



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
WITH PUBLIC HEARING  
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
June 9, 2021**

**1.0 OPENING ITEMS**

**1.1 Meeting Date and Location:**

June 9, 2021 – via remote Zoom meeting.

**1.2 Call to Order/Roll Call:**

Ms. Mason called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She acknowledged that this meeting, while attended from various locations, is being held on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish people. Present: Directors Kelly Bashaw, Douglas Benjamin, Jenn Mason (President), Katie Rose, Superintendent Greg Baker and Sheri O’Day (recorder). Director Camille Diaz Hackler was unable to attend the meeting.

**1.3 Audience Comments/Public Hearing on Capital Facilities Plan:**

- Ms. Mason noted that, because of our current emergency status due to COVID-19, public participation is limited to written submissions only, and all written comments received will be shared with the school board directors. Each board member has seen all messages received.
- Ms. Mason explained that the purpose of the public hearing is to take public comment regarding the district’s Capital Facilities Plan. No public comment was offered relating to the proposed plan.

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

- Dr. Baker explained that playgrounds are an important consideration when building a new elementary school. He introduced Executive Director of Operations Jessica Sankey, who shared the work of the [Playground Standards Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee](#). The committee has been meeting with the goal of ensuring our playgrounds are as inclusive as possible for all kids, and Jessica showed some examples of playground layouts being considered for the new Parkview, Alderwood and Sunnyland elementary schools. Jessica and Dr. Baker responded to questions and comments from the board.
- Dr. Baker introduced Kim Lund, executive director of the Bellingham Public Schools Foundation (BPSF). Kim shared a summary of support BPSF has provided since March of 2020 which includes internet and utility support for families; items for the food pantry; salary support for grant writers, the volunteer coordinator and culinary program manager; GRADS support; Outdoor Educator Alliance programming; One Schoolhouse/EDI support; support for visual/performing arts, including the purchase of 66 new strings instruments and online Music First curriculum licenses; and educator grants. Since the summer of 2011, BPSF has raised over \$4 million for the Bellingham Public Schools. The board expressed their gratitude to Kim and the board of the foundation for the

phenomenal support that has been provided for students in the district and our community.

- The board will be presented with a draft budget at its July 14, 2021 meeting, with the final budget to be voted on at the August 11, 2021 school board meeting. Over the past year, districts across the state have had a loss of revenue due to decreased enrollment, loss of transportation funding and regionalization. There have been some savings associated with the pandemic (staff not attending conferences, students not going on field trips, etc.). We hope that many families will choose to return their students to in-person learning in the fall. There has been federal support since the beginning of the pandemic which has helped districts to avoid budget cuts, although districts need to continue to be cautious about spending. The greatest investment for a district is in its staff, in the form of salaries and benefits. Another large investment is support for students who receive Special Education and English Language Learners (ELL) services. Dr. Baker reviewed additional support provided via Project Free Education: athletics; ASB cards; yearbooks; universal meals; and universal technology. Some examples of increased school support include added elementary PE and music instruction and instructional coaching; the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program being added to Whatcom Middle School; increased custodial hours; support added for the family engagement team; choir at Shuksan and Whatcom middle schools; continued innovation and flexibility, such as the ability of families to choose the Bellingham Family Partnership Program; the addition of a director of health services; health aides to support the work of school nurses; personal protective equipment (PPE); early childhood activities; mental health/wellness services; and foundational literacy. Dr. Baker and Jay Jordan, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning, answered questions from board members.
- Jackie Brawley, executive director of communications and community relations, shared that the district's mascot, Hami the hamster, who has been featured on the district's social media accounts, now has their own email address and has been engaging with students.
- This Saturday all four high schools will hold their graduation ceremonies at Civic Field. Each graduate of the three larger high schools will receive four guest tickets.
- Dr. Baker shared a photo of an outdoor Sehome High School wrestling practice.

## **2.0 CONSENT ITEMS:**

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

### **2.1 Approval of Minutes of the May 12, 2021 Regular Meeting and May 26, 2021 Special Meeting with Public Hearing**

### **2.2 Approval of Expenditures and Payroll – May 2021**

### **2.3 Resolution 13-21, Declaring Special Market Conditions and Waiving Competitive Bidding Requirements**

### **2.4 Resolution 14-21, Acceptance of Capital Facilities Plan**

### **2.5 Resolution 15-21, Request to Transfer Funds from the Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund**

### **2.6 Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment #2 – Sunnyland Elementary School Rebuild**

### **2.7 Security Enhancement Project – Change Order**

- 2.8 **EL-2 Monitoring Report – Organizational Continuity**
- 2.9 **Communities in Schools of Whatcom-Skagit Agreement (#2021-046)**
- 2.10 **City of Bellingham Program Agreement (#2021-107)**
- 2.11 **Washington Student Achievement Council Amendment to Data Sharing Agreement (#2021-132)**
- 2.12 **The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond Service Authorization (#2021-134)**
- 2.13 **Whatcom Discovery Program 2020-21 Interlocal Cooperative Agreement Amendment (#2021-138)**
- 2.14 **Whatcom Discovery Program 2021-22 Interlocal Cooperative Agreement Amendment (#2122-003B)**
- 2.15 **Northwest Educational Service District 189 Contract (#2122-022)**
- 2.16 **Sendan Center Addendum to Agreement for Services**
- 2.17 **Personnel Recommendations**
- 2.18 **Personal Services Contracts**

Unanimous affirmative vote.

### **3.0 POLICY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

#### **3.1 Monitoring Report Ends 1, 2, 3 (combined report)**

Dr. Mike Copland, deputy superintendent, and Brian Rick, director of research and assessment, discussed the [report](#) and responded to questions and comments from the board.

#### **3.2 Review Governance Process Policies GP-1 through GP-6**

Governance Process Policies [GP-1 through GP-6](#) are reviewed annually. There are no changes to the policies recommended at this time.

### **4.0 BOARD RESPONSE TO MONITORING**

#### **4.1 Board Response to Monitoring – EL-6, Academic Standards and Provisions**

There was discussion regarding the summary of the board responses to the EL-6 report that was prepared by Ms. Mason. Following discussion, Mr. Benjamin made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Bashaw, to approve the monitoring response document ([Attachment A](#)). Unanimous affirmative vote.

#### **4.2 Board Response to Monitoring – EL-8, District Calendar**

There was discussion regarding the summary of the board responses to the EL-8 report that was prepared by Ms. Mason. Following discussion, Ms. Bashaw made a **motion**, seconded by Mr. Benjamin, to approve the monitoring response document ([Attachment B](#)). Unanimous affirmative vote.

### **5.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

#### **5.1 School Board Directors’ Reports.** Highlights of comments:

- Mr. Benjamin stated that Dr. Baker has provided a good deal of balanced information regarding critical race theory (CRT) and he encouraged the board to take a good look at the information so there can be discussions about what CRT is and what it isn’t. Mr. Benjamin has been reflecting on the past 15 months and what the district has been through, and there are two areas that stand out for him. The first is how the staff has worked on the health aspect of the pandemic, and he appreciates the amount of work and

the fact that it has continued to be a moving target. The other outstanding area is the technology staff, with every student and staff member being provided equipment and support with regards to technology. These groups of staff are the people behind the scenes who have done a phenomenal job keeping kids and staff connected.

- Ms. Bashaw is appreciative of the work that has occurred to keep up with the rapidly changing circumstances related to the pandemic and student learning. Everyone has worked so hard this year, and Dr. Baker has kept the board updated and informed throughout the entire time. Dr. Baker's leadership, including hiring good staff to carry out the work, has been superb.
- Ms. Rose also applauded the efforts of staff during the pandemic, which has been a massive endeavor over the past 15 months and steering the district through it all has been quite a feat. No one has lost sight of the goal, and the leadership in the district focusing on all students in the community receiving the support they need has been incredible.
- Ms. Mason recently met with some fifth-grade students at Alderwood regarding women in leadership and women's rights. She remarked that the atmosphere felt like a normal school day with class time, recess, etc. She appreciates all the hard work on behalf of students and hopes that everyone can have an enjoyable summer.

**5.2 GP-7.2 – 2020-21 Annual Board Agenda, Revised** – general review.

**6.0 NEW BUSINESS**

- 6.1** Ms. Mason noted that Dr. Baker's performance is evaluated by the school board throughout the school year by way of responses to policy monitoring. Mr. Benjamin thanked Ms. Mason for compiling the evaluation summary and reminded everyone that it can be found on the district website. Ms. Bashaw acknowledged the work of Dr. Baker's team in support of the Bellingham Promise.

**7.0 CLOSING ITEMS**

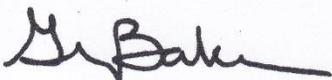
- 7.1 Board Assessment of Meeting:** Ms. Mason assessed the meeting, with an overall rating of 4 (*commendable*).
- 7.2 Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**Approved:**



Jennifer I. Mason, Board President

**Attest:**



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

*Minutes approved: July 14, 2021*

*Monitoring Response Document*

Policy Monitored: EL-6, Academic Standards and Provisions

Date Report Submitted: 4/14/21

Date of Board’s Monitoring Response: 5/12/21

The Board has received and reviewed the Superintendent’s Monitoring Report referenced above. Following the Board’s review and discussions with the Superintendent and his representatives, the Board makes the following conclusions:

<u>Ends Reports:</u>	<u>Executive Limitations Reports</u>
<p>1. The Board finds that the Superintendent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. has achieved the goals established in the policy.</li> <li>b. is making reasonable progress towards achieving the goals.</li> <li>c. is making reasonable progress towards achieving the goals, but a greater degree of progress is expected in some areas.*</li> <li>d. is <b>not</b> making reasonable progress in achieving the goals established. *</li> <li>e. cannot be determined*</li> </ul>	<p>1. The Board finds that the Superintendent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. is in compliance.</b></li> <li>b. is in compliance, except for items(s) noted.*</li> <li>c. is making reasonable progress toward compliance.*</li> <li>d. is <b>not</b> in compliance <b>or</b> is <b>not</b> making reasonable progress toward compliance.*</li> <li>e. cannot be determined*</li> </ul>
<p><i>*see comments below (No. 3)</i></p>	

2. Please note commendable progress over the last year.

This school year pushed the limits of adapting academics and everything that goes along with it to remote/hybrid learning, often at an incredibly rapid pace. The district displayed a remarkable ability to reimplement digital resources in order to continue learning during the abrupt shift to at-home during the COVID-19 pandemic, and cope with dramatically shifting demands, e.g. growth at BFPP and fully remote options. The evidence demonstrates how advantage was taken from the “push” of the pandemic demands to accelerate the exploration of many new instructional methods and platforms, like Lexia and Dreambox.

Despite the pandemic, the superintendent continued to progress in initiatives that were started previously. The hiring of an EDI Director, expansion of mental health services, continued exploration into math instruction and increased enrollment in Promise K are particularly notable achievements at this time.

3. Please note areas for additional improvement.

No areas identified.

*Monitoring Response Document*

Policy Monitored: EL-6, Academic Standards and Provisions

Date Report Submitted: 4/14/21

Date of Board's Monitoring Response: 5/12/21

4. Comments on the report itself.

None.

5. Possible changes to the policy.

No changes identified.

*Monitoring Response Document*

Policy Monitored: EL-8, District Calendar  
Date Report Submitted: 4/14/21  
Date of Board’s Monitoring Response: 5/12/21

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<p><i>*see comments below (No. 3)</i></p>	

2. Please note commendable progress over the last year.

As with other areas, the superintendent showed remarkable agility in adapting to the demands forced suddenly upon the entire school system due to the pandemic and a move to online/hybrid learning. This is evidenced by adjusting the calendar to allow for more staff learning days prior to the start of the school year and developing more professional learning opportunities to support the seismic shift into doing remote and hybrid learning. Despite this, absences from professional learning continue to drop.

This was an especially tumultuous year of calendar changes due to the pandemic; the superintendent’s communication was prompt and provided as much clarity as possible in a rapidly shifting environment. There was also tremendous effort to coordinate services to help meet families’ basic and learning needs.

Finally, the board recognizes the deep connections made with families receiving special education services during this time. Special Education teachers built strong connections with families during the pandemic, both through family outreach and assistive technology that can be used across home and school.

3. Please note areas for additional improvement.

No areas identified.

*Monitoring Response Document*

Policy Monitored: EL-8, District Calendar

Date Report Submitted: 4/14/21

Date of Board's Monitoring Response: 5/12/21

4. Comments on the report itself.

The board appreciated the quotes and comments from staff. It brought a human element to the report and truly reflected the innovation that has occurred due to the pandemic.

5. Possible changes to the policy.

No changes identified.