



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
December 11, 2019**

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location:

December 11, 2019 - 1306 Dupont St., Bellingham, Washington

1.2 Call to Order/Roll Call:

Ms. Diaz Hackler called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Present: Directors Kelly Bashaw, Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler (President), Jenn Mason, Superintendent Greg Baker and Sheri O'Day (recorder). She acknowledged that this meeting is being held on the ancestral homelands of the Coastal Salish people.

1.3 Welcome and Introduction of Newly Elected Board Member and Re-Elected Board Members

Ms. Diaz Hackler welcomed Katie Rose, who was elected to the school board in November and will be seated this evening following administration of the oaths of office.

1.4 Swearing in of Newly Elected and Re-Elected Board Members

Dr. Baker administered the oath of office to Ms. Rose (Director Position 2), Ms. Bashaw (Director Position 3) and Ms. Diaz Hackler (Director Position 1). Following the swearing in ceremony, Ms. Rose was seated at the directors' table.

1.5 Annual Organizational Meeting, Election of Officers

Board President: Ms. Bashaw made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Mason, to nominate Mr. Benjamin for this position for the coming year, and Mr. Benjamin agreed to serve. Unanimous affirmative vote. Mr. Benjamin moved to the president's seat at the table.
Board Vice President: Ms. Diaz Hackler made a **motion** to nominate Ms. Mason for this position for the coming year, and Ms. Mason agreed to serve. Unanimous affirmative vote.

Mr. Benjamin noted that Dr. Baker was recognized as Superintendent of the Year by the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) at WASA's superintendent meeting in Bellevue in November. The board and audience then enjoyed a performance by the Squalicum High School drum line in honor of that award.

1.6 Audience:

No public testimony was offered.

1.7 Superintendent's Announcements and Report: Summary of Dr. Baker's comments:

- The school board was recognized in November by over 1,000 board members and superintendents from across the state at the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) conference in Bellevue when it received the Excellence in Equity award. Dr. Baker thanked the board for the leadership it provides to the district.

- Dr. Baker introduced Joel Aune, Executive Director of WASA, who congratulated the newly elected and re-elected board members and thanked them for their service. He presented Dr. Baker with a plaque as recognition for the Superintendent of the Year award and spoke to the qualities and accomplishments that led up to Dr. Baker being chosen as the recipient of the award for 2020. Dr. Baker thanked the school board and the district’s executive team for the work they do for students in the district.
- Dr. Baker described the incredible all-district family night event held on Dec. 9 at Bellingham High School. He thanked Director of Teaching and Learning Trina Hall and Teacher on Special Assignment Jennifer Lawrence for their work to plan the event, which was the best report that could have been written about our students.

2.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

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

- 2.1 Approval of Minutes of the Nov. 20, 2019 Regular Meeting, Nov. 22, 2019 Special Meeting and Dec. 3, 2019 School Visit**
- 2.2 Approval of Expenditures and Payroll – November 2019**
- 2.3 Resolution 29-19, Sehome High School Building Commissioning Report**
- 2.4 Authorize Negotiations Architectural Services for New District Office Project**
- 2.5 Unity Care Northwest Memorandum of Understanding (#1920-017)**
- 2.6 Lummi Behavioral Health Memorandum of Understanding (#1920-120)**
- 2.7 Personnel Recommendations**
- 2.8 Personal Services Contracts**

Unanimous affirmative vote.

3.0 BOARD RESPONSE TO MONITORING

3.1 EL-7 Monitoring – Budget Planning and Execution

The board discussed the feedback contained in the combined monitoring response for EL-7 ([Attachment A](#)). Mr. Benjamin will provide a final version of this document which will be submitted for approval at the Jan. 15, 2020 regular meeting.

3.2 EL-9 Monitoring – Asset Maintenance and Protection

The board discussed the feedback contained in the combined monitoring response for EL-9 ([Attachment B](#)). Mr. Benjamin will provide a final version of this document which will be submitted for approval at the Jan. 15, 2020 regular meeting.

4.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4.1 School Board Directors’ Reports. Highlights of comments:

- Ms. Bashaw enjoyed the board’s visit to Alderwood Elementary. She is impressed with the changes that have happened there.
- Ms. Rose attended the WSSDA conference in November. She shared that the board and Dr. Baker were very welcoming, and she learned a lot.
- Ms. Mason also enjoyed the visit to Alderwood and especially liked the unstructured time with students. She noted that most of the sessions that she attended at the WSSDA conference had a legislative focus.

- Ms. Diaz Hackler offered to share her notes from the WSSDA conference. She was very happy to hear the announcement of Dr. Baker receiving the Superintendent of the Year award at the conference.
- Mr. Benjamin noted that there is an upcoming WSSDA legislative conference in February, and Ms. Diaz Hackler and Ms. Mason shared that they will be attending. He asked if the board should consider submitting a presentation proposal for the equity conference on May 20. Dr. Baker indicated that there are some district staff who will be presenting at the conference, and perhaps the board could support one of those presentations. Mr. Benjamin was impressed with the Alderwood visit and the community champions who support Alderwood. All of the sessions that he attended at the WSSDA conference were geared towards student health and safety. He particularly liked Washington State Teacher of the Year Robert Hand's breakout, which demonstrated to him how important it is for teachers to understand the power of making connections with students. He recognized Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Steve Clarke for being someone who made those connections when he was the principal of Bellingham High School.
- Ms. Bashaw asked that the board discuss professional development at their next retreat, including whether they should continue attending the WSSDA conference each year or perhaps go to something different. She also noted that Dr. Baker will be awarded the Woodring Distinguished Alumnus Award in May.

4.2 GP-7.2 – 2019-20 Annual Board Agenda, Revised – General review.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 New Business:

- In appreciation of Ms. Diaz Hackler serving as board president over the past year, board members made a donation in her name to the Bellingham Public Schools Foundation (BPSF).
- There was discussion about what to do with the board's \$1,000 Excellence in Equity award. After discussion, Ms. Diaz Hackler made a **motion** to donate the \$1,000 to the Bellingham Public Schools Foundation, to be used towards a diversity initiative such as a speaker's fee, to highlight a student or for supplies. Unanimous affirmative approval.

6.0 CLOSING ITEMS

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

6.2 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Approved:



Douglas Benjamin, Board President

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Baker", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved: January 29, 2020