Inspiring Excellence
LAKE STEVENS
School District

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
September 9, 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 Lund made a motion to approve the September 9, 2026 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved. Director Dickson made a motion to approve the August 26, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Lund 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

Dr. Templeton introduced the elementary School Improvement Plan presentations, noting that the plans serve as a vehicle for continuous improvement and support the District's Strategic Plan. She emphasized the connection to Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), including establishing clear goals, measuring progress, responding when students need additional support, and accelerating learning for students who have already met expectations.

Executive Director of Elementary Schools Steven Burleigh provided an overview of Districtwide elementary achievement data and the common format that principals will use for their School Improvement Plan presentations. He highlighted positive trends in ELA achievement, including continued growth among student cohorts, and connected that progress to the District's sustained investment in literacy instruction. Dr. Templeton added context regarding the District's use of i-Ready to monitor student progress and its investment in Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) and professional learning aligned with the science of reading.

Mr. Burleigh noted that math data shows a different trend, with achievement generally declining as elementary cohorts progress through grade levels. He shared that a P–5 math team is examining instructional practices and foundational number sense as part of

a broader effort to improve mathematics outcomes. He also highlighted examples of strong classroom-level SBA performance across the District and emphasized using the PLC process to identify successful practices and learn from them. The District has established a goal of approximately 5% growth in elementary SBA achievement this year.

Highland Elementary Principal Sarah Danielson presented the school's improvement plan, highlighting a focus on essential standards and strengthened PLC practices to improve student achievement in math and ELA. Teams will use common assessments and student data to identify needs and provide intervention or enrichment. She also identified attendance and positive behavior supports as priorities for the year.

Dr. Templeton clarified several commonly used District terms: PBIS is Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports; ELA is English Language Arts; WIN stands for "What I Need Now," a designated intervention time during the school day; and OP refers to office professionals.

Director Kesler asked about Highland's attendance focus. Principal Danielson explained that the school will use a tiered approach, reinforcing attendance expectations schoolwide while identifying students experiencing attendance challenges and partnering with families to strengthen attendance, connection, and belonging.

Director Lund welcomed Principal Danielson to her new role and expressed appreciation for her enthusiasm in returning to Highland and her instructional roots.

President Iseminger encouraged Principal Danielson to analyze student and instructional data to identify staff strengths, successful practices, and opportunities for improvement. Principal Danielson shared that she and Assistant Principal Allison Porter have begun reviewing data by teacher and instructional strand and will use it to support and coach teams.

Director Dickson congratulated Principal Danielson and asked how the Board could support Highland's work. Principal Danielson expressed appreciation for the Board's continued support and said she would consider future opportunities where additional support may be helpful.

Glenwood Elementary Principal Jen Johnson presented the school's improvement plan, highlighting achievement goals based on student data and a focus on essential standards, common assessments, collaborative cycles of inquiry, and shared accountability. Staff are also using 15-day challenges to apply this work to academic and behavioral goals. As Glenwood prepares for its final year in the current building, the school's theme is "Leaving Our Legacy: A Last Year, A Lasting Impact," emphasizing the culture, relationships, and sense of belonging that will carry forward through the transition.

Director Lund commented on the positive energy surrounding the school's final year and appreciated the intentional focus on celebrating Glenwood's legacy while preparing students, staff, and families for the upcoming transitions.

Director Taylor asked what contributed to staff engagement and shared accountability around the PLC work. Principal Johnson attributed the engagement to the foundation established last year, clear expectations for collaboration and student learning, and staff autonomy to experiment with instructional practices through cycles of inquiry.

Director Dickson expressed appreciation for the specificity of Glenwood's action steps and the practice of referring to students by their future graduation class, reinforcing expectations for their long-term success.

Director Kesler commented on the significance of Glenwood's final year and expressed hope that former students and families will have an opportunity to return and celebrate the school's legacy.

President Iseminger commented on Glenwood's continued use of specific student data and asked how staff prioritize essential learning when instructional time is limited. Principal Johnson explained the "boulders, rocks, and butterflies" framework: "boulders" are essential standards students must master, "rocks" support those essential standards, and "butterflies" are standards that may receive less instructional emphasis when time must be prioritized.

Sunnycrest Elementary Principal Mikey Trexel presented the school's improvement plan, noting that achievement data prompted staff to establish an ambitious goal of 10% growth across grade levels in both ELA and math. Staff are strengthening PLC

collaboration through 15-day challenges, essential standards, common assessments, and planned interventions and enrichment. Sunnycrest is also focusing on consistent social-emotional learning and behavior supports, including aligned Second Step instruction, playground expectations, classroom calming spaces, and additional staff support for students and teachers.

Dr. Templeton clarified that SIP TOSA is School Improvement Teacher on Special Assignment, ML is Multilingual Learners, GLAD is Guided Language Acquisition Design, and LID is Learning Improvement Day.

Director Taylor commented on staff using disappointing achievement data as a catalyst for improvement.

Director Kesler recognized the challenges of serving nearly 800 students and appreciated the proactive supports being implemented.

Director Lund asked about the 10% growth goal. Principal Trexel explained that staff selected the goal together based on their belief in their students and their ability to achieve the growth.

Director Dickson asked about PLC buy-in, and Principal Trexel shared that collaboration and ownership are increasing across teams.

President Iseminger asked about behavior referrals and collaboration across grade levels. Principal Trexel shared that increased playground aggression prompted stronger schoolwide behavior supports and that staff will continue strengthening vertical alignment between grade levels.

Stevens Creek Principal Matt Pewitt and Associate Principal Becky Selby presented the school's improvement plan, emphasizing strong Tier 1 instruction, student engagement, and continued development of PLC practices. Staff are identifying essential standards, using common formative assessments to quickly respond to student needs, increasing student ownership of learning, and strengthening collaboration and vertical alignment across grade levels.

Dr. Templeton thanked the Board for funding elementary associate principal positions, noting the additional leadership capacity supports principals, staff, and student achievement. Associate Principal Selby expressed appreciation for the role and highlighted the growing collective efficacy and staff ownership of PLC work at Stevens Creek.

Director Lund recognized the school's strong culture and leadership and asked about its previous PLC experience. Principal Pewitt explained that Stevens Creek had previously operated as "PLC light" and is now refining and deepening the work.

Director Kesler commented on the common goal across the elementary schools of identifying and supporting the students needed to increase achievement.

President Iseminger recognized staff's willingness to engage in candid professional conversations focused on improving instruction.

Dr. Templeton commented on the transparency and shared commitment demonstrated by school leaders and the value of learning from one another's successes. Director Lund asked about opportunities for all schools to hear one another's improvement plans, and she shared that all schools will come together for the midpoint check-in to review progress and learn collaboratively.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

President Iseminger opened the floor for community comments. 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 September 11, 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 $5,145.37 covered by ACH numbers 9000027494 through 9000027520 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the

General Fund. Approval of the September 11, 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 $5,481.07 is covered by warrant numbered 000000018 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General and Capital Project Fund(s). Approval of the August 27, 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 $6,500 is covered by warrants numbered 322034 to 322035 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General & ASB Fund(s). Approval of the September 1, 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 $ 168,026.63 covered by warrants numbered 322036 to 322036 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the Capital Projects Fund. Approval of the September 11, 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 $(555,215.50) covered by warrants numbered 321590 and 321790 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General Fund. Approval of the September 11, 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 $12,230,237.03 is covered by warrants numbered 322046 to 322164 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General, Capital Projects, Transportation & ASB Fund(s). Personnel Report: Certificated Employment: Travis Black Elementary Music & PE, Taylor Dewing Math Lv Rep Non Cont, Carter Edens Wellness/SS Teacher, Jana Goetsch ELA/Theatre/Tech Theatre Teacher, Jessica Lipscomb ELA/RR Teacher non Cont, Kaelani Mingione Math Teacher, Cate Montgomery Social Studies Teacher, Maya Ozanich Math Lv Rep Non Cont, Natalie Reeves Math Teacher, Holly Sundstrom SLC Teacher, Kaylee Wolfington ELA Teacher Non Cont; Classified Employment: Alexis Beach 1:1 Spec Prog Para, Cash Davis Spec Prog Para, Lovetta Downes 1:1 Spec Prog Para, Kory Dyer Spec Prog Para, Nisa Eskici Spec Prog Para, Molly Flatten 1:1 Spec Prog Para, Briawnna Halvorson Spec Prog Para, Leanne Holzer 1:1 Spec Prog Para, Kristina Kasper Spec Prog Para, Kylie Melton 1:1 Spec Prog Para, Aubrey Scollard 1:1 Para; Volunteers: Kenneth Buckmiller 9th Football Coach, Sarah Fleischmann Girls Swim Coach, Kim Galde Girls Swim Coach; Resignations: Diona Adee 6/16/26, Seth Baker 8/31/26, Tina Bowers 6/16/26, Krysta Carpenter 6/16/26, Amara Cercone 8/27/26, Diana Etheridge 8/31/26, Taylor Garcia 8/16/26, McKinley Glade 6/16/26, Kristin Harris 6/16/26, Charlotte Hendry 9/1/26, Nora Jimenez 9/18/26, Jalon Lumar 8/17/26, John May 8/31/26, Amy Palmieri 6/16/26, Jennifer Ramsey 6/16/26, Rachel Stutes 6/16/26, Andy Thor 6/16/26, Noah Wallace 6/16/26. Approval of Co-Curricular Report. Approval of a donation from Partnership for Learning to Career and Technical Education (CTE) Aerospace Program. Approval of a donation of pickleball paddles from Alexander VanCour to Stevens Creek Elementary School. Approval to surplus six buses.

Director Kesler commented on the proposed donation of 61 sets of pickleball paddles, expressing support while asking about safe recess use and whether the equipment could be shared with other schools. Principal Pewitt responded that students are already successfully using pickleball equipment during PE and recess and agreed that the quantity received provides an opportunity to share across the District. Dr. Templeton added that the District plans to evaluate successful use at Stevens Creek and explore sharing the equipment or expanding access to other schools. Principal Pewitt noted that students have been using the paddles safely, and Director Kesler reiterated his support for making sets available throughout the District.

The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved.

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

Director Kesler made a motion for approval of authorization to award contracts for professional services for 2025 Bond Project. The motion was seconded by Director Dickson. The motion was unanimously approved.

Director Taylor made a motion for approval of Resolution 24-26 – Approval of final Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) amendment three to the General Contractor / Construction Management (GC/CM) contract for the Skyline New In-Lieu (NIL) Project. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Director Lund made a motion for approval of Resolution 25-26 – Approval of the Constructability Report and Implementation Plan for the Skyline Elementary Replacement Project. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Director Kesler made a motion for approval of Resolution 26-26 – Intent to Construct Project – Skyline Elementary Replacement. The motion was seconded by Director Taylor and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Director Kesler made a motion for approval of revision to Policy# 3400 – Property Records. The motion was seconded by Director Dickson and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no discussion items at this time.

INFORMATION

There were no information items at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Templeton shared her excitement about students returning to school and highlighted opening day for both the Early Learning Center and the Transitions program. She also recognized Lake Stevens High School students and staff for their enthusiastic participation in a recent KIRO News visit and reflected on seeing North Lake Middle School runners practicing near the District office, noting that these moments demonstrated the energy and connection surrounding the start of the school year.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Lund thanked the four school teams for their presentations and recognized the complexity of improving outcomes in large schools. He expressed appreciation for the consistent improvement process across the District and emphasized the Board's support for staff as they work to help every student succeed. He also highlighted the practice of identifying elementary students by their future graduating class as a meaningful way to reinforce long-term expectations and encouraged teams to continue learning from one another.

Director Taylor thanked the school teams for their presentations and reflected on the progress that occurs as new practices become familiar and staff develop greater ownership of the work. She recognized school leaders for helping build that engagement and momentum. She also expressed appreciation for the continued progress of the District's construction projects, noting that strong bidder interest reflects the work of District staff and project partners.

Director Dickson thanked presenters and recognized the donations, construction progress, start of the school year, and many activities underway across the District. He reiterated the Board's support for staff and their work toward the District's goals. He also highlighted the concept of "no opt out" as a powerful shared commitment to engagement, learning, collaboration, and student success.

Director Kesler shared his pride in learning that the son of a former student, who also became a teacher, was recently hired at North Lake Middle School. He also emphasized the impact of school and class size and reiterated the Board's commitment to supporting staff through additional capacity and ongoing construction projects. Finally, he recognized Dr. Gina Anderson for personally overseeing traffic and student arrival near the Skyline construction project to help ensure operations ran smoothly.

President Iseminger thanked staff for their presentations and the work occurring across the District. He reiterated the Board's investment in the schools' success and commitment to supporting and challenging staff as they pursue their goals. He concluded by echoing Director Dickson's sentiment that it is an exciting time to be in Lake Stevens.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other objections from other directors, President Iseminger adjourned the Regular Session at 8:24 p.m.

President

Secretary