Bellingham Public Schools
a collective commitment

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 21, 2026

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Meeting Date and Location

11:30 a.m., August 21, 2026 – District Office, 1985 Barkley Blvd., Bellingham, WA 98226

1.02 Roll Call:

Mr. Ritchey called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. Directors Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Mason, Scott Ritchey (President), Katie Rose and Superintendent Greg Baker were present.

2.0 INFORMATION ITEMS/DISCUSSION

2.01 Engaging Our Community: The board identified topics for three community linkages and two student roundtables:

Linkages:

- Poverty (planning lead, Ms. Diaz Hackler)
- Immigration (planning lead, Mr. Benjamin)
- Addiction and Recovery (planning lead, Ms. Mason)

Roundtables:

- Northwest Career and Technical Academy (NCTA) (planning lead, Ms. Mason)
- Athletics and Activities (planning lead, Ms. Rose)

2.02 Board Learning: The board identified topics for two study sessions:

- Healthy Tech Promise, including AI (planning lead, Mr. Benjamin)
- MTSS Road Map to 2028 (planning lead, Ms. Mason)

Board Professional Development: The board will choose a session at the upcoming WSSDA conference to attend as a full board, possibly a session related to school funding.

Board Education Plans: The board identified areas to learn about individually, including McKinney Vento, transportation, literacy, Promise K, attendance, facilities department, school safety and school nurses.

School Visits: Visits will remain 7:30-8:30 a.m., but the time for middle school visits may be adjusted to an alternate time.

2.03 Board Connections: The board discussed opportunities for connecting as a board, such as board dinners.

2.04 **Policy Governance:** The board discussed information they'd like to see highlighted in the Ends 2.1 (Part 2) report, including non-college pathways, and the EL-6 report, including the connection between curriculum and outcomes.

2.05 **Preview of Upcoming Year:** Dr. Baker shared updates with the board on the start of the school year.

3.0 TOUR OF COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS CONSTRUCTION SITE

3.1 **Construction Site Tour:** The board recessed at 2:15 p.m. in order to drive to and tour the Community Transitions construction site on the Whatcom Community College campus. They reconvened at 2:45 p.m.

4.0 CLOSING ITEMS

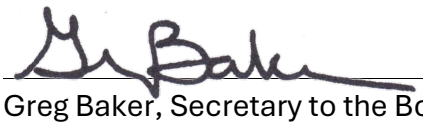
4.01 **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Approved:



Scott Ritchey, Board President

Attest:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved: September 24, 2026