



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 19, 2020**

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location:

August 19, 2020 – via remote Zoom meeting.

1.2 Call to Order/Roll Call:

Mr. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. He acknowledged that this meeting, while attended from various locations, is being held on the ancestral homelands of the Coastal Salish people. Present: Directors Kelly Bashaw, Douglas Benjamin (President), Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Mason, Katie Rose, Superintendent Greg Baker and Sheri O'Day (recorder).

1.3 Audience:

Mr. Benjamin noted that, because of our current emergency status due to COVID-19, public participation is limited to written submissions only, and any written comments received will be shared with the school board directors. Each board member has seen all messages received. He noted that the board has received and appreciates the large amount of feedback regarding police presence in schools. He noted that Dr. Baker and district staff are continuing to investigate next steps.

Mr. Benjamin acknowledged that Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Steve Clarke is retiring, and this will be the last board meeting he will be attending. Board members shared their reflections on Mr. Clarke's time in the district and expressed their gratitude for all he has done to benefit the school community.

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

- Dr. Baker confirmed that Mr. Clarke has been an outstanding person to work with and expressed best wishes in retirement for he and his family.
- The COVID-19 pandemic continues to take much time and effort on behalf of staff. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has asked each district in the state to take a formal resolution regarding reopening plans to its school board, as evidence that the board has approved of the district's reopening plan. More will be shared about the reopening plan this evening.
- As expected, local, state, national and worldwide budgets are being impacted by the pandemic. Districts across the state are not transporting students to school, and the state will discontinue funding for transportation. We are currently in a strong financial position. District revenue is based on student enrollment, and as families

make other choices for their children for 2020-21, the district’s apportionment will decrease, which will force us to make some decisions regarding expenditures.

- The first day of school was moved from Sept. 2 to Sept. 8, to allow staff to use some professional development days (also referred to as “purple days”), which had been slated for later in the year, to help staff prepare for remote learning. The district is still required to provide 180 days of school, averaging six hours per day.
- Ensuring that all families have Wi-Fi is extremely important. PreK-1 students will be provided with iPads, while students in grades 2-12 will be provided laptops. We are working to provide school supplies for families and are open to families borrowing desks and chairs if they are needed.
- One of the biggest challenges in our community prior to the pandemic was access to child care, and it continues to be a challenge. We are working with child care providers to support families.
- Families have let us know that they want more structured, synchronous (live) learning. The entire school day will not be synchronous, but there will be more live learning via video-conferencing tools this fall than there was last spring. Knowing that it can be challenging for families to structure their day based on the school day, we are trying to create as much flexibility as possible. Bellingham Virtual Learning (BVL) will be a good option for some families. BVL will make use of Accelerate and Edgenuity programs so students are able to take their classes online in an asynchronous manner, with students continuing to stay connected to their neighborhood schools. The Bellingham Family Partnership Program (BFPP) is also available to serve families.
- A “virtual conversation” webinar is scheduled for tomorrow, which will help to communicate current plans to the community and answer some questions that families have been asking.
- Most of our employees are not contracted to work during the summer, but many have volunteered their time to serve on committees, helping to envision what the beginning of the school year will look like. Dr. Baker introduced Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Kristi Dominguez and Executive Director of Operations Jessica Sankey, co-chairs of the [Reopening Schools Advisory Committee](#), who reviewed the work of that committee thus far. Board members asked questions and expressed appreciation to staff members for their dedicated work over the past several months.

2.0 DISTRICT REOPENING PLAN

2.1 Resolution 16-20, District Reopening Plan

Ms. Mason made a **motion** to approve Resolution 16-20, District Reopening Plan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bashaw and passed unanimously.

3.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Mason made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Diaz Hackler, to approve the following consent agenda items:

3.1 Approval of Minutes of the July 15, 2020 Special and Regular Meetings

3.2 Approval of Expenditures and Payroll – July 2020

- 3.3 **Resolution 17-20, Request to Transfer Funds from the Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund**
- 3.4 **Authorize Execution of Easement**
- 3.5 **NWESD 189 Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative Contract (#2021-021)**
- 3.6 **Whatcom Discovery Program Interlocal Cooperative Agreement Amendment (#2021-022)**
- 3.7 **Aperture Education Agreement (#2021-024)**
- 3.8 **Cash & Carry (Smart Foodservice) Application (#2021-025)**
- 3.9 **Public Consulting Group, Inc. (2021-026)**
- 3.10 **Agile Mind Educational Holdings Service Agreement (#2021-028)**
- 3.11 **Edgenuity Agreement (#2021-031)**
- 3.12 **Washington Student Achievement Council (#2021-033)**
- 3.13 **Archive Social, Inc. Amendment (#2021-035)**
- 3.14 **Swank Motion Pictures, Inc. Agreement (#2021-038)**
- 3.15 **Bellingham Public Schools Foundation Agreement (#2021-039)**
- 3.16 **Salish Sea Deaf School Contract (#2021-040)**
- 3.17 **Walton Beverage Snack and Beverage Vending Agreement for Services (#2021-044)**
- 3.18 **Bridget Walker Agreement for Services**
- 3.19 **Wave Education Partners Agreement for Services**
- 3.20 **Addendum to Vamos Outdoors Project Agreement for Services**
- 3.21 **Personnel Recommendations**
- 3.22 **Personal Services Contracts**

Unanimous affirmative vote.

4.0 POLICY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

4.1 GP-7 Agenda Planning

No changes.

4.2 GP-7.1 Board Self-Assessment

No changes.

4.3 GP-7.2 Annual Board Agenda

Ms. Diaz Hackler made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Mason, that GP-7.2, Annual Board Agenda, be approved. Unanimous approval.

5.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5.1 School Board Directors' Reports. Highlights of comments:

No reports.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 New Business (as needed): n/a.

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 8:03 p.m.

Approved:



Douglas Benjamin, Board President

Attest:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved: September 16, 2020