



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
January 29, 2020**

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location:

January 29, 2020 – 2015 Franklin St., Bellingham, Washington.

1.2 Call to Order/Roll Call:

Mr. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m. Present: Directors Kelly Bashaw, Douglas Benjamin (President), Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Mason, Katie Rose, Superintendent Greg Baker and Sheri O'Day (recorder). He acknowledged that this meeting is being held on the ancestral homelands of the Coastal Salish people.

1.3 Audience:

n/a

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

- Dr. Baker welcomed everyone to Options High School and noted that January is school board recognition month. The board of directors were each presented with a box of apple rose tarts that were made with love by our Central Kitchen, and the Bellingham High School Showstoppers singing group then performed two songs (You Will Reap What You Sow and Imagine). Dr. Baker thanked the school board for the important work that they do.
- Dr. Baker thanked everyone who played a part in making it possible to hold tonight's meetings at Options High School rather than the district office.
- He acknowledged that there have been some significant events in our school district since the last meeting, which included the loss of a staff member in December. Dr. Baker thanked the board for the support provided to him as he tried to support the students, staff and families following that tragic loss. He also recognized the support from the district's mobile response team, executive team and Sunnyland staff.
- School was in session for one week after winter break and then western Washington was hit with a snow event. Dr. Baker appreciated the support from board members and staff as decisions were being made regarding the safety of students and staff. Over 1,300 meals were served and delivered on Jan. 16 and 17, and families were very appreciative. The dates for finals and the semester break have been adjusted, and graduations will be moved to the following weekend. Every attempt will be made to not conflict with college/university ceremonies, which may result in the times for our graduations being adjusted from what they have typically been in past years. The last day of school will be extended into the week of June 15, but because it is only January there is still a possibility for more snow days.

- The legislature is in session, and the state superintendent has just released his proposed budget ideas, which includes some substantial changes from past years. Dr. Baker stated he is not sure how the legislature will react to the suggested changes, but he and staff will closely follow the legislative session.
- The attendance areas recommendation has been fine-tuned and more information will be coming out soon. Families who will be experiencing a change in their children's school(s) will receive a notification via email and U.S. Mail.
- Today marks day two of Promise K for 109 students in seven classrooms across the district, which is the largest group to date, and it is going exceptionally well. This is the seventh year of Promise K in our district, and this week there are several districts across the state that are offering the program for the first time. Approximately 500 students across the state can get a jump start on kindergarten because of Promise K.
- The election for the two replacement levies is Feb. 11, just two weeks away. Staff and the citizens committee have been working to educate the public.
- Dr. Baker will be traveling to San Diego in February to represent the school district and Washington state at the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) conference.

2.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

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

- 2.1 Approval of Minutes of the Dec. 11, 2019 Regular Meeting and Dec. 11, 2019 Special Meeting**
- 2.2 Approval of Payroll – November 2019 (updated)**
- 2.3 Approval of Expenditures and Payroll – December 2019**
- 2.4 Resolution 1-20, Request to Transfer Funds from the Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund**
- 2.5 EL-3 Monitoring Report: Treatment and Communication with Public, Parents and Students**
- 2.6 Northwest Educational Service District 189 Highly Capable Program Cooperative Agreement (#1920-119)**
- 2.7 Ferndale Interlocal Boys Swim (#1920-122)**
- 2.8 Anthony Craig Agreement for Services**
- 2.9 Personnel Recommendations**
- 2.10 Personal Services Contracts**

Unanimous affirmative vote.

3.0 POLICY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

3.1 Monitoring Report Ends 2.1 (part 1) – Student Competence

Dr. Mike Copland, Deputy Superintendent, and Brian Rick, Director of Research and Assessment, discussed the [report](#) and [data set](#) and answered questions from the board. Mike acknowledged the work that Brian does to pull together the data for this report and thanked him for that work.

3.2 Review and Discuss Possible Revisions to GPs 1-6

Governance Process Policies GP-1 through GP-6 are reviewed annually in January. After discussion, it was agreed that no changes are needed at this time.

4.0 BOARD RESPONSE TO MONITORING

4.1 Board Response to Monitoring – EL-1, Expectations of Superintendent

There was discussion regarding the summary of the board responses to the EL-1 report that was prepared by Ms. Diaz Hackler. Following the discussion, Ms. Mason made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Diaz Hackler, to approve the monitoring response document ([Attachment A](#)). Unanimous affirmative vote.

4.2 Board Response to Monitoring – EL-5, Communication and Counsel to the Board

There was discussion regarding the summary of the board responses prepared by Ms. Diaz Hackler to the EL-5 report. Following the discussion, Ms. Bashaw made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Mason, to approve the monitoring response document ([Attachment B](#)). Unanimous affirmative vote.

4.3 Board Response to Monitoring – EL-7, Budget Planning and Execution

There was discussion regarding the summary of the board responses prepared by Mr. Benjamin to the EL-7 report. Following the discussion, Ms. Diaz Hackler made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Bashaw, to approve the monitoring response document ([Attachment C](#)). Unanimous affirmative vote.

4.4 Board Response to Monitoring – EL-9, Asset Maintenance and Protection

There was discussion regarding the summary of the board responses prepared by Mr. Benjamin to the EL-9 report. Following the discussion, Ms. Bashaw made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Mason, to approve the monitoring response document ([Attachment D](#)). Unanimous affirmative vote.

4.5 Board Response to Monitoring – EL-10, Race and Equity

There was discussion regarding the summary of the board responses prepared by Ms. Diaz Hackler to the EL-10 report. The discussion was focused on how to document the board's decision when there are differing opinions by individual board members regarding the superintendent's compliance with the policy. Following discussion, Ms. Diaz Hackler made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Mason, to make an exception for this particular monitoring response and allow for two findings, and to add an agenda item for the board's next retreat to discuss whether the board members need to be unanimous in their finding, as well as possible edits to the EL-10 policy. The monitoring response document is attached ([Attachment E](#)). Unanimous affirmative vote.

5.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5.1 School Board Directors' Reports. Highlights of comments:

- Ms. Diaz Hackler shared that she was recently involved a discussion out in the community regarding public pools and the possibility of a partnership between the Arne Hanna Aquatic Center and the school district. She also had occasion to be in Albany and Salem, Oregon with family and visited pool facilities in those communities. The Salem pool complex consists of a community center, a day care facility, public meeting rooms, a gym and two large swimming pools. She is hoping for a robust conversation between the Bellingham community and the district regarding the future of pools here.

- Ms. Mason was very impressed with this evening’s linkage focused on exceptional students. The students were very articulate, and it was great to hear the students’ experiences and powerful to learn the value to students of having school staff who are reflective of them. She and Ms. Diaz Hackler will be attending the legislative conference in Olympia Feb. 8-10.
- Ms. Rose agreed that the linkage was very valuable. Comments that resonated with her included how the students value their connections and are able to realize their passions. She noted that students have access to opportunities in school that they may not be able to experience at home. As the parent of students at Sunnyland, she shared that the past several weeks have been very difficult. She cannot say enough about the staff and administration for their professionalism and the love felt throughout the school after the community’s tremendous loss.
- Ms. Bashaw attended the first “Think BIG Student Club Challenge” sponsored by the Bellingham Public Schools Foundation on Jan. 13, and she hopes that it will continue as an annual event. She volunteered in the lunchroom at Cordata for the first day of Promise K yesterday and remembered to bring scissors to help the students open their yogurt. It was great to see so many people helping and supporting the students on their first day of school. She also thanked Dr. Baker, the Bellingham Showstoppers, the Central Kitchen and others for the appreciation shown to the school board this evening.
- Mr. Benjamin was very pleased with the linkage and thought it was a great example of the importance of student voice. One student at his table commented that there should be more information shared about The Bellingham Promise in classrooms.

5.2 GP-7.2 – 2019-20 Annual Board Agenda, Revised – General review.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 New Business:

- Mr. Benjamin noted that there are two days set aside on calendars in February for the board’s winter retreat. He asked if there is interest in holding the retreat at the North Cascades Institute (NCI), or if it would be preferable to meet locally on Saturday only. After discussion, it was decided that Dr. Baker will move forward with reserving space at NCI for Feb. 28 and 29 and be in touch regarding the details.

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 7:58 p.m.

Approved:



Douglas Benjamin, 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: February 19, 2020