



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 20, 2023**

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location:

July 20, 2023 Options High School, 2015 Franklin St., Bellingham, WA.

1.2 Call to Order/Land Acknowledgment:

Ms. Diaz Hackler (President) called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She acknowledged that this meeting is being held on the ancestral homelands of the Lummi people and Nooksack tribe.

1.3 Roll Call:

Present: Directors Kelly Bashaw, Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler (President), Jennifer Mason and Katie Rose,

1.4 Audience:

Jonna Gillham is a Fairhaven Middle School student who just finished seventh grade. She knows school will be different next year due to budget cuts and is disappointed that the Future Problem Solvers (FPS) program, which she has participated in, is one of the programs being cut. Students in FPS learn about many topics. This year many students went to the FPS competition at Warm Beach Camp, and one team qualified to attend the international competition and placed tenth place there. FPS is an amazing program that challenges students and funding FPS should be a priority.

Amanda Hansen is the mother of two children. Her child attends Roosevelt Elementary School and she learned her child experienced bullying at school. She looks forward to working with the staff at Roosevelt to prevent it from happening again.

Abby Aiken will be an eighth-grade student at Fairhaven Middle School next fall and believes the discontinuation of the FPS program goes against everything that The Bellingham Promise stands for. Students will be unable to access a higher level of learning. FPS helps students learn to solve issues within the community and is the only highly capable program at Fairhaven Middle School. Please provide funding for the FPS program.

Julia Wolgamot will be an eighth-grade student at Fairhaven Middle School next fall. At the beginning of sixth grade,

and the district

should be growing the program, not cutting it.

Rebecca Krueger is the parent of a Fairhaven Middle School student. She is concerned about FPS not being funded next year at Fairhaven. It is an extraordinary program that helps students develop with the outcomes of The Bellingham Promise. It

is not equitable for students to not have access to the program. When we fail to fund a quality program, we are discriminating against students who are not able to afford outside resources for enrichment. Education happens inside and outside of your buildings. Not everyone can afford private tutors and camps. Parents with means will find a way to fill the gap, while others will be left behind. Please put funding where

Pat Gillham is the father of two students and noted that this has been a student-initiated plea to fund FPS.

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The [draft budget](#) is available online for all who would like to review it. He commended Chief Financial Officer Kathryn Weilage and her team, as well as the Executive Team and other staff who have put a lot of work into budget preparation. He shared a slide outlining the Materials, Supplies and Operational Costs (MSOCS), which is another example of how the state does not fully fund education. He highlighted some of the impacts as a result of updated budget information from the state. Contributing factors include a decrease in regionalization, cost of living adjustments and a decrease in enrollment. District staff continues to work to increase funds coming in by maximizing all available opportunities. One major labor group is still bargaining. We are gearing up for two local replacement levies in February 2024. Dr. Baker responded to questions from the board related to budget.

There are many exciting capital projects across the district:

- o The new inclusive Silver Beach playground is being built.
- o Tennis courts are being remodeled and expanded at Bellingham and Squalicum high schools. When complete, all three high schools will have six lighted courts.
- o The addition of four additional classrooms at Kulshan Middle School, as well as the first middle school turf field.
- o Exterior painting, as well as parking and site improvements, at Cordata Elementary School.
- o Sunnyland garden space, as well as outdoor classrooms for other elementary schools.
- o The new District Office, which some school board members toured today.
- o A temporary Community Transitions space at the Whatcom Educational Credit Union space in the Birchwood neighborhood.
- o Planning for the 15th elementarining

2.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Bashaw indicated that agenda item 2.2 contains an invoice from her employer, Whatcom Community College. To avoid a conflict of interest per RCW 42.23.030, Ms. Bashaw will recuse herself from voting on item 2.2 (Approval of Expenditures and Payroll). Ms. Bashaw made a **motion** to vote on item 2.2 separately, which was seconded by Ms. Mason. Unanimous affirmative vote.

2.16

Ms. Mason made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Rose, to approve the following consent agenda items:

- 2.1 Approval of Minutes of June 15, 2023 Regular Meeting**
- 2.3 Resolution 19-23, 2023-24 School Board Regular Meeting Schedule**
- 2.4 Resolution 2022-23 Transfer of Funds from Capital Projects Fund to General Fund**
- 2.5 Resolution 21-23, Rejection of All Bids Received for Dairy Products Bid #2324-0553**
- 2.6 Hire Appraiser for Property Appraisal**
- 2.7 Policy 5011 Update, Sexual Harassment of Staff Prohibited**
- 2.8 Meal Price Increase Proposal for 2023-24**
- 2.9 Zayo Enterprise Solutions Phone Line Agreement (#2223-214)**
- 2.10 Cascade Bicycle Club Contract (#2223-215)**
- 2.11 City of Bellingham Housing and Human Services Financial Assistance Agreement (#2223-221)**
- 2.12 State of Washington Department of Health Grant Award and Agreement (#2223-224)**
- 2.13 ACCO Engineered Systems, Inc. Agreement (#2223-225)**
- 2.14 Faber Construction Corporation Agreement ±Kulshan Middle School Addition (#2223-226)**
- 2.15 Imagine Learning Price Quote (#2324-010A and #2324-010B)**
- 2.16 Whatcom H**

Abstention: Ms. Bashaw.

3.0 APPOINT LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

3.1 Appoint School Board Legislative Representative

Mr. Benjamin made a **motion** to nominate Ms. Diaz Hackler for the position of legislative representative. Ms. Diaz Hackler agreed to serve. Unanimous affirmative vote.

4.0 BOARD RESPONSE TO MONITORING REPORTS

4.1 Board Response to Monitoring Report ±EL-2, Organizational Continuity

There was discussion regarding the summary of the board responses to the EL-2 report that was prepared by Ms. Diaz Hackler. Following discussion, Ms. Mason made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Bashaw, to approve the monitoring response document ([Attachment A](#)). Unanimous affirmative vote.

4.2 Board Response to Monitoring Report ±Ends 1, 2, 3 (Combined)

There was discussion regarding the summary of the board responses to the Ends 1, 2, 3 (Combined) report that was prepared by Ms. Diaz Hackler. Following discussion, Ms. Mason made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Rose, to approve the monitoring response document ([Attachment B](#)). Unanimous affirmative vote.

5.0 POLICY GOVERNANCE REVIEW.00000912 0 612 792 reW*nBT/F2 12 Tf1 0 0 1 348.79 598.42 T

8.0 CLOSING ITEMS

8.1 Board Assessment of Meeting: Ms. Bashaw assessed the meeting, with an overall rating of 4 (commendable)

8.2 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at

Monitoring Response Document

Policy Monitored: EL2, Organizational Continuity

Date Report Submitted 5/18/2023

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Board makes the following conclusions

Ends Reports:

Executive Limitations Reports

Monitoring Response Document

Policy Monitored: Ends 1, 2, 3 (Combined)

Date Report Submitted 5/18/2023

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Monitoring Response Document

Policy Monitored: Ends 1, 2, 3 (Combined)

Date Report Submitted 5/18/2023

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4. Comments on the report itself.

The board appreciates continuing efforts to refine the report with well organized and solid information. Well done

5. Possible changes to the policy.

None