



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 15, 2021**

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location:

September 15, 2021 – via remote Zoom meeting.

1.2 Call to Order/Roll Call:

Ms. Mason called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. She acknowledged that this meeting, while attended from various locations, is being held on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish people. Present: Directors Kelly Bashaw, Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Mason (President), Katie Rose, Superintendent Greg Baker and Sheri O’Day (recorder).

1.3 Audience:

Ms. Mason noted that, because of our current emergency status due to COVID-19, public participation is limited to written submissions only, and all written comments received will be shared with the school board directors. Each board member has seen all messages received.

1.4 Superintendent’s Announcements and Report: Summary of Dr. Baker’s comments:

The 2021-22 school year is off to a great start. Alderwood and Parkview elementary schools opened their new buildings to students on Sept. 1. Construction is underway at Sunnyland, with students using Memorial Park for recess and P.E. Dr. Baker shared first day photos from schools across the district.

There have been some challenges due to the pandemic. The COVID-19 team continues to monitor cases, perform contact tracing and communicate with affected families. The mask mandate has been a topic on the local and national level and some peaceful protestors gathered with signs outside of the District Office in August one afternoon. Staff have worked with students and parents opposed to masks over the first few days of school. The human resources department is contacting employees who have not yet provided proof of vaccination, and it is predicted that a high percentage of staff will be vaccinated prior to the state’s deadline. After questions from the board, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Jay Jordan and Executive Director of Operations Jessica Sankey provided a short update about processes being used, including principal support and close contacts. Dr. Baker noted that the district is adhering to the Department of Health requirement that we maximize in-person instruction and minimize transmission. For individual students who are out of the classroom due to exposure, teachers are working directly with the student to receive instruction. If an entire class is required to quarantine, remote learning will be put into place, similar to last year. The

district has assisted with COVID-19 testing for

Ms. Mason, as a parent, thanked Dr. Baker and the executive team for getting the school year off to a great start. It was a joy to arrive at school on the first day and see staff working hard to give students and families the best school experience they can.

3.2 GP-7.2 – 2020-21 Annual Board Agenda, Revised – general review.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 n/a

5.0 CLOSING ITEMS

5.1 Board Assessment of Meeting: Mr. Benjamin assessed the meeting, with an overall rating of 4 (*commendable*).

5.2 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Approved:



Jennifer I. Mason, Board President

Attest:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved: October 13, 2021