Inspiring Excellence
LAKE STEVENS
School District

Lake Stevens School District | 12309 22nd St. NE | Lake Stevens, WA 98258-9500
425-335-1500 (office) | 425-335-1549 (fax)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
February 25, 2026

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

Student Advisory Council Officers: Aashi Bendalam

The Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors met in an Executive Session at Cavelero Mid High School that President Iseminger called to order at 4:36 p.m. The Executive Sessions was to discuss Litigations. There were no decisions made during the Executive Session.

The Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors met in a Regular Session at the Cavelero Mid High School. 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 Brian Kesler, Director Ryan Dickson and SACo member Aashi Bendalam. Director Paul Lund was absent.

AGENDA/MINUTES

Director Dickson made a motion to approve the February 25, 2026 Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved. Director Kesler made a motion to approve the February 11, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Director Dickson 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

Cavelero Mid High Principal Shannon Tarrach welcomed the Board of Directors to the school and shared a video from students highlighting what they love most about being a student at Cavelero Mid High School.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director Dan Tedor presented information and accomplishments of the CTE program. He highlighted their commitment to giving students real-world skills and experiences that set them up for success, with a particular focus on expanding and strengthening Health Science programs. Director Tedor also spoke about the importance of internships, which give students hands-on experience and a glimpse into professional environments, helping them connect what they learn in school to future careers. Looking ahead, he shared an exciting outlook for CTE in Lake Stevens, underscoring the district's dedication to offering diverse, meaningful pathways that support students' growth and success beyond the classroom.

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 February 18, 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 $10,838.45 is covered by warrants numbered 320039 to 320041 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General & Capital Projects Fund(s) (E:39/26). Approval of the February 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 $2,579.42 is covered by ACH numbers 9000015878 through 9000015908 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General & ASB Funds (E:40/26). Approval of the February 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 $1,899,452.73 covered by warrants numbered 320042 to 320184 and manual warrants listed below, drawn on the General, Capital Projects, ASB & Transportation Vehicle Fund(s) (E:41/26). Approval of the February 27, 2026 VOIDS have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said VOIDS amounting to ($546.49) drawn on the General Fund (E:42/26). Approval of the February 27, 2026 VOIDS have been examined, audited, and allowed by the Board of Directors; that the sum of said VOIDS amounting to ($139.23) drawn on the General Fund (E:43/26). Personnel Report: Classified Employment: Justin Allen Driver; Leila Marchbanks Para – SLC Gen Support; David Thorkildsen Custodian; Resignations: Sara Doty 2/27/2026; Nicole Linehan 2/12/2026; Mackenzie Smith 2/2/2026; Xiohua Sun 2/19/2026; Retirements: Kim Ostlund 2/27/2026; Connie Tangen 2/27/2026, Linda Tri 2/27/2026 (E:44/26); Approval of the Co-Curricular Report (E:45/26). Approval of a donation of a grant from Stevens Creek PTA to Stevens Creek ASB in the amount of $550. These funds will be used as a Skate Deck reward for 3rd grade students mastering their math facts. (E:46/26). Approval of a donation of a grant from Stevens Creek PTA to Stevens Creek ASB in the amount of $20,891.13. These funds are part of a joint APEX fundraiser in the fall. The funds will be used to support field trips, student recognition & House Time activities and supplies supported by ASB (E:47/26). Approval of a donation of a grant from Dorian Studios to Cavelero Mid High School in the amount of $1,000. (E:48/26). Approval of a donation of a grant from Lake Stevens High Purple & Gold Club to Lake Stevens High School ASB HOSA Club in the amount of $1,000. These funds will be used to assist with expenses for non CTE students at HOS State Conference. (E:49/26). Approval of a donation of a grant from National Association of Secondary School Principals to a National Honor Society student in the amount of $600. This is a Student Service Grant awarded for the students "Animal Shelter Project". (E:50/26). Approval to surplus five buses from School Bus Inventory (E:51/26):

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	VIN	Bus #	Mileage
2003	International	H84D	4DRBJADR23A955316	047	202,014
2003	International	H84D	4DRBJADR43A955317	048	194,104
2005	International	C48DL	4DRBUAFLX5B987363	054	196,649
2005	International	C48DL	4DRBUAFL15B987364	055	230,606
2004	International	H84D	4DRBJADN94A960320	050	205,758

Approval for the final acceptance of public works projects. (E:52/26). The motion was seconded by Director Kesler and unanimously approved.

Director Taylor made a motion to approve Resolution No. 3-26 – Acceptance of the Educational Specifications for the Secondary Innovative Learning Center. The motion was seconded by Director Dickson and unanimously approved by a roll call vote. (R:3/26)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no Discussion Items at this time.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Dr. John Balmer, Assistant Superintendent of HR and School Improvement, shared the monthly update on regarding the implementation of PLC's in the district. Dr. Balmer provided an update on the district's implementation of the Professional Learning Community (PLC) process, a key strategy within the strategic plan to support equitable outcomes and growth for every student. PLC teams collaborate to identify essential standards, review student learning data, develop common formative assessments, and plan Tier 1 instruction and Tier 2 interventions, helping ensure that student growth leads to high levels of learning. Dr. Balmer noted that schools are at varying stages of PLC implementation, with many teams moving beyond the initial phase and beginning to actively implement the process, while others are developing more sustainable systems for assessing student progress and planning interventions. Schools are also making progress in establishing the foundational pillars of effective PLC work, including shared mission, vision, collective commitments, and goals. Moving forward, the district will continue strengthening these foundations, celebrating successful team practices, and supporting all staff in collaborative work focused on essential standards and common formative assessments.

Dr. Gina Anderson, Schools Chief of Innovation, Compliance and School Support Operations, and Robb Stanton, Executive Director of School Planning and Construction, gave a capital construction campaign update. They highlighted recent progress and upcoming milestones across district projects. Completed activities included acceptance of construction bid packages for Elementary #8, a community open house for the project, completion of design development for Skyline Elementary, finalized educational specifications for the Secondary Innovative Learning Center, and completion of field lighting at both CMHS and NLMS. Upcoming work includes opening bid packages for secure reception and special education improvements at several schools, finalizing the HLC gym design, and opening the final bid package for Elementary #8. In April, the HLC gym project is expected to begin over spring break, followed by the groundbreaking and start of construction for Elementary #8. Additional planning and design work will continue this spring for multiple projects, including schematic design for the Central Kitchen, Glenwood Elementary, Lake Stevens Middle School, and the Secondary Innovative Learning Center. The presentation also highlighted community engagement efforts, including an Elementary #8 open house and positive community feedback regarding new field lighting.

Teresa Main, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, informed of revisions to Procedure 6260 to align with updated guidelines from the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA), which has implemented a series of fines and penalties intended to deter unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, staff, and spectators. The proposed procedural changes emphasize transparency, accountability, and alignment with both district expectations and WIAA standards. The updates clarify that coaches are expected to model professionalism and are subject to the district's civility policy. Under the revised procedure, fines issued by WIAA for administrative matters, such as missed deadlines or roster errors, would remain a district expense. However, fines resulting from a coach's inappropriate conduct, such as ejection from a competition, may be the responsibility of the coach to reimburse the district. The district is also working with the coaches' union to ensure they are informed and aware of the proposed changes.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Templeton expressed appreciation for the work highlighted throughout the meeting and shared her pride in the collective efforts of staff across the district. She encouraged board members and staff to consider attending Heritage Night in the future, noting it as a meaningful opportunity to celebrate the district's diverse community. Dr. Templeton emphasized that learning about and appreciating different cultures and perspectives strengthens understanding and helps bring the community together, describing the event as a powerful showcase of the richness students, families, and staff bring to the district.

Dr. Templeton also congratulated the girls wrestling team on their state championship. She further shared that she and Teresa Main continue to participate in statewide advocacy efforts through the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) and the School Alliance. Through this work, they are engaging with legislators to highlight the need for sufficient state funding for public education and to advocate for resources necessary to provide every student in Washington with the standard educational program they deserve.

SACo COMMENTS

SACo President Aashi Bendalam shared that SACo members were participating in sophomore orientation at the high school that evening, helping inform incoming sophomores about opportunities to get involved with the Student Advisory Council and other student clubs. She noted that it was a positive opportunity to engage with fellow students and represent several student organizations.
Aashi also highlighted the success of Heritage Night, describing it as a fun and meaningful event where students were able to learn about different cultures and connect with one another. She invited board members and the community to attend the upcoming Student Voice Fair on March 24, noting that the event will include free dinner and provide an opportunity for meaningful conversations between students and district leaders.

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Kesler expressed his appreciation for the reports shared and commended the professionalism and expertise of everyone in attendance and the teams they lead. He reflected on recent conversations with community members prior to the November school board election, noting concerns about focusing on the traditional "basics" of education—reading, writing, and arithmetic. Director Kesler emphasized that presentations like Director Tedor's on Career and Technical Education (CTE) illustrate how the basics are evolving, and that the skills and experiences provided to students must adapt to prepare them for both life and work. He concluded by thanking Director Tedor for the presentation and noted that it contributed to a highly informative and meaningful meeting.

Director Dickson noted that the basics of education have changed, emphasizing that teaching students in the same way as 50 years ago does not set them up for success. He shared that he has had numerous conversations with community members in recent weeks and strongly encourages them to attend these meetings to learn about the district's work, gain new perspectives, and better understand the efforts of staff and students. Director Dickson expressed gratitude to all administrators and the district's staff of over a thousand employees, recognizing the accomplishments of student athletes, including a late-night celebration welcoming the state championship-winning wrestlers home. Hhe also highlighted appreciation for construction updates and the progress of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) within the district.

Director Taylor expressed appreciation for being part of a meeting where the district's work is moving forward in positive and meaningful ways. She highlighted that even the complex and challenging initiatives are advancing, driven by consistent curiosity, forward-thinking, and a focus on improvement. Director Taylor noted the district's commitment to supporting staff, engaging students, and fostering innovative approaches to meet individual needs, emphasizing that these efforts contribute to producing successful and well-prepared students. She concluded by expressing gratitude for being part of the team and the collaborative progress.

President Iseminger expressed gratitude to Cavelero for hosting the meeting and reflected on the ongoing support from the community, including approval of the bond. He emphasized that in an ever-changing and complex world, it is essential for the district to remain forward-thinking, competitive, and committed to high standards. Highlighting accomplishments such as recent wrestling championships, President Iseminger noted that perseverance, learning from failure, and striving for excellence are values that benefit both students and staff throughout their lives. He concluded by thanking everyone for their hard work, dedication, and continued commitment to excellence.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other objections from other directors, President Iseminger adjourned the Regular Session at 8:00 p.m.

President

Secretary