



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
September 14, 2022**

**1.0 OPENING ITEMS**

**1.1 Meeting Date and Location:**

September 14, 2022 – Options High School, 2015 Franklin St., Bellingham, WA.

**1.2 Call to Order/Land Acknowledgment:**

Ms. Bashaw called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She acknowledged that this meeting is being held on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish people.

**1.3 Roll Call:**

Present: Directors Kelly Bashaw (President), Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Mason, Katie Rose, Superintendent Greg Baker and Sheri O'Day (recorder).

**1.4 Audience:**

No public testimony was offered.

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

- It's been a busy few weeks with students now back in school. Enrollment is still being determined, with student numbers looking higher at the elementary level and lower at the Bellingham Family Partnership Program than was initially projected.
- We are currently in a good place budget-wise, but similar to other school districts across the nation, we are wondering how significantly we will be impacted by the loss of federal COVID-19 funding. We hope that the state legislature will recognize how the loss of the federal funding will affect local school districts.
- Over 2,000 people attended the second annual Back-to-School Block Party at Bellingham High School on Aug. 20, with many agencies providing services to students and families. Principals, deans and staff from each school were in attendance.
- The all-staff event at Civic Field on Aug. 29 was well attended, with district buses transporting staff from across the district. Student performances were a highlight of the morning.
- It has been an exciting start to the school year and a dramatic shift from the last couple of years of COVID restrictions, from masks to remote learning. The 2022-23 school year is off to a great start with Promise K as a full year program for the first time. It's offered currently in 13 of our 14 elementary schools. It is an inclusive kindergarten setting with all preschool students being together.
- Construction is underway at the new district office site. It will be one of the first buildings in the area to be built using cross laminated timber, which is a more sustainable product than steel. A project web camera is installed at the site and construction progress can be monitored on the district website.

- The main portion of the new Sunnyland Elementary building is nearly complete. The playground should open in approximately a week, with the first elementary turf field opening in October. A Community Open House is scheduled from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022. The community will be able to tour the inside of the school, see the newly installed inclusive playground and enjoy a free snack from a local food truck, courtesy of Dawson Construction.
- The district is offering a new construction management class at Squalicum High School, and there are 50 students from our high schools enrolled in our cosmetology program at the Bellis Fair Mall.
- Dr. Baker responded to questions from board members.

## **2.0 CONSENT ITEMS:**

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

- 2.1 Approval of Minutes of the August 10, 2022 Regular Meeting and August 24, 2022 Special Meeting**
- 2.2 Approval of Expenditures and Payroll – August 2022**
- 2.3 Resolution 18-22, Transfer of Funds from Capital Projects Fund to General Fund**
- 2.4 Declaration of Covenant and Grant of Easement (DCGE)**
- 2.5 Salish Sea Deaf School Contracts (#2223-026)**
- 2.6 D.A. Hogan & Associates, Inc. Agreement (#2223-037)**
- 2.7 Amendment #2 to 2022-23 Whatcom Discovery Program Interlocal Agreement (#2223-038)**
- 2.8 Bellingham Technical College Running Start Program Agreement (#2223-039)**
- 2.9 North Coast Electric Company Agreement (#2223-040)**
- 2.10 Northwest Educational Service District 189 Contract – CPWI (#2223-041)**
- 2.11 Hub International Northwest, LLC Contract (#2223-043)**
- 2.12 Kingworks Structural Engineers Agreement (#2223-044)**
- 2.13 Jennifer Rix Agreement for Services (#003-2223)**
- 2.14 Personnel Recommendations**
- 2.15 Personal Services Contracts**

Unanimous affirmative vote.

## **3.0 POLICY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

### **3.1 Revision to EL-9, Asset Maintenance/Protection and Sustainability/Environmental Resiliency**

Mr. Benjamin made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Mason, to approve the proposed changes to EL-9, Asset Maintenance/Protection and Sustainability/Environmental Resiliency ([Attachment A](#)). Unanimous affirmative vote.

## **4.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **4.1 GP-7.2 – 2021-22 Annual Board Agenda, Revised – no action needed.**

**4.2 School Board Directors' Reports.** Highlights of comments:

- Mr. Benjamin thought the August school board retreat was great. He noted that the application for the WSSDA Board of Distinction award has been submitted, and he thanked Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations Jackie Brawley and Deputy Superintendent Mike Copland for their work in preparing the application. The district's all staff event was wonderful! WSSDA representatives met with the Executive Director of the National School Boards Association (NSBA) on Sept. 1, and they learned that approximately 25 states have withdrawn from the NSBA. He does not anticipate that Washington State will withdraw. He reminded board members that WSSDA is tracking the required equity training series completion by individual board members. On Sept. 6 he spoke to the Bellingham Bay Rotary Club, a great group that among its community efforts has raised \$.5 million for new docks at Bloedel Donovan Park. Today Mr. Benjamin filed his intent to run for District Area 1 Director. He congratulated the district on the astounding Promise K numbers, noting that it is powerful work.
- Ms. Mason agreed that the all-staff event was lovely and knows how much work it took for it to appear effortless. She appreciated Dr. Baker speaking to the work and the mission of the district. The school board retreat was great and seeing the new Sunnyland was awesome. What an incredible community we have that passes bonds to build great new schools. As a parent, it has felt like a normal school year, and she is excited about the inclusive experience her daughter is experiencing.
- Ms. Diaz Hackler thanked everyone for the behind-the-scenes work at the all-staff event. She is impressed with the new Sunnyland Elementary, particularly the brick patio, the mural and pieces of the old school as a part of the new building.
- Ms. Rose loves seeing the data points on the partnerships the district has within the community. She thinks the new Parent Square app is amazing from a parent's standpoint. The new Sunnyland Elementary has made the neighborhood better and she believes that new schools are conducive to student learning. She noted that it is a testimony to the culture of a school when her two middle school sons were disappointed to have missed a day of school due to having a cold.
- Ms. Bashaw found the Back-to-School Block Party impressive and inclusive. Having principals and teachers there means a lot to families. The all-staff event was impressive. She was contacted by the parent of a 3-year-old child with a speech delay who was pleasantly surprised after filling out an online inquiry form last evening to have heard back from the district before noon today.

**5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

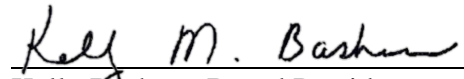
**5.1** n/a

**6.0 CLOSING ITEMS**


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

**7.2 Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

**Approved:**

  
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Kelly Bashaw, Board President

**Attest:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

*Minutes approved:* October 12, 2022

**ASSET MAINTENANCE/PROTECTION  
AND SUSTAINABILITY/ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY**

*The superintendent in maintaining and protecting district property shall not fail to consider the primary users of the property's needs.*

1. The superintendent shall not fail to take all reasonable and prudent actions with respect to maintaining and protecting district property that are typical for similar and highly effective organizations.
2. The superintendent may not fail to:
  - a. ensure that district facilities are maintained, safe, clean, conducive to teaching and learning, and responsive to users' needs;
  - b. maintain an appropriate five-year plan for managing, developing and improving facilities;
  - c. inform the board of new, discontinued or material changes in district practice with respect to #1 above; and
  - d. provide an affirmative (or negative) statement the following actions have been taken:
    - i. purchased appropriate and adequate insurance; and
    - ii. assessed energy usage and implemented resource conservation methods.
3. The superintendent shall not fail to:
  - a. Reduce the environmental impacts and costs of asset maintenance and protection as it relates to energy, water, waste and transportation.
  - b. Align building design and construction with an elevated standard of sustainability practices.

Approved by:  
Adopted/Previous Revisions:

School Board  
9/10/2009; 8/9/2012 (combining EL-1 & EL-18);  
6/27/2013; 9/11/2014; 1/12/2017; 11/1/2017;  
2/27/2019; 3/16/2022  
9/14/2022

Updated: