



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 28, 2018**

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location:

6 p.m. – Feb. 28, 2018 - 1306 Dupont St., Bellingham, Washington

1.2 Call to Order/Roll Call:

Ms. Bashaw called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Present: Directors Kelly Bashaw (President,) Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Mason, Quenby Peterson, Superintendent Greg Baker, and Ruth Rasmussen (recorder)

1.3 Audience:

- **David McCluskey:** Referencing recent student protests, Mr. McCluskey cited concerns about the [high school](#) and [middle school](#) principals' messages on the topic, and he said he feels strongly that when school is in session, all students should be in the classroom.
- **Liz Hjelmseth:** Expressed support for [Dangerous Access Prevention](#) and encouraged the board to make a strong statement in support of the assault weapons ban, background checks, and raising the age limit for purchase of guns from 18 to 21. Additionally, she asked the board to create a policy against the arming of teachers.
- **Kim Ninnemann:** Voiced strong opposition to arming teachers.

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

- **Student Protests:** Dr. Baker reiterated comments in his recent [message](#) to students, staff and families. He received more emails in 24 hours on this topic than on any other since joining the district. The district's messaging emphasized that the primary goal was to ensure all students felt safe and respected, whether they participated in the protest or not. Going forward, the district will continue to support students while making sure they understand administrators and staff want them to be at school.
- **Inclement Weather:** During the afternoon of Feb. 23, a snowstorm hit mid-day, creating hazardous driving conditions in certain parts of the city. Some elementary schools stayed open late to accommodate students experiencing transportation problems. Staff response throughout the district was commendable.
- **2018 Bond:** The bond passed by 70.13 percent of the vote. Dr. Baker expressed appreciation to the school board, staff, students and community volunteers for their support, and to the voters for demonstrating once again how much they value our students.
- **2018-19 Budget:** The state legislature is still in session, and school districts around the state continue to grapple with unknowns. Dr. Baker briefly summarized budget priorities for the coming year.

- 2.0 **CONSENT ITEMS:** Ms. Diaz Hackler made a **motion**, seconded by Mr. Benjamin, to approve the following consent items. Unanimous affirmative vote.
- 2.1 **Approval of minutes of the Jan. 26, 2018 special meeting; Feb. 6, 2018 school board visit; and Feb. 7, 2018 regular meeting**
- 2.2 **Resolution 5-18 – 2017-18 School Board Regular Meeting (Revised)**
- 2.3 **Approve Donations**
- 2.4 **Allied Arts Agreement for Services (#1718-132)**
- 2.5 **Western Washington University Agreement – Sehome Graduation (#1718-134)**
- 2.6 **Whatcom Community College tennis courts (#1718-142)**
- 2.7 **Whatcom Community College soccer field (#1718-143)**
- 2.8 **Personnel Recommendations**
- 2.9 **EL-3 – Treatment and Communications with Public, Parents and Students**
- 2.10 **Annual Affirmative Action Progress Report**

3.0 **POLICY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

3.1 **Board Response to Monitoring – EL-4: Staff Treatment, Compensation and Evaluation**

At the Feb. 7, 2018 regular meeting, the consent agenda included a monitoring [report](#) on EL-4, Staff Treatment, Compensation and Evaluation. In accordance with Policy Governance, the board discussed whether the superintendent is in compliance with the [policy](#) and if any policy revisions are needed. (See *Attachment A* for a summary of comments.) During the discussion, Ms. Diaz Hackler asked how the district can ensure that all community members are informed of district initiatives, even if they don't have students in the schools or direct connections to staff or administrators. Dr. Baker said every household in the city receives [Inside Schools](#) periodically throughout the school year. Additionally, his presentations to various civic and community groups allow people not connected to the schools to learn more about the district. Dr. Baker added that he would welcome suggestions from the board on ways to engage more broadly with the community. After further discussion, the board agreed no revisions to the EL-4 policy are currently needed.

3.2 **Board Response to Monitoring – Ends 2.1 (part 2) - Student Competence**

At the Feb. 7, 2018 regular meeting, the board heard a monitoring [report](#), including a [data set](#), on Ends 2.1 (part 2) Student Competence. In accordance with Policy Governance, the board discussed whether the superintendent has achieved the goals established in the [policy](#). (See *Attachment B* for a summary of comments.)

4.0 **Study Session – [Open Public Meeting Act](#)**

- 4.1 **[RCW 42.30.205 - Training](#) requires that public officials be trained every four years on public records, records management, and open public meetings requirements. [RCW 42.30.120](#) references personal liability in the form of a civil penalty of \$500 to \$1,000 for violations of any provisions of Chapter 42.30. Attorney Lynette Baisch of Porter, Foster Rorick LLP gave a presentation to the board on these topics and responded to questions.**

5.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5.1 **School Board Directors' Reports/Board Visits:** The directors discussed their participation in various school-related activities and the recent WSSDA Legislative Conference. Discussion items included:

- **Reflections on student protests** – general discussion
- [Design Your Future](#) – Ms. Peterson attended this event on Feb. 21 at Bellingham High School
- **Addressing Homelessness:** Ms. Mason is serving on the Planning Committee for the [Bellingham Home Fund](#) and briefly discussed [Family Promise of Whatcom County](#).
- **Family Engagement:** Ms. Bashaw attended an event on Feb. 24 at Shuksan Middle School that brought the district's African families together for a potluck and social activities. Translators were on hand to help with three different dialects spoken by attendees. This event was supported by a grant from Whatcom Community Foundation.

5.2 **Discussion of Recent School Board Visit** – n/a

5.3 **GP-7.2: 2017-18 Annual Board Agenda, Revised** – general review

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

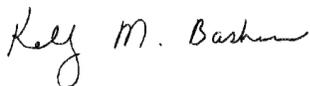
6.1 **School Board Resolution:** The board members discussed the idea of putting forth a resolution on school safety. It was agreed to continue the conversation at a future board retreat.

7.0 CLOSING ITEMS

7.1 **Board Assessment of Meeting:**

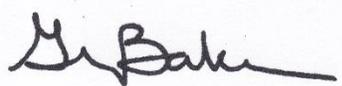
- Ms. Mason assessed the meeting with an overall rating of 4 (*commendable*).

7.2 **Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.**



Kelly Bashaw, School Board President

Attest:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes revised and approved: 3/14/18