



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 5, 2019**

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location:

June 5, 2019 - 1306 Dupont St., Bellingham, Washington

1.2 Call to Order/Roll Call:

Ms. Diaz Hackler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Directors Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler (President), Jenn Mason, Quenby Peterson, Superintendent Greg Baker and Sheri O'Day (recorder). She acknowledged that this meeting is being held on the ancestral homelands of Indigenous Peoples, in particular the Lummi Nation and the Nooksack tribe.

1.3 Audience:

- **Lisa Peterson** – Is the president of the Bellingham Education Association (BEA) and was a classroom teacher for more than 30 years. She is speaking in support of members of the Bellingham Association of School Employees (BASE). During her longevity in the Bellingham Public Schools, she has had the opportunity and pleasure of working with great BASE members. We could not open our school doors each day without BASE and other employees who work alongside teaching staff. She is asking the district to approve an increase in funding for these positions.
- **Chris Smith** – Is a paraeducator in the Life Skills program at Wade King. He understands the district has been placed in a difficult position by the legislature's moves. The year is almost over, and BASE employees have been patient and deserve a living wage.
- **Emily Dreste** – Is a paraeducator in the Life Skills program at Wade King, and this is the first time she has ever addressed the board. She has been an educator since she was 18 years old and has worked in the Bellingham Public Schools since 2016. Since being divorced she has had a hard time finding housing that she can afford. The culture is not equitable when paraeducators who are affluent or married can continue in this field, but those who are not need to find other jobs. The inequity is putting a strain on her physical and mental health.
- **Alex McLean** – Is a resident of the Happy Valley neighborhood. The investment the district is making to keep the bus barn in its current location is not viable for habitat restoration. He said the York neighborhood, Public Works Dept. and other entities have been trying to get the bus barn moved for over 10 years. He provided documentation that he would like included in the district's permanent records ([Attachment A](#)).

- **Dana Beatty** – Is a longtime teacher and administrator who is here to support BASE employees. She stated that she could not do either of those jobs without the support of BASE employees. She knows a secretary who as a single parent qualified for food stamps while she was a secretary at an elementary school. We will not be able to maintain the level of education in the Bellingham Public Schools without these talented people.

Ms. Peterson asked that the information left by Mr. McLean be included as an attachment to the meeting minutes from this evening.

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

- Graduation season is upon us, as is the end of the school year. This creates a lot of emotions as well as excitement for students, families and staff.
- Dr. Baker asked Ron Cowan, Executive Director of Capital Projects and School Facilities, to give an update on the Alderwood and Parkview projects. Ron noted that both the Alderwood and Parkview design committees have spent the past year working to come up with designs for the new schools. The design committees are comprised of staff, parents and community members. He reviewed the plans for [Alderwood](#) and [Parkview](#) that will be presented to Dr. Baker as a recommendation shortly. Ron then answered questions from board members about the plans he had presented.

2.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

Mr. Benjamin made a **motion** to remove item 2.9, the Chuckanut Bay Athletic Association Agreement, from the consent agenda. Unanimous affirmative vote.

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

- 2.1 Approval of Minutes of the May 15, 2019 Special Meeting and May 22, 2019 Regular Meeting**
- 2.2 Approval of Expenditures and Payroll – May 2019**
- 2.3 Approval of Donation, Sehome PTSA**
- 2.4 Award of Bid, Dairy Products**
- 2.5 Approve Sehome High School Construction Change Order**
- 2.6 Resolution 9-19, Delegation of Authority to WIAA**
- 2.7 Resolution 10-19, Request to Transfer Funds from the Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund**
- 2.8 Learning Assistance Program Readiness to Learn**
- 2.10 Personnel Recommendations**
- 2.11 Personal Services Contracts**

Unanimous affirmative vote.

3.0 BOARD RESPONSE TO MONITORING

3.1 Board Response to Monitoring – EL-2, Organizational Continuity

There was discussion regarding some of the feedback contained in the monitoring response document for EL-2. Ms. Mason made a **motion** to approve the monitoring response document ([Attachment B](#)). Unanimous affirmative vote.

3.2 Board Response to Monitoring – Ends 1, 2, 3 Combined

There was discussion regarding feedback contained in the monitoring response document for Ends 1, 2 and 3 combined, as well as discussion regarding suggested changes to The Bellingham Promise. Ms. Peterson made a **motion** to replace the word “develop” in the Vision statement of Ends 1 with “nurture.” Unanimous affirmative vote. After further discussion, there was a **motion** by Ms. Mason to change the wording of the Vision statement in Ends 1 to “We will empower every child to discover and develop their passions.” Unanimous affirmative vote. Mr. Benjamin suggests that staff ensure the changes in The Bellingham Promise be reflected in the Ends policies. This will be done, and an update will be given at the next meeting regarding whether changes need to be made to the policies to reflect those changes. Ms. Peterson made a **motion** to approve the monitoring response document ([Attachment C](#)). Unanimous affirmative vote.

3.3 Review of Monitoring Response Summary – EL-9

Ms. Diaz Hackler presented a summary of the combined responses for EL-9, Asset Maintenance and Protection. ([Attachment D](#)). This summary will be added to the website.

4.0 Policy Governance Review

4.1 Review Possible Revisions to Ends 2.1 Policy

No changes are needed to [Ends 2.1](#) at this time.

5.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5.1 School Board Directors’ Reports

- Mr. Benjamin attended the auditor’s exit meeting a few months ago, and his recollection is that the auditors had to work hard to find much to talk about. They seem to enjoy working with our finance staff, and they get quick answers to their questions. He thanked staff for their help with the recent linkage meeting at Bellingham High School. It was great to have students weigh in on the language. He would like to talk at the retreat regarding regular student roundtables. The Wade King visit was great, although he felt that there was no time for questions following the presentations. He would be interesting in learning how we can we measure or look at outcome of the social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum.
- Ms. Mason thought the Wade King visit was great, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) enhancements breakout was interesting. The recent linkage was also great, and she loved hearing from the students and how open they were with their feedback. She would like the opportunity to hear more student voice. The retirement dinner was impressive thanks to the Communications and Community Relations Department’s preparation. It is truly amazing to hear about the years of work, love and care that are provided to our students.
- Ms. Peterson attended the Dollars for Scholars event. She also enjoyed the recent linkage meeting. It appeared that because the students already knew each other they felt safe sharing their perspectives. Three of the four students at her table had parents

who work in the district. Cross-grade relationships (buddies) came up at the linkage as being highly valued. There was discussion regarding inclusion and how students who are questioning their gender identity feel left out of sports. They would like unified sports to be available for younger students. The Wade King visit was great, full of excitement and enthusiasm. She attended the last Sehome PTSA meeting of the year, which was also the last meeting for principal Michelle Kuss-Cybula, and the Highly Capable Learning Parent Advisory Committee meeting, which was the last meeting for Director of Teaching and Learning Director Dawn Christiana. Seniors from Sehome are making trips back to their former elementary schools, helping to teach the elementary students.

- Ms. Diaz Hackler loved talking with the students seated at her table at the linkage meeting. It was helpful to hear that our language contained in The Bellingham Promise is different than the students' language. Two students said they have gone through their whole school career and had not had a teacher who reflected them. One recently took an African American history class and thinks all students should take the class. They like the diversity language, but it could be enhanced and improved upon. Students thought that leadership opportunities should be available at a younger age. She and her husband both enjoyed the retirement dinner. The Wade King visit was well done. It will be interesting to see what changes will occur because of advances in technology.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 School Board Committee Reports

No updates.

7.0 CLOSING ITEMS

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

8.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

8.1 Executive Session for the Purpose of Professional Negotiations

At 7:21 p.m., Ms. Diaz Hackler announced the board would enter Executive Session for approximately 60 minutes for the purpose of professional negotiations (RCW 42.30.140).

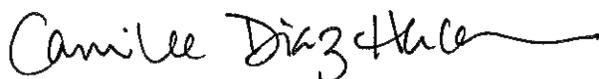
9.0 RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

- 9.1** At 8:22 p.m., the board reconvened to open session.

10.0 CLOSING ITEMS

- 10.1 Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Approved:



Camille Diaz Hackler, 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: June 19, 2019