



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

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location:

6 p.m. – Mar. 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, Superintendent Greg Baker, and Ruth Rasmussen (recorder). Ms. Peterson previously informed the board she would be absent this evening.

1.3 Audience: Summary of comments:

- **Paige Censale** (11th grade, Squalicum High School): Ms. Censale summarized the activities of *Students for Action (SFA) - Bellingham*, a student-led organization formed in response to the Feb. 14 school shooting in Parkland, FL. The group planned and organized the local school walkout on Feb. 21 and raised funds to send representatives to Washington, DC to participate in the Mar. 24 *March for our Lives* event. While there, the group met with Rep. Rick Larsen, Sen. Patty Murray and Sen. Maria Cantwell to advocate for school safety. *SFA-Bellingham* supports stricter background checks and waiting periods for gun purchasers, a ban on military grade weapons, mandatory courses on gun safety and increased funding for student mental health programs in the early grades.
- **Maggie Davis-Bower** (11th grader, Squalicum High School): Ms. Davis-Bower, a survivor of the 2016 Cascade Mall mass shooting, said she is a strong advocate for school safety.
- **Mehar Singh** (10th grader, Squalicum High School): Ms. Singh encouraged the board to develop a mental health curriculum for elementary school students and to work to find ways to destigmatize mental illness.
- **John Bower** (parent): Mr. Bower said members of *SFA – Bellingham* spent countless hours planning, organizing and fund raising since the group's formation in February. He encouraged the board to collaborate with SFA members and others on enhancements to school safety.
- **Pidge Bower** (grandparent): Ms. Bower, a psychiatric social worker, said she strongly supports enhanced mental health services in schools.

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

- **Update on 1:1 rollout:** Dr. Baker introduced Bill Palmer, Director, Teaching and Learning; Meredith Attar, 4th grade teacher /Educational Technology Coach/Roosevelt Elem. School; and Lynnelle Larson, Educational Technology Coach/Shuksan Middle School. They shared a PowerPoint (see *Attachment A*), reviewed highlights of the 1:1 program since its rollout, discussed benefits and

challenges for students and families, and answered questions from the board. A Family Technology Night is scheduled from **6-8 p.m. May 21, 2018** at Options High School.

- **Leadership Update:** Dr. Baker briefed the board on recent [leadership changes](#) at Cordata, Geneva, and Fairhaven.

2.0 CONSENT ITEMS: Mr. Benjamin made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Mason, to approve the following consent agenda items. Unanimous affirmative vote.

2.1 Approval of minutes of the Mar. 12 special meeting and the Mar. 14, 2018 regular meeting.

2.2 DSHS Regional Education Agreement (#1718-140A)

2.3 Brigid Collins Family Support Center Memorandum of understanding (#1718-147)

2.4 Approve Updated Policy 1420 – Proposed Agenda and Consent Agenda

2.5 Personnel Recommendations

2.6 Personal Services Contracts

3.0 POLICY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

3.1 Board Response to Monitoring – EL-9 – Asset Maintenance and Protection: At the Mar. 14, 2018 regular meeting, the consent agenda included a monitoring [report](#) and [data set](#) on EL-9, Asset Maintenance and Protection. In accordance with Policy Governance, the board discussed whether the superintendent is in compliance with the [policy](#) and whether any policy changes are needed. (See *Attachment B* for a summary of comments.)

Ron Cowan, Executive Director, Capital Projects and School Facilities, and Mike Anderson, Buildings and Grounds Director, participated in the discussion and answered questions from the board. Summary of comments:

- Mr. Cowan said the district has made tremendous strides in energy efficiency and resource conservation, thanks in large measure to Mr. Anderson’s efforts. The district follows [Washington Sustainable Schools Protocol](#) for all new construction. This has many positive outcomes; for example, Happy Valley Elementary School is the most energy efficient school in the district. Additionally, our district, along with other community partners, helped the City of Bellingham finish third in the nation in the [Georgetown University Energy Prize](#).
- Ms. Diaz Hackler suggested families and community members be informed of this work and related cost savings, perhaps through an article on the district website.
- The board discussed a proposed change in the EL-9 policy to include stronger language related to energy conservation efforts. Following discussion, it was agreed that the policy should not be changed at this time.

4.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4.1 School Board Directors’ Committee Report: The board discussed a school safety resolution drafted by Mr. Benjamin and Ms. Mason. Mr. Benjamin said the district’s legal counsel has reviewed and vetted the draft. Students, parents and some staff members have also provided feedback. The committee will continue to gather feedback and present a final draft to the board at an upcoming meeting.

- 4.2 School Board Directors' Reports:** Discussion items included the following:
- Mr. Benjamin will attend the [WSSDA Policy Governance Summit](#) in Olympia, WA on Mar. 31.
 - Ms. Diaz Hackler and Ms. Peterson will attend the National School Board Association's (NSBA) [Annual Conference](#) (April 7-9).
 - April 25, 2018: A Community Linkage Meeting with IB students and families is scheduled from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at Wade King Elementary School. Ms. Diaz Hackler is the board lead.

4.3 Discuss Mar. 20, 2018 Community Linkage Meeting with Business Community Representatives: General discussion

- Dr. Baker noted that many of the attendees referenced the importance of character as the most critical factor in hiring, training, and retaining employees. He suggested the board keep this in mind during future discussions of potential revisions to the Bellingham Promise (i.e., consider changing the order of the Outcomes, from *Knowledge/Character/Action* to *Character/Knowledge/Action*).

4.4 GP-7.2: 2017-18 Annual Board Agenda, Revised: General review

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

- **Board Response to Monitoring – EL 3 – Treatment and Communication with Public, Parents and Students**
 - The EL-3 monitoring report was part of the Feb. 28, 2018 consent agenda, and on Mar. 14, 2018, the directors discussed their responses to the report. Mr. Benjamin said he would like the board to revisit the responses at a future meeting and review the final version of the worksheet that will be published on the website. He said that as a policy governance board, the directors should strive to use one voice in official reports. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Benjamin made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Mason, that the document not be published until the directors have an opportunity to revisit its responses to the EL-3 monitoring report. Unanimous affirmative vote. This will be an agenda item at the April 18 meeting.

6.0 CLOSING ITEMS

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

6.2 Adjournment: 7:34 p.m.

Kelly M. Bashaw

Kelly Bashaw, School Board President

Attest:

Greg Baker

Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved: Apr. 18, 2018