OFFICIAL MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
November 2, 2026

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location:

November 2, 2026 – District Office, 1985 Barkley Blvd., Bellingham, WA.

1.2 Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement

Mr. Ritchey called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He acknowledged that this meeting is being held on the ancestral homelands of the Lummi people and Nooksack tribe. Present: Directors Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Mason, Scott Ritchey (President), Katie Rose and Superintendent Greg Baker.

2.0 Public Hearing:

Mr. Ritchey opened the public comment portion of the meeting. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive verbal or written public comment on the possible closure of Columbia Elementary School. Each speaker had three minutes to speak as per the Board's regular procedures. The following individuals addressed the Board:

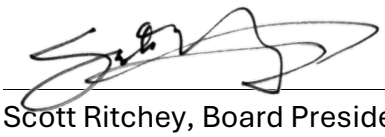
1. Mick O'Shaughnessy
2. Maria Coltharp
3. Christina Maginnis
4. Grant Thornton
5. Todd Lagestee
6. Aaron Booker
7. Jen Sandoval
8. Jedidiah Givens
9. Lindsay Mendoza
10. Morgan Hermanson
11. Sierra Hermanson
12. Laurie Hoyt
13. Maddie James
14. Susan Gribbin
15. Amanda Oliphant
16. Celeste Pareich
17. Sachin Pai

18. Holly Pai
19. Lauren Smith
20. Mia Haugsven
21. Kelly Haugsven
22. Eina
23. Audrey Negro
24. Jhustin Hall
25. Anya Gedrath
26. Claire McPhee
27. Kelda Adair
28. Josh Levenson
29. Charlotte Sather
30. Mark Joyner
31. Michelle Majors
32. Erik Frid
33. Patrick Morrison
34. Alex Pandel
35. Shelley Avery
36. Michael Berres
37. Tyler Occhiogrosso
38. Jeni Engebretson
39. Annie M-Grah signed up but did not speak; Hannah Cano spoke instead

3.0 CLOSING ITEMS

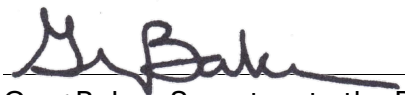
3.1 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Approved:



Scott Ritchey, Board President

Attest:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved: November 12, 2026