Inspiring Excellence
LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
August 26, 2026

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

Student Advisory Council Officers:

The Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors met in a Regular Session at the Educational Service Center. A Zoom option was available for this meeting that President Iseminger called to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Kesler made a motion to approve the August 26, 2026 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Dickson and unanimously approved. Director Lund made a motion to approve the August 12, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

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

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROGRAMS

Human Resources Director of Talent Engagement, Belonging and Support, Dr. Monica Meadows, and Districtwide Multilingual Specialist, Cassandra Clark, presented an update on the District's Multilingual Learner (ML) Program, which currently serves 877 students representing 68 languages. They highlighted student outcomes, Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD) professional learning, expanded building-level ML support, direct language instruction, and family engagement efforts.

Director Taylor asked about the distribution of GLAD-trained teachers across District schools. Ms. Clark responded that participation is strongest at the elementary level but is growing at the secondary level. Dr. Templeton added that she observed GLAD strategies in approximately 40% of K–5 classrooms last year and noted that participation in training continues to increase. Director Lund asked about the Excel Educators Academy. Ms. Clark explained that the program provides micro credential coursework leading toward an ML endorsement.

Director Lund commented that the program's work is exciting, congratulated Dr. Meadows on her new leadership responsibilities, and recognized Sarah Danielson for building a strong foundation for the program. Director Dickson asked about partnerships with community organizations and local businesses. Ms. Clark shared examples of partnerships with the local library and a game store and explained how family connection events combine parent learning with activities that support language development and community connections.

Director Kesler asked how direct instruction for multilingual learners fits within the program. Ms. Clark responded that ML specialists provide dedicated language instruction, particularly for newcomers, while also partnering with classroom teachers to strengthen instructional strategies. Director Taylor commented on the importance of belonging and community connection for multilingual students and families and recognized the growth of the District's program. Dr. Templeton added that the work supports the District's Professional Learning Community (PLC) process, Strategic Plan, and commitment to equity and serving every student.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

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

President Iseminger opened the floor for any comments or discussion regarding the 2026-2027 Budget Hearing (Associated Student Body (ASB) Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Debt Service Fund, General Fund and Transportation Vehicle Fund). Hearing no comments, President Iseminger closed this portion of the meeting.

DECISION ITEMS

Consent Agenda:

Director Taylor made a motion to approve the "Consent Agenda" items: Approval of the August 13, 2026 vouchers and invoices have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said payroll and/or vouchers and invoices amounting to $25,000 is covered by warrant numbered 321889 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the Capital Projects Fund. Approval of the August 28, 2026 vouchers and invoices have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said payroll and/or vouchers and invoices amounting to $5,714.87 covered by ACH deposits numbered 9000025995 to 9000026037 drawn on the General Fund. Approval of the August 28, 2026 vouchers and invoices have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said payroll and/or vouchers and invoices amounting to $4,259,041.79 covered by warrants numbered 321890 to 321990 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General, Capital Projects & ASB Fund(s). Personnel Report: Certificated Employment: Elizabeth Cousino 3rd Grade Teacher Non-Cont, Jessica Cowan Music Teacher Non-Cont, Parker Devereux Middle School Math Teacher, Kori Dubois Resource Room Teacher Non-Cont, Sydney Hanes Middle School ELA Teacher, Kari Hollands Associate Principal, Bernadette Miles Kindergarten Teacher Non-Cont, Rachel Scott ELA Teacher, Maryam Sohail CTE Digital & Fine Arts, Emma Tutton Resource Room Teacher; Classified Employment: Desiree Atwood 1:1 Gen Support Para, Natasha Dickson 1:1 DD Para, Shelby Husby 1:1 Specialized Program Para, Dylan Hutchinson 9th Grade Asst. Football Coach, Suma Kolanavada 1:1 General Support Para, Grace LeWarner DD Para, Sarah Martinez 1:1 General Support Para, Kelsey Ramber 1:1 General Support Para, Jenna Schmidt 1:1 General Support Para, Jordan Scroggins 1:1 General Support Para, Enola Stark Specialized Program Para, Genevieve Wilson Resource Room Para, Hope Woods ESC Swing Custodian, Shira Zinkand Facilities OP; Resignations: Monique Castruita 6/16/26, Breanna Ihlanfeldt 8/21/26, Veronica Mulligan 6/16/26, Emily Murdock 8/17/26, Mahabba Nasrallah 8/6/26, Shelli Jordan 9/26/26, Julie Statton 6/16/26, Calliope Whetstine 8/13/26, Beth Yeutter 8/17/26; Retirements: Cherri Gooding 8/31/26, Joni Peterson 8/30/26. Approval of Co-Curricular Report, PSE/OP Salary Schedule, PSE/Lake Stevens Salary Schedule. Approval for LSHS Varsity Volleyball Team to attend the Southern California Invitational on October 9-10, 2026 in San Diego, CA. Approval of Mealtime Online change to InTouch. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved.

Director Kesler made a motion for approval of Resolution No 22-26 – Imprest Funds. The motion was seconded by Director Lund. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Director Dickson made a motion for approval of adoption of annual rate and fee schedules. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved.

Director Taylor commented that she appreciated the team's thoughtful and responsible approach to managing rising costs while continuing to meet District needs without creating unnecessary financial strain.

Director Dickson made a motion for approval of Resolution No 23-26 – 2026-2027 Budget. The motion was seconded by Director Lund. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Director Taylor expressed appreciation for the budget team's attention to detail, transparency, and willingness to thoroughly address Board questions.

Director Kesler thanked the team for its foresight and work in maintaining a strong, healthy four-year budget.

Director Dickson also thanked staff for their patience in answering questions and recognized the significant time and effort required to develop the budget.

President Iseminger commented that the lack of public comment at the budget hearing reflects community trust in the District's responsible financial management and thanked staff for ensuring resources are available to support the needs and aspirations of students.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dr. Templeton introduced the first reading of Policy 3400, Property Records, and explained that the proposed update increases the capital asset and federal payback thresholds from $5,000 to $10,000 to align with updates to the state accounting manual. She noted that the policy will return on the consent agenda following an opportunity for Board questions.

INFORMATION

Dr. Gina Anderson and Executive Director Robb Stanton provided an update on the District's capital construction program, including projects in design and construction. Director Stanton reviewed progress on secure receptions, Elementary 8, Skyline Elementary, Hillcrest Gym, the Secondary Innovative Learning Center, Mount Pilchuck Gym, Central Kitchen, Glenwood Elementary, and Lake Stevens Middle School. Several projects are moving into construction documents, and the final guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for the Skyline Elementary replacement is anticipated in September.

He reported that secure reception improvements at six schools are nearing substantial completion in preparation for the start of school. The redesigned entrances provide secure vestibules for screening visitors while maintaining separate welcoming reception areas. Dr. Templeton commented on the successful balance of increased security with welcoming environments and thanked Dr. Anderson for her leadership. Director Kesler asked how office professionals would be prepared for the new spaces and procedures. Executive Director Stanton and Dr. Anderson responded that staff have been involved throughout the process and will receive additional walkthroughs and training.

Executive Director Stanton reviewed progress at Elementary 8, including foundations, paving, utilities, and stormwater infrastructure, and highlighted the use of a building-envelope mockup to identify potential construction issues before installation. President Iseminger commented on the cleanliness of the site and efforts to minimize impacts on the surrounding community. At Skyline Elementary, extensive site and utility work is underway, along with temporary parking and traffic arrangements. Executive Director Stanton highlighted collaboration with contractors, utility providers, local agencies, and District staff to address

construction challenges while supporting school operations. Director Taylor asked about the planned grade change for the new north road. Executive Director Stanton responded that it will be elevated only slightly.

Executive Director Stanton also reviewed progress and timelines for Hillcrest Gym, the Secondary Innovative Learning Center, Mount Pilchuck Gym, Central Kitchen, Glenwood Elementary, and Lake Stevens Middle School. Dr. Anderson highlighted flexibility as a guiding design principle, including adaptable technology and movable furniture that will allow learning spaces to respond to changing instructional needs. Dr. Templeton concluded by recognizing the scope of the approximately $400 million capital program and the collaboration among District staff and partners, connecting the work to the District's professional learning community model and Strategic Plan.

Assistant Superintendent of HR and School Improvement Dr. John Balmer provided an update on the District's Professional Learning Community (PLC) work and its connection to the Strategic Plan and equitable student outcomes. He reviewed professional learning completed during the spring and summer, including a high school team visit to Wasatch School District, participation by a Special Services team in the Yes We Can conference, and attendance by 99 staff members, including more than 70 teachers, at a PLCs at Work Institute. Dr. Balmer also shared that more than 120 members of school guiding coalitions recently participated in training focused on building leadership capacity, collective responsibility, and collective efficacy.

Dr. Balmer explained that this year's PLC work will focus on identifying essential standards, developing common formative assessments, reviewing student results, and collaboratively determining instructional strategies and interventions. He emphasized continuous improvement, sharing successful practices across teams and buildings, setting goals, using data purposefully, and aligning instructional rigor across the District. He noted that the ultimate goal is to ensure students receive the support they need to meet standards while also building confidence as learners.

Director Lund commented on Dr. Balmer's enthusiasm for the work and expressed excitement about the growing culture of collaboration across the District. He highlighted the value of providing staff opportunities to observe successful PLC practices, learn from one another, and bring those experiences back to their colleagues. He also expressed support for the concept of "leading by celebration" and thanked Dr. Balmer for continuing to keep the Board informed about the District's PLC work.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Templeton shared her observations regarding the significant level of staff participation in professional learning over the summer, noting that employees voluntarily dedicated personal time to opportunities centered on collaboration and collective goals. She emphasized the District's focus on aligned professional development, describing an approach of going deeper with a consistent body of work rather than introducing disconnected initiatives. Dr. Templeton noted the strong engagement she observed during PLC and special education professional learning and shared that staff appear to feel valued and invested in the work. She concluded by highlighting the upcoming staff welcome-back event and the continued focus on strengthening collaboration across the District.

SACo COMMENTS

No Student Advisory Council (SACo) Members Present.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Kesler commented on the earlier Multilingual Learner Program presentation, noting the District's 68 represented languages and expressing appreciation for the role public education and language instruction play in strengthening students, communities, and the country. He also requested periodic updates on how the District will engage and support staff through the transitions associated with Elementary 8 and other construction projects. He specifically expressed interest in how staff input, questions, and concerns will be addressed in advance of building moves to help employees feel informed and prepared for the transitions.

Director Dickson expressed appreciation for the intentional work taking place across the District, including multilingual learner supports, budgeting, capital projects, and PLCs. He commented that the District is setting high expectations for both students and staff and expressed excitement for the upcoming school year. He noted that while there may be some anxiety associated with the

work ahead, the collective efforts ultimately support the District's "Golden Ticket" for students and represent an investment in the broader community.

Director Taylor expressed appreciation for the work presented throughout the evening and reflected on the community collaboration that helped establish the Dolly Parton Imagination Library locally, which has provided books to thousands of children. Connecting that experience to the concept of "leading by celebration," she commented on the enthusiasm and sense of ownership she is seeing among educators around the District's PLC work and thanked staff for creating an environment where that excitement and engagement can grow.

Director Lund thanked staff for the evening's reports and reflected on Dolly Parton's example of service to others, connecting it to the District's work on behalf of students and the community. He encouraged staff to take care of themselves and one another as they manage the many initiatives and projects underway, while also taking time to celebrate their progress and accomplishments.

President Iseminger thanked staff for the evening's presentations and commented on the strong examples of leadership throughout the District. He noted that individuals bring different strengths and perspectives while collectively setting high expectations and modeling hard work and dedication. He emphasized that how the work is accomplished is as important as the work itself and expressed appreciation for staff members who inspire others to contribute their own strengths to the District's work.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other objections from other directors, President Iseminger adjourned the Regular Session at 8:05 p.m.

President

Secretary