



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
March 14, 2018**

**1.0 OPENING ITEMS**

**1.1 Meeting Date and Location:**

6 p.m. – Mar. 14, 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 Crosby** – Mr. Crosby is the local spokesperson for *Mothers Demand Action for Whatcom County*. He commended the district and the board for showing respect for student rights during the recent student-led walkout. He voiced opposition to arming teachers and referenced the upcoming *March for our Lives – Bellingham* demonstration on Mar. 24, noting students have organized this event, which is taking place locally and around the country.
- **Katie Perkins and Nikhil Harle** – Both are Sehome High School seniors. They expressed strong opposition to arming of teachers and said they favored stronger gun control laws.
- **Liz Hjelmseth** – Ms. Hjelmseth expressed thanks to Dr. Baker and the board for the district's response and messaging regarding student-led protests. She asked that the board craft and implement a policy prohibiting the arming of teachers and other staff.
- **Lisa Van Doren** – Ms. Van Doren thanked the board for the district's support of students during the recent protests. She expressed strong opposition to arming teachers and asked the board to implement a clear policy on this issue.
- **Heather Korbmacher** – Ms. Korbmacher encouraged the board to lead the way in Whatcom County by taking an active stance in opposition to arming teachers and staff.
- **Kenzie Knapp** – Ms. Knapp, a student at Sehome High school, said she represented other Sehome students in voicing opposition to arming teachers. Citing the Omaha Public School Board's recent [vote](#) calling for stricter gun control and opposing teachers carrying guns in schools, she asked that Bellingham's school board members consider implementing a similar measure.
- **Exquisite Erika** – A licensed clinical social worker and crisis responder, Exquisite Erika made the following points:
  - It is critical that adults honor the Bellingham Promise, particularly the core belief that *all children should be loved* and the commitment to the development of students and graduates who are *healthy, active individuals*.

- She has a strong interest in making sure adults hear the voices of black students and those of African descent, many of whom, she said, are marginalized and are not being served respectfully.
- School personnel need to recognize the importance of completing suicide assessments when dealing with at-risk students.
- She asked the board to outline its goals and considerations in terms of ethnic diversity and what the Bellingham Promise would look like going forward.
- She asked for the board’s reflections on violence and its impact on children.
- **Stevana Burks** – Ms. Burks said as a parent, she believes not every child benefits from the core beliefs outlined in the Bellingham Promise; for example, the belief that *the whole child is important*. She asked for more diversity training for educators and asked how the board is addressing the core issue of race.
- **Jon Shaughnessy** – Mr. Shaughnessy is a long-time community organizer who is active in the Poor People’s Campaign. He encouraged those present to support the campaign during the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Bellingham on Mar. 17.
- **Ellen Clark** – Ms. Clark expressed strong opposition to arming teachers and other school staff.
- **Kimberley Rissler** – Ms. Rissler encouraged the board to provide more safety education to students.
- **Karin Hovdesven** – Ms. Hovdesven asked that the board issue a clear statement to the community that it will not pursue any action involving arming of teachers or staff.

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

- **Student Walkout:** Some students in our district participated today in the National School Walkout to honor victims of the Feb. 14 Parkland, Florida, school shooting. The walkout was a localized event in which students left their classrooms for 17 minutes but stayed on campus. Later this month, some of our students will travel to Washington DC to participate in the Mar. 24 *March for our Lives* event.

**2.0 CONSENT ITEMS**

Ms. Peterson requested the following correction to Item 4.1 of the Feb. 28 draft meeting minutes:

*“[SB 5964 RCW 42.30.205 - Training](#) requires that public officials be trained ~~regularly~~ *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.”*

Mr. Benjamin made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Peterson, to approve the following consent agenda items. Unanimous affirmative vote.

- 2.1 Approval of the revised minutes of the Feb. 28, 2018 regular meeting and the Mar. 6, 2018 school board visit.**
- 2.2 Approval of Investments – February 2018**
- 2.3 Approval of Expenditures and Payroll – February 2018**

- 2.4 **Resolution 6-18, Request to Transfer Funds from the Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund**
- 2.5 **Authorization to Call for Bids – Bellingham School District Central Kitchen**
- 2.6 **Agreement for Services with Colin Apt/The Photic Zone**
- 2.7 **Whatcom Discovery Center Breakfast & Lunch Meal Agreement (#1718-069)**
- 2.8 **Agreement for Interdistrict Cooperative Educational Services Between Meridian School District No. 505 and Bellingham School District No. 501 (#1718-150)**
- 2.9 **Personnel Recommendations**
- 2.10 **Personal Services Contracts**
- 2.11 **EL-9 Asset Maintenance and Protection**

### 3.0 **POLICY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

3.1 **Ends 2.1 (part 3) – Student Competence:** Steve Clarke, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Teaching and Learning, and Brian Rick, Director of Research/Assessment, presented this third and final report for Ends 2.1 and answered questions from the board. Part 3 focuses on how Bellingham students are faring in terms of post-secondary enrollment rates and how the district is preparing students for post-secondary educational options. Questions from the board included the following:

- In future reports, in the chart showing percent of 2016 graduates enrolled in 2 and 4-year institutions and taking pre-college courses: can we breakdown numbers further, by individual high schools?
- In future reports, could we add statistics that include outcomes for those who have completed dual credit courses while in high school?

### 3.2 **Board Response to Monitoring – EL-3- Treatment and Communication with Public, Parents and Students**

At the Feb. 28, 2018 regular meeting, the consent agenda included a monitoring [report](#) on EL-3. During discussion, the board agreed that the superintendent is in compliance with the [policy](#) and no policy revisions are needed.

### 4.0 **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

4.1 **School Board Directors’ Reports:** The directors discussed their attendance at school-related events and the recent WSSDA regional meeting (Mar. 1 in Mt. Vernon)

4.2 **Discussion of Recent School Board Visit – Geneva Elementary School –** General discussion, including the following comments:

- The board appreciated the in-depth discussion of several school initiatives.
- It was helpful to listen to parents share their experiences.
- Evidence was clear that strong skill sets exist among teachers who direct students of varying abilities.
- Use of the Seesaw program is impressive.
- Statistic: 98 percent of families feel safe at Geneva.

4.3 **GP-7.2, 2017-18 Annual Board Agenda, Revised –** General review

### 5.0 **NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 **Policy Revision –** The board reviewed a proposed revision to Policy 1420. This will be an agenda item on Mar. 28.

**5.2 School Safety:** Following discussion, board members unanimously agreed that the minutes will reflect the board's opposition to arming teachers or other staff within our district. Such a course of action has not been considered in the past and will not be pursued by directors currently serving on our board.

Additionally, Mr. Benjamin made the following **motion**, seconded by Ms. Mason: *In view of public comments at the Feb. 28 meeting and the more extended robust discussion at tonight's meeting, the board will form a two-person committee, charged with the task of drafting a student safety resolution, seeking stakeholder input as desired, and bring a proposed resolution back to the board for consideration when completed. The committee members would include Directors Doug Benjamin and Jenn Mason.*

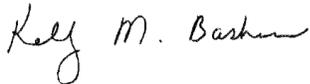
Unanimous affirmative vote.

**5.3 April 23 Special Meeting:** The board agreed to cancel this meeting.

**6.0 CLOSING ITEMS**

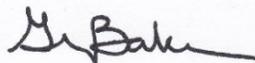
**6.1 Board Assessment of Meeting** – Ms. Diaz Hackler assessed the meeting, with an overall rating of 4 (*commendable*).

**6.2 Adjournment – 7:59 p.m.**



Kelly Bashaw, School Board President

**Attest:**



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

*Minutes approved: Mar. 28, 2018*