



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
February 10, 2021**

**1.0 OPENING ITEMS**

**1.1 Meeting Date and Location:**

February 10, 2021 via remote Zoom meeting.

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

Ms. Mason called the meeting to order at 6:01p.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, Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Mason (President), Katie Rose, Superintendent Greg Baker and Sheri

**1.3 Audience:**

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.

**1.5 Superintendent's Announcements and Report:**

- Dr. Baker asked Director of Teaching and Learning Amy Carder to give an update on the Connections program, which has been supporting students by providing them with an outdoor-based learning program during the COVID-19 pandemic. Vamos Outdoors and Wild Whatcom have partnered with the district in this work, and Amy introduced Andy Basabe of Vamos Outdoors and Licia Sahagun of Wild Whatcom. Amy, Andy and Licia each shared information about Connections and the positive impact the program has had on students. They then responded to questions from the board.
- Promise Kindergarten started Jan. 25, 2021 at Alderwood, Birchwood, Cordata, Geneva, Happy Valley, Northern Heights and Roosevelt elementary schools. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Kristi Dominguez shared that this is the Promise K cohort. With 118 enrolled students, it is the largest cohort thus far. Family engagement is a high priority in the program, and this year Zoom calls were held with families so they could help design and learn protocols. A remote option for is also being provided at each school site, with the teacher meeting weekly with families. Kristi responded to questions from the board.
- Director of Capital Projects Curtis Lawyer gave an update on several capital projects,

district office will be approximately 50,000 square feet, at a cost of approximately \$30 million each. Curtis and Dr. Baker answered questions from board members.

- Dr. Baker gave a reopening update. Since the last board meeting, Promise K and grade 2 have begun in-person learning. Last Friday the expected return dates for grades 3-8 were announced, and Dr. Baker received a lot of feedback after that announcement, with many advocating for dates and details about grades 9-12. The district continues to work with labor partners on what the rollout will look like. COVID-19 cases have been on a slow decline over the past few weeks, and the area within boundaries continues to remain under 200 cases per 100K. Dr. Baker responded to questions from board members.
- Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Bob Kuehl, who oversees high school athletics and activities, gave an overview of the activities and athletics recent start up and shared that in the first season of the school year, over 800 students are participating in activities.

## **2.0 CONSENT ITEMS:**

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

### **2.1 Approval of Minutes of the Jan. 13, 2021 Regular Meeting**

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

### **2.3 Resolution 5-21, Request to Transfer Funds from the Capital Projects Fund to the General Fund**

### **2.4 EL-4 Monitoring Report – Staff Treatment, Compensation and Evaluation**

### **2.5 Approval of Updated Policy 2418**

### **2.6 NWRDC Student Support Services Contract (#2021-086)**

### **2.7 VNN Sports Contract (#2021-093)**

### **2.8 Allied Arts of Whatcom County Agreement (#2021-102)**

### **2.9 YMCA Before and After School Care Agreement (#2021-108)**

### **2.10 Meng Analysis Agreement (#2021-109)**

### **2.11 Personnel Recommendations**

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.

## **4.0 BOARD RESPONSE TO MONITORING**

### **4.1 Board Response to Monitoring – EL-7, Budget Planning and Execution**

There was discussion regarding the summary of the board responses to the EL-7 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-9, Asset Maintenance and Protection**

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

#### **4.3 Board Response to Monitoring – EL-3, Treatment and Communication with Public, Parents and Students**

The board discussed the feedback contained in the combined monitoring responses for EL-3 (Attachment C). Ms. Mason will provide a final summary version of this document which will be submitted for approval at the March 10, 2021 regular meeting.

#### **4.4 Board Response to Monitoring – EL-10, Race and Equity**

The board discussed the feedback contained in the combined monitoring responses for EL-10 (Attachment D). Ms. Mason will provide a final summary version of this document which will be submitted for approval at the March 10, 2021 regular meeting.

### **5.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

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

- Ms. Diaz Hackler enjoyed listening to Flo Simon, interim police chief for the Bellingham Police Department, speak at the YWCA Women of Color series. Ms. Diaz Hackler encouraged everyone to email input about important qualities and characteristics for the next police chief to the City of Bellingham. She enjoyed the presentations by staff this evening and is grateful as a community member for the effort put forth for kids.
- Ms. Bashaw shared that she attended a community meeting where Chris Cochran, the mental health coordinator, gave a great overview of how the district is working with community partners.
- Mr. Benjamin recently attended an introductory interview with state auditors in connection with the annual audit. He noted that he is impressed with the number of capital projects that are occurring at the same time and shared that he has been fascinated by statements regarding how remote learning can remove barriers for some students.
- Ms. Rose viewed a forum regarding homelessness and housing in the community and was reminded of how grateful she is for the help some of the most vulnerable members of our community.
- Ms. Mason noted that members of the board spend a lot of time between meetings reading feedback from the community, and she appreciates that people take the time to share their experiences and perspectives, especially those of our students.

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

### **6.0 NEW BUSINESS**

**7.2 Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**Approved:**

Jennifer I. Mason, Board President

**Attest:**





Monitoring Response Document

Policy Monitored: EL-9, Asset Maintenance and Protection

Date Report Submitted: 12/9/2020

'DWH RI %RDUG ¶V 0RQLWRULQJ 5HVS RQVH

7KH %RDUG KDV UHFHLYHG DQG UHYLHZHG WKH 6XSHULQW  
)ROORZLQJ WKH %RDUG ¶V UHYLHZ DQG GLVFXVVL RQV ZLWK

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 by the policy.</li><li>b. is making reasonable progress toward achieving the goals.</li><li>c. is making reasonable progress toward achieving the goals, but a greater degree of progress is expected in some areas</li><li>d. is not making reasonable progress toward 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>a. <u>is in compliance</u></li><li>b. is in compliance, except for item(s) noted</li><li>c. is making reasonable progress toward compliance*</li><li>d. is not in compliance <u>or</u> is not making reasonable progress toward compliance</li></ul>





presentations/graduations. Continuing to effectively engage families even when  
contact is ex

concerns, it is not by itself evidence of that. There are many reasons individuals may not be using the listening post, including anecdotal statements assuming concerns sent to the Superintendent are always shared with the board (which, it would seem, they are not).

4. Comments on the report itself.

KB:

- x Very lengthy and detailed report that supports the superintendent is in compliance. Appreciate the use of examples from past publications

DB:

- x Very thorough. Overwhelming with evidence of outstanding work.

JM:

- x Thank you for all the visuals and examples.

KR:

- x Given the mandate is around taking actions that are reasonable and prudent typical for similar and highly effective organizations, it would be helpful to include what some of those actions may be. Evaluation is mostly likely based on board member experience and individual perceptions.  
everyone.

5. Possible changes to the policy.

JM:

- x 0LQRU FKDQJH WR FRQVLGHU DGGLQJ WKH ZRUG<sup>3</sup> DFFHV  
o The superintendent shall not fail to ensure that ~~employee~~ stakeholders are treated with respect and dignity throughout the organization and are provided accessible communications regarding district events, plans and actions.

KR:

- x Is the current policy clear enough on the goal of communications? Is the goal to have effective communications that result in stakeholder engagement and understanding to disperse information?

Monitoring Response Document INITIAL COMPILATION

Policy Monitored: EL-10, Race and Equity

Date Report Submitted 1/13/2021

Date RI % RD UG ↑ V 0 R Q L: 2/4/2021 Q J 5 H V

Below are my responses in connection with the report

<u>Ends Reports:</u>	<u>Executive Limitations Reports</u>
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<p>*see comments below (No.3)</p>	



JM:

- x Appreciated all of the examples. This report demonstrates the importance of EL UHFHQW addition as it effectively monitors issues around race and equity.

5. Possible changes to the policy.

DB:

- x Since this is a relatively new EL policy, the Board would appreciate hearing superintendent/staff recommendations for additions or revisions.