline Public Schools | School Board Regular Meeting - September 2, 2026

Good evening, everybody. We're going to get started here. Looks like everybody has the night-before-school jitters and ready to go here. So welcome to our regular school board meeting. It's Wednesday, September 2 at 6 PM. I'm going to have everybody 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. Thank you so much. Any changes or additions to tonight's board meeting agenda? Hearing and seeing none.

So we have awesome acknowledgment and appreciation this evening. And to my left here is our superintendent, Dr. Ivan Duran. Dr. Duran?

Yes, thank you, President Van. Good evening. Thank you, everyone, 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 about you, please stand up to be recognized. After all the names have been read, I would like to invite everyone to the stage, including your family that's here with you tonight, to the stage and we'll do a group photo.

We're going to start first with Dr. Richard Brown, principal at Sylvester Middle School. Doctor. Dr. Richard Brown joined Sylvester Middle School as principal in 2026 following a strategic hiring process. Since 2020, he has served as a high school assistant principal in the Northshore School District and previously worked as a middle school and high school counselor. Dr. Brown holds a doctorate degree in educational leadership, superintendent certificate, and principal certification from the University of Washington. He also earned a master's degree in counseling from City University and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Morehouse College. Welcome, Dr. Brown. Good to have you here in Highline.

All right, Richie Garcia, principal at Des Moines Elementary School. He joined Des Moines as principal in 2026. Most recently, he served as interim principal at West Seattle Elementary, where he also worked as an assistant principal and instructional coach and teacher. His experience includes teaching at a dual language school in New York City, teaching in China, and serving in the Peace Corps in Uganda. Richie holds an educational leadership certificate from Western Governors University, a master's degree in bilingual education from Columbia University, and a bachelor's degree in accounting from Saint John's University. Welcome to Highline, Richie.

And KeyAunna Johnson, principal at McMicken Heights Elementary School. KeyAunna joined McMicken Heights Elementary School as a principal in 2026. She previously served as an assistant principal at Beverly Park Elementary and as an academic success coach and administrative intern at Highline Virtual Academy and Maritime High School. She also taught at Glacier Middle School, Midway Elementary School, and in the Tukwila School District. KeyAunna holds a principal certification and master's degree in educational administration from Western Governors University, a master's degree in education from Walden University, a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Heritage University, an associate's degree in early childhood education from Seattle Central Community College. Congratulations, KeyAunna.

All right, Jodi Robertson, principal at Gregory Heights Elementary School. Jodi joined Gregory Heights Elementary School as principal in 2026. Since 2019, she has served as assistant principal at McMicken Heights Elementary School and has also worked there as an administrative intern, teacher, and success dean. Miss Robertson holds a master's degree in education from Western Washington University. She earned a bachelor's degree in educational leadership from Eastern Washington University. Congratulations, Jodi. Great to have you there.

All right, Jeff Black, interim principal at Raisbeck Aviation High School. Jeff Black was appointed interim principal of Raisbeck Aviation High School for the 26-27 school year. He has served as dean of students at Raisbeck since 2024 and previously spent more than 10 years as an assistant principal and principal in alternative and traditional secondary schools in Texas. Mr. Black holds a bachelor's degree in science secondary education from Oklahoma City University, an MBA in human resources management from Louisiana State University, and a master's degree in educational leadership from Texas State University. Jeff, congratulations.

And Aaron Cokley, assistant principal at McMicken Heights Elementary School. Mr. Cokley joined McMicken Heights Elementary School as assistant principal in 2026 following a strategic hiring process. Most recently, he served as a school counselor and administrative intern in the Northshore School District. He also worked as an elementary teacher in South Carolina and Atlanta. Aaron holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Clemson University, a master's degree in school counseling from Capella University, a master's degree in educational leadership and principal certification from the University of Washington, and a school counselor certification from Washington State University. Welcome, Aaron. Good to have you here.

Sarah Morgan, assistant principal at Des Moines Elementary School. Sarah joined Des Moines Elementary School as assistant principal this year. She previously spent 11 years at McMicken Heights Elementary School, first as a special education teacher, most recently as a student success specialist. Miss Morgan holds a bachelor's degree in special education and a master's degree in educational leadership, both from Gonzaga University. Congratulations.

And Avery Smith, assistant principal at Parkside Elementary School. There's Avery. Welcome. Avery Smith joined Parkside Elementary as assistant principal in 2026 following a strategic hiring process. Most recently, she served as a research fellow at Te Herenga Waka-- how did I do? Pretty good? All right, thank you-- Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand, where she also worked as a teacher fellow, project manager, and research assistant.

Previously, Avery served as assistant principal at Kimball and Gatewood elementary schools in Seattle and worked as a special education teacher. Avery holds a bachelor degree in women's studies and community studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz, a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Washington, and a special education teaching certification from California State University, Monterey Bay, and a doctorate in education from Te Herenga Waka, Victoria University of Wellington. Welcome to Highline. Good to see you.

All right, invite you all to come up to the stage. Please bring your family if you're able to bring them tonight. And we'll take a group photo.

Thank you so much, Dr. Duran, for sharing our new administrators, but also administrators moving into new positions. I just want to share a little story here. Jodi Robertson had my kids at McMicken way, way back when, just a few years ago. But I just love to see the McMicken family here and just celebrating our kids. So thank you for all that you do and supporting our kids. And good luck tomorrow.

With that, while we're not highlighting any particular recognitions tonight besides the love here, I want to name and recognize the following for the month of September. We invite you to visit our Facebook page and explore these recognitions, Attendance Awareness Month, Hispanic Heritage Month. So with that, thank you. Dr. Duran, it's now your superintendents updates.

All right, thank you, President Van. And just want to say welcome to the 26-27 school year. I'm excited to welcome our students and families back on the first day of school, tomorrow, September 3.

I sent a welcome back message to staff today and emphasized a fundamental value of Highline. Every student, family, and staff member belongs here. As our recently renewed strategic plan goal states, Highline Public Schools is committed to ensuring our schools are places where people are welcomed, valued, and safe. Every person and role contributes to this goal and to ensuring our promise becomes a reality. We know every student by name, strength, and need so they graduate prepared for the future they choose. We will continue to protect the rights and dignity of the students and families we serve and the colleagues we work with every day.

Thank you to all of our educators, staff, and school leaders for the work you do to prepare for our students' return. Thank you for choosing Highline every day. Thank you for choosing our students every day. I look forward to seeing you all as I'm out in the schools this year. And remember, #HighlineProud as you're taking pictures, especially tomorrow as we welcome our students back.

I'd now like to welcome Jeb Binns, the President of Highland Education Association, to the podium to share a few remarks. Welcome, Jeb. Good to see you.

Microphone. And now it is. So let's start again. Good evening. And I apologize for not wearing red. It's been a day. And so we go through. So I want to welcome my new administrator friends.

My name is Jeb Binns, my email address is. And please feel free to contact me. I have also already heard many wonderful things about your job that you're doing, so keep it up. Let's go.

Also, my presence in buildings is not-- shouldn't be a scary thing. It should be a, how can we work together to solve hard things. Because we can do hard things. So please give me a shout. It'd be great.

We brought you a TA. It's hard work. And we also have more work to do. And that's OK because this is learning. Members got together, ratified the agreement. It's now up to you to make final decisions. We appreciate you and the work and we're excited to we're excited to get going this school year.

I'm also excited to welcome the President of the National Education Association, Princess Moss, to the district tomorrow. She just took office on the 1st of September and is on a 30-day mission across the country. And day three, she comes to Highline. So it's pretty exciting to go through and do that. So she will be in the district tomorrow. So I look forward to look forward to seeing her and having us highlighted on the national stage.

I also wanted to say that I thoroughly enjoyed the equity symposium. And the session with Dr. Bettina Love really resonated with me, thinking about the connections. And she spoke a lot about how we create-- kids create neural connections as they take learning and they tie it to their lives. And so I'm really looking forward to see how we're going to incorporate that really strong message of connecting learning to relevant culture. And then that's the thing that makes those connections. So I'm looking forward to seeing us doing that work because it's important. And that's going to be the thing that lights up kids to go through there.

And I want to thank the team for putting this together and the [? HEART ?] team for doing just some great work.

We're excited to get going tomorrow. And I'm excited to get out into classrooms, see kids, take some photos, and celebrate all the things that we do here every day. And then, you know, go to labor management meetings, which is pretty much my life.

So thank you very much. I look forward to look forward to getting going. Again, got questions, hit me up. New principals, I will be in your buildings. See you.

Thank you, Jeb. And I want to just publicly thank you for your work to get that tentative agreement approved last night with your members. So really look forward to the work that we're going to be doing together not only this year, but into the future. That concludes my comments this evening. Thank you.

Thank you so much, Dr. Duran. And thank you, Jeb. And we're going to move to our director's reports. We're going to start off with Dr. Espinoza.

Great, thank you. Hi, everyone. I'm also preparing for the first day of school. Tomorrow I will have a first grader, a third grader, and a sixth grader at Highline Public Schools. We're all very excited. And I look forward to having a fulfilling school year.

I was also at the equity symposium. And one of the things that I took note of from the keynote speaker, Dr. Love, was an act of love is having high expectations of ourselves and our students and each other. And that really is meaningful to me, of course, as I'm sending three kids out into public education again. But I think that we do right by our community, our families, and our students if we have high expectations of them and we support them to reach their highest potential.

I was also at back-to-school events at Seahurst. And big picture, many families are excited. And it's a great unknown. We have a supply list, but we really don't know what's going to happen. So that's exciting.

I also wanted to highlight some good work that has been happening with the Promise Scholars. So in the summer, Promise Scholars from Highline took part in a three-day college visit experience. They went to visit Wazzu and Central Washington and Eastern Washington. And this program supports self-identified male and non-binary students of color from Tyee, Evergreen, Mount Rainier, and Highline High Schools. In the program, students are able to explore academic programs and financial aid resources and then also visit campus and make new connections. Thank you.

Thank you so much, Dr. Espinoza. Director Holien.

Thank you, President Van. Hi, everyone. I hope everyone's having a wonderful week. Thank you to our new administrators that have moved into the roles that they are currently going to be starting tomorrow. Well, you probably already have been started, but-- I want to give a shout-out to my wife, who has been setting up her classroom over the last week, going through days, taking our three-year-old little daughter to try to "help," quote unquote. But we just call it teacher life or teacher kids, I guess.

Last week, elementary educators from across Highline came together for a district-wide professional learning day. Educators focused on using student data to strengthen literacy instruction and support student needs. They also planned reading, writing lessons that build on students's culture, experiences, and strengths, which I think is very important when we're looking at equity and everything along those lines.

The district-wide learning supports a consistent approach to literacy instruction across grades and schools. I was able to go to what's called the liberatory learning at the PAC.

And you should look up what liberatory actually means. And it was-- I did a lot more research into it. And the keynote speaker was very wonderful to hear. And it was all-- there was all the elementary school educators there. And it was sort of a work date with my wife, too. So it was sort of funny. But I wish everyone a good, good school year.

Thank you so much, Director Holien. Director Tidholm.

Good afternoon, folks, and happy first day of school eve. Good luck, everybody. Early appreciation to all our teachers and staff at the schools.

So HealthPoint is reopening its school-based centers at Evergreen and Tyee. We had the first HealthPoint in Tyee 20 years ago, followed by Evergreen 15 years ago. And these clinics serve our middle and high school students across Highline. They help reduce barriers for access to health care and provide services like behavioral health, immunizations, nutrition, physicals, and annual exams for sports as well as teen services. And that is all that I have this evening. Thank you.

Thank you so much, Director Tidholm. Director Alvarez?

I also am so excited. My grandson is going to be a sophomore at Highline High School. And I have a first grader also at Midway. So it's so exciting. I was thinking back about when my kids were in Highline School. I'm so thankful my kids are all grown and I get to send my grandkids home whenever I want to. So I have the best of both worlds.

So it's just exciting. But, back then, my kids didn't have new schools to go to, I remember. So now I'm excited to see all my kids went to Highline High School and now my grandson gets to go to a new Highline High School.

So, talking about that, the bond and levy information is available online. So in November, voters will consider a bond and technology levy. You can learn more about the local funding measures on the Highline website. On the website, you will find details about what the levy and bond fund, how bond projects were determined, and overall cost information. And also there's answers there to frequently asked questions. So I'm excited to see.

I know my kids attended Highland High School when it was old. And now my grandson gets to experience and he just absolutely loves it. And I get to walk in there and it looks for him like a college. He says that it's just a beautiful school. And so I hope that the rest of our kids get to experience that as well. And that's all that I have for today.

Thank you so much. And it's my turn. I had the opportunity to speak at the equity symposium. And thank you for all of the participants that were there, our student emcees from Chinook and Tyee, they were amazing. What a beautiful morning. I was in Dallas, that day, so I was able to watch the whole thing, but just the feedback was amazing. So thank you so much for that.

I don't have any kids in school anymore, so that feeling is gone. But I do have my daughter that's starting her first year as a teacher, so I am getting the feedback from her about her kids. And it's really exciting to sit and see it on the other side, as what I felt like when I was going to school, what it felt like to see my kids go to school and experience that. They felt the belonging in school, that they felt seen and loved. And now seeing my daughter showing the extra love and care that I know that teachers and administrators from McMicken had a huge part in her growing up and wanting to become a teacher. So keep that going. Greatly appreciate it.

Also this summer, we highlighted graduating seniors preparing for the future that they choose. Valeria Farias Rivera, 2026 high school graduate, explored her passion for law and advocacy through Law and Justice Program at PSSC. She also built confidence as a leader while fostering belonging and community among her peers. Let's play a short video about how Valeria experiences at Highline helped shape her goals for the future.

My name is Valeria. I am a student at Highline High School. And I attend PSSC for the Law and Justice Program.

My experience at Highline has prepared me for the future because it has allowed me to have resources like being able to attend PSSC. I've always been interested in law since like middle school. Throughout this program, I've learned that things are not just black and white, there's a lot of gray area. But I think what I will take away from this is just fighting for justice, even if that may look like just allowing someone to have a fair trial and giving them a fair treatment, even if it's not necessarily always winning.

As a first-generation student, it has been hard to navigate some things. But I also have really good college and career team at Highline. They're always just there, willing to help and answer all my questions I have.

My plans after graduating is to attend Seattle U. I'm going to major in business and then hopefully go to law school afterwards.

The impact that I want to have in the future on someone's life is just being a positive encounter that they have. I think it's nice to help people. I feel like sometimes we tend to forget about others and just are so self-centered. Whether that be me helping them throughout a trial or just being like a positive impact, something that a person can be grateful for.

Thank you so much for sharing that. And that concludes our directors' reports this evening. To all of our building administrators and staff, you are excused. You guys can get ready for school tomorrow. And thank you so much. Not all staff, but most staff, thank you all.

Thank you for being here.

Thank you, everyone.

No, no, Adriana, you have to stay.

Not all staff.

We're going to move to our scheduled communication. This evening, we had one speaker that signed up and was unable to make it. Miss Price will be submitting her communication to us via email. So with that, that concludes our scheduled communications.

Consent agenda-- do we have any questions or comments in regards to our consent agenda? I do have one quick comment. I know there's a motion to approve a donation to Raisbeck Aviation High School. I just want to thank the late James Raisbeck for his annual donations. This donation is over \$231,000 to graduating seniors for the post-secondary. So that is huge. And I just want to thank you.

With that, can I please have a motion?

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

I'll second that.

All those in favor?

Aye.

Aye.

Any opposed? Hearing, seeing none. Thank you so much.

Action item, this is 8.1, motion to approve Learning Assistance Program Readiness to Learn Partnership. Any questions or comments?

Yes, I had a question. How is school selected? And then how are the programs for the school selected?

Yeah, so we did an RFP process. We started out by sending a survey to all the schools and principals. And through that we learned about the partnerships and how they were operating in the schools. Then I opened up-- I had a community partnership roundtable where I invited all the partners. And that's where I announced RFP process.

I also sent it out in an email. Once I did that, then I opened up the application, partners applied. I took all the applications, compiled it into a catalog, and then I sent it out to all the principals and office managers. And they basically ranked partners from 1 to 4 based on who they wanted in their schools. I took that information and then I had members from the district-- so an ILED, some of the community partners, some of the family and community engagement specialists, myself, Lolita, and Kisa, and we sat together and we basically went through and we awarded each school partners based on those criteria.

Great, thank you for that. So the schools rank the organizations that they see most with their school population.

Yeah. And every school got a funded partner. And we also look at the need. And based on that, some schools might get three partners, some schools might get one funded partner. But we also have those who are our standard partners. We also have those in schools as well.

OK, thank you.

Thank you so much. Any other follow-up questions? Hear and see none. Can I please have a motion?

I move that the Highline School Board approve the Learning Assistance Program Readiness to Learn Partnerships in the amount of \$250,000 for community partnerships.

Second that.

Thank you. Roll call please.

Director Tidholm?

Yea.

Director Espinoza?

Yes.

Director Alvarez?

Yea.

Director Holien?

Yea.

President Van.

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you. 8.2, motion to approve revisions to salary schedules between the Highline School District and Teamsters I, Teamsters II, Teamsters III, and Teamsters IV Staff. Any comments or questions on this? Hearing and seeing none, can I please have a motion?

Oh, no, I did.

Oh, go right ahead.

Yeah, I had a [INAUDIBLE]. So just to clarify, so this is the contract that was approved?

No, this is not part of TA approved last night.

So this is just salary changes?

Yeah.

Thank you for that clarification.

Thank you very much. Any other follow-up questions or comments? Can I please have a motion?

I move the Highline School Board approve the proposed salary schedule changes for representative Teamsters I, Teamsters II, Teamsters III, and Teamsters IV staff for the 2026-27 academic year. May I have a second?

I second.

Roll call.

Director Alvarez?

I will be abstaining. I have a daughter who's in a Teamsters.

Director Holien?

Yea.

Director Tidholm?

Yea.

Director Espinoza?

Yes.

President Van?

Yea.

This motion passes, 4, 0, and 1.

Thank you very much. 8.3, motion to approve revisions to salary schedules between the Highline School District and the professional technical non-represented staff. Any questions or comments on this? Hearing, seeing none, can I please have a motion?

I move the Highline School Board approve the proposed salary schedule changes for the non-represented professional technical staff for the 2026-27 academic year. May I have a second?

I'll second that.

Roll call please.

Director Espinoza?

Yes.

Director Tidholm?

Yea.

Director Holien?

Yea.

Director Alvarez?

Yea.

President Van?

Abstain.

This motion passes, 4-0-1.

Thank you very much. 8.4, motion to approve revisions to salary schedules between the Highline School District and Central Office Administrators and Building Administrators. Any questions or comments? Hearing or see any, can I please have a motion?

I move the Highline School Board approve the proposed salary schedule changes for non-represented central office administrators and represented building administrators for the 2026-27 academic year. May I have a second, please?

I'll second that.

Roll call, please.

Director Holien?

Yea.

Director Alvarez?

Yea, yea.

Director Espinoza?

Yes.

Director Tidholm?

Yea.

President Van?

Yea.

This motion passes, 5 to none.

Thank you very much. And that concludes our action items this evening. We have one intro and action this evening, 9.1. And this is a motion to approve Dr. Duran's 2026-27 superintendent evaluation focus themes.

Per board policy and procedure number 1630-1630P, the superintendent shall be evaluated using Washington Standards-Based Superintendents Framework. Each year, the board and superintendent shall mutually agree on the focus themes for the year from within the framework. This motion would approve four evaluation-focused themes from the Washington Standards-Based Superintendents Framework for the 26-27 superintendents evaluation. The four focus themes are tied to the district's priorities and built upon the 25-26 superintendents evaluations. Any questions or comments that you guys would like to share?

I do have a handful of comments regarding this. I think as a school board director and future Highline parent, I want to be clear that student success in academic achievement is extremely important to me, to our community, to our families, to our children. And in July, the school board adopted the 2026 through 2031 strategic plan goals. The plan includes system-level indicators that measure student academic growth, achievement including reading and math growth, grade-level proficiency in English, language arts, math meetings-- sorry, I wrote this earlier and I should have tried to remember it, actually, but it's all right.

Math and science, ninth grade course completion and the high school graduation. Those indicators of how we will measure our progress and Highline and hold ourselves accountable for student outcomes, I expect that progress to be tracked and reported so we can see where students are succeeding and where improvement is needed. I do not view the four superintendent evaluation themes before us tonight as a full extent of what I expect from Dr. Duran. These are areas of particular focus for the 26-27 evaluation and build upon last year's evaluation.

The focus themes themselves also include student learning. One specifically calls for Superintendent Duran to ensure Highline policies, practices, and resources support learning for each student. The other focus areas address Highline's capacity to improve, effective management of operations, and providing the board with timely information. I do truly support Dr. Duran in these focus themes for his evaluation this year. I also believe that we can strongly support our superintendent while having high expectations. They go hand in hand.

So I would move. May I move?

Let's see if there's any other directors that would like to comment first and then I'll give you the honor to. Directors, any other comments or questions?

Just questions in general, or questions to the superintendent, or any which way? So I know that we've had conversations about student outcomes, but we've had questions around student outcomes and how these proposed four themes capture that. And I know Director Holien just spoke to that. But if you could just share a bit about how you see this.

Yeah, definitely, I would say that I would tie right back to our strategic plan goals and the indicators that we have created and that we're going to be using. We're using multiple measures to determine the outcomes that we're looking for, which include both academic outcomes as well as on the well being of our students and how our system is doing overall to improve as a whole because we know that student outcomes are important.

In order to have student outcomes, you need to strong systems that are in place in order to support our students. So the indicators that we have right now are set up in a way where we have some that are coming from our previous strategic plan that we call now, we have some that we're working with in order to fully develop, and then we have some ones that are new that will take a little bit more time to develop. But I believe these indicators are going to help us collectively as a system to improve the overall outcomes and supports we have for our students.

So much.

Directors, any other I do have something, but? No? Director Alvarez?

No, I just wanted to say thank you for Director Holien for mentioning. A lot of times, if we were to spend here the whole time trying to explain all the things that we cover when we're behind closed doors around what we're measuring and what we're not, we need to pick some of the four. So we chose to pick these four standards. Doesn't mean that this is the only thing he's being held accountable, right?

And thank you, Dr. Espinoza, for-- I mean, these are all things that we have discussed. And it's hard to bring all this on the diocese around every single little thing that we've discussed about what we're really being-- what's really being measured, what's really being held accountable because ultimately this is something that we are trusting, but also we are verifying as we move along and where do we course correct. But where are we supporting as we move along as well?

And so I appreciate the fact that we can question, but yet we can move along. We're not questioning because we don't trust, we're questioning just to see also where can we come into play and to support. And I'm appreciative in there's ways that we can work together because ultimately we want our students to have high expectations for them as well, for them, for our teachers as well, for our staff. But as we all work together to make sure that's happening and it's not in a way that we are undermining anyone because we all want what's in the best interest for our district, for our students, for our staff, and for our superintendent as well. And I think that there's ways of doing these things and doing it together.

So I appreciate our superintendent. I appreciate the rest of the board directors who are really looking for the best interest, how do we move the needle in this, how do we get our students to graduate ready for the future they are choosing.

Thank you so much for that. And I'll conclude it. You know, Dr. Duran, your evaluations and your metrics of these standards, it doesn't-- yeah, the buck stops with you, but it cascades down right to cabinet, to ILEDs, to building leaders, to our teachers. So your goals ought to be their goals.

And the success is going to be everybody, but the failures ultimately lies with you, but also with us as a board of directors. So we encourage you, we encourage our staff and our community to support and meet those numbers. And then we're doing this together. And it's not just you, right? This is us as a collective team getting to those metrics and having our kids succeed.

So with that, Director Holien, I'm going to give you the honors here.

It's a long one. I move the Highline School Board approve the following 26-27 superintendent evaluation focus teams for the Washington Standards-Based Superintendent Framework. Standard 1, Theme E, Mission, Vision, and Core Values-- develops explicit strategies and processes to study and improve the district's capacity to improve. Standard 3, Theme C, Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment-- ensures that the district policies, practices, and resources support learning for each student. Standard 7, Theme D, Operations and Management-- effectively manages key elements of district operations, and Standard 8, Theme C, Collaboration with the Board-- provides the board with timely information. May I have a second?

I'll second that.

Roll call, please.

Director Tidholm.

Yea.

Director Holien?

Yea.

Director Espinoza?

Yes.

Director Alvarez?

Yea.

President Van?

Yea.

This motion passes 5 to none.

Thank you so much. And that concludes our intro and action items. We have a few intros this evening. 10.1, this is motion to approve Synergy Student Information Systems Renewal Amendment. Any questions or comments?

Seeing none, we'll move to 10.2, motion to approve Pacific Middle School Replacement Project, Approval of Contractor-- Skanska USA-- Change Order Number 7, Purchase Order Number CP240033. This item was originally on the August 19 board meeting agenda. It was pulled prior to introduction. So after some due diligence, this item is coming for introduction tonight.

Dr. Duran, I believe you had some additional comments that you wanted to share on this item.

Yes, I do. And yes, I think in the due diligence we've done some research on this. And in the spirit of the conversation we just had around my evaluation, there were times when questions come in and we need to do some additional research and work. And so I humbly share this with you now.

So the question was about how are we able to use bond dollars for the Pacific Middle School project to complete or to redo the tennis courts at Mount Rainier. So we've done some research that I want to share with the board and public so everyone's really clear on how and why we're able to do this.

For the Pacific Middle School Bond Replacement Project, Highline submitted this project proposal to the State of Washington Capital Projects Advisory Review Board's Project Review Committee. The committee approved the project, including a variety of sports fields located between Midway Elementary and Mount Rainier and to the West of Pacific Middle School. This approved scope encompasses the tennis courts.

Incorporating the tennis courts replacement in the existing Pacific construction contract is consistent within the scope approved by the state's Projects Review Committee. It allows us to use the contractor, project management team. And competitively selected subcontractors are already working on the site, reducing additional mobilization and administrative costs.

District staff authorized up to \$250,000 in work on the tennis courts through a construction change directive. That allowed demolition and initial work to begin in July with the goal of completing the courts before the school year.

A misstep occurred when, when work continued beyond the \$250,000 authorization without receiving the additional approvals required from the chief financial officer and the superintendent to proceed, as outlined in board procedure 9240. Once district leadership became aware that work had proceeded beyond the authorized amount, chief financial officer Jackie Bryan stepped in and stopped the work. It remained stopped pending board action tonight-- or not tonight, but the next board meeting.

I acknowledge that this should not have occurred. It is important that our team understands how the breakdown happened and how we will take the appropriate steps to address it. We're also looking into this matter and reviewing our processes and operational practices to identify improvements and ensure an error like this does not happen again.

Approval will allow construction activities proceed while final field coordination and pricing are complete, with the goal of making the courts available for student and community use as soon as practical. Thank you.

Thank you, Dr. Duran, for clarification on that. We have a few weeks to discuss that.

President Van.

Yes.

I just have a comment. I really want to-- I appreciate the clarification and being transparent about a mistake-- it happens-- about situations like this. So I just want to say thank you, Dr. Duran for coming out and admitting that it-- things happen. It's all right. But we can learn from it. We grow. So thank you.

Thank you, Director Holien. Directors, any other comments or questions? Hearing, seeing none.

Well, that concludes our intro items this evening. Would any director like to make a motion to move an agenda item to consent at the next meeting? Hearing, seeing none.

OK, with that, do I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

I make a motion we adjourn the meeting.

Can I please have a second?

I will second that.

All those in favor?

Aye.

Aye.

Aye.

Any opposed? Hearing, seeing none. Thank you, everybody. Have a great first day of school tomorrow.

Good evening, folks.