



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 14, 2020**

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location:

October 14, 2020 – via remote Zoom meeting.

1.2 Call to Order/Roll Call:

Mr. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He 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 (President), Camille Diaz Hackler, Katie Rose, Superintendent Greg Baker and Sheri O'Day (recorder). Director Jenn Mason was unable to attend.

1.3 Audience:

Mr. Benjamin 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:

- A message sent to families and staff on Monday regarding Indigenous Peoples Day/Coast Salish Day, and it was well received and appreciated by many, including many of our students. Some who responded feel that it should still be referred to as Columbus Day. Overall, the message was well received and appreciated by most.
- Dr. Baker gave an overview of where the district is with remote learning. Middle and high school students just changed to their second rotation of classes for the first quarter. Students, families and teachers all continue learning how to navigate the remote learning together. iPads are being distributed to our youngest students. Every day we are in a better place, although it is still challenging for some students and families.
- Safety training for our staff is occurring, following guidelines from local, state and national officials. Many districts have published dates when they will begin in-person learning, and some have had to postpone due to the complexities of safety measures. Many districts across the state and nation have had to move backwards due to an increase in COVID-19 cases. Whatcom County is in the moderate range for COVID-19 cases, and health guidelines would allow us to begin bringing back some students. Extra caution will be needed due to the approaching flu season.
- Our school nurses, along with the COVID-19 safety team, are working full-time on safety protocols. They are performing walk-throughs with key staff, finding the

nuances at each building (location of a screening room, determining how many students each classroom can accommodate, playground layouts, planning for meals, length of the day). Music and choir classes are problematic, and transportation is also complicated. All district staff is receiving training on safety protocols and we will continue moving forward, knowing that things could shift at any time.

- We have had child care programs operating in our facilities since March. Recently the YMCA began a program at Options High School, consisting of a small group of students who are receiving support while taking remote courses. The internet café program will start tomorrow at the high schools, beginning with teenage parents and adding more students in the upcoming weeks. A K-8 Outdoor Education Connections program ran this past summer (The North Cascades Institute, Wild Whatcom and other groups have different guidelines than school districts). The next group to begin in-person learning will be kindergarten and primary Life Skills and BRIDGES students, followed in a few weeks by first grade and intermediate Life Skills and BRIDGES students. Preschool will have staggered start dates. There are many complexities for students to participate in health and fitness activities. Dr. Baker responded to questions from board members.
- Dr. Baker shared the resources/professional development for staff related to COVID-19 that is currently on the Human Resources webpage and responded to questions from board members.
- Dr. Baker gave an update on capital projects, including the district office. The District Office Design Advisory Committee (DAC) has met over the past few months, and he shared the process that has been followed, as well as some beginning concepts for design and layout. He asked and received input from board members regarding the locations of board meetings in the new building. Updates were also given on construction progress at Parkview, Alderwood, the Bellingham High School field and the Shuksan Middle School gym. Dr. Baker also noted that tonight's consent agenda includes the purchase of property adjacent to Sunnyland Elementary School.

2.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Bashaw made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Diaz Hackler, to approve the following consent agenda items:

- 2.1 Approval of Minutes of the September 16, 2020 Regular Meeting**
- 2.2 Approval of Expenditures and Payroll – September 2020**
- 2.3 Resolution 22-20, BSD Non-Represented Employees VEBA Plan for 2020-21**
- 2.4 Resolution 23-20, Request to Transfer Funds from the Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund**
- 2.5 Approval of Purchase and Sale Agreement**
- 2.6 Hire Appraiser for Property Appraisal**
- 2.7 2020-21 iGrants 217 Form Package – Highly Capable Program Plan**
- 2.8 Approve Adoption of Policy 2418**
- 2.9 Bellingham Technical College Running Start Program Agreement (#2021-045)**
- 2.10 YMCA Fall 2020 Childcare Partnership Agreement (#2021-048)**
- 2.11 YMCA Fall 2020 Youth Institute Facility Agreement (#2021-052)**
- 2.12 Everett Community College – College in the High School Agreement (#2021-064)**

2.13 Ferndale School District Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (#2021-067)

2.14 Personnel Recommendations

Unanimous affirmative vote.

3.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3.1 School Board Directors' Reports. Highlights of comments:

- Ms. Rose is happy to hear that the Indigenous Peoples Day/Coast Salish Peoples Day discussion in her sixth-grade student's class was not contentious. The students agreed that the change from Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day/Coast Salish Day was a good one. Participation in the food distribution at Sunnyland has been great for building community.
- Ms. Diaz Hackler wishes staff the best in accomplishing next steps.
- Ms. Bashaw has been happy to see kids at the Options High School child care, as well as students participating in driver's education.
- Mr. Benjamin recently attended the virtual WSSDA regional meeting. Area 1 was combined with areas 2 and 3, which made it a somewhat urban group. The conversations in breakout sessions were good. There were some brand new board members, with others helping to orient them.

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

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 New Business (as needed): n/a.

5.0 CLOSING ITEMS

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

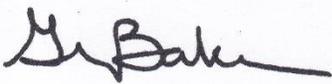
5.2 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Approved:



Douglas Benjamin, Board President

Attest:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved: November 4, 2020