



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
May 12, 2021

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location

May 12, 2021 via remote Zoom meeting

1.2 Call to Order/Roll Call:

Ms. Mason called the meeting to order at 100 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, Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Maso (President), Katie Rose, Superintendent Greg Baker and Sheri

1.3 Audience:

Ms. Mason noted that, because of our current emergency status due to COVID, 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.

1.4

- x A few years ago the district made an investment in a grant writer position that is now shared by Gretchen Pflueger and Amelia Vader. It was a beneficial investment that has resulted in the district and its community partners being the recipient of many grants. Washington state has put an emphasis on early childhood education for several years, and the district recently applied to the state for a grant made available by the federal American Families Plan. The purpose of the grant is to encourage businesses to build on-site early learning centers. The new district office will include an early learning center, and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Kristi Dominguez, Ms. Pflueger and Ms. Vader shared details about the grant and answered questions from the board.
- x A board member had requested additional information on behavioral health following the last meeting when a contract linked to a CARES Act grant was submitted for approval. Dr. Baker introduced Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Trina Harth in turn introduced Chris Cochran, mental health coordinator, Laura Burke, mental health specialist, and Stevona Burks, Meghan Lever and Selene Meza, prevention intervention specialists. The team reviewed the framework that outlines mental health supports available to students, which include weekly check-ins with students in need of emotional support, peer support, in-house resources and community resources. Other services available include a weekly wellness support group that meets via Zoom and a peer-centered outreach, a club that was student initiated. Ms. Burke spoke about professional

developmental related to mental health and how she supports students who need intensive intervention. The team then responded to questions and comments from board members.

- x The state legislature has finished its session and finalized the state budget, and OSPI and attorneys are working to interpret the impact to school districts. The district continues to review the feedback received regarding its 2021-22 budget and will bring a refined budget to the board to review at its June 9 meeting.
- x Our district, staff and a member of our board received national attention last week after a web post went viral about the book, I Am Jazz about a transgender girl. Many staff have been engaged in responding to inquiries. The national feedback has been mainly negative, with local feedback being more supportive. It has sparked conversations, and staff will continue to engage with families, staff and others who have questions or comments. Baker believes it is important that students and families see themselves in literature.



and attention on this recent matter. She noted that students are watching and learning from us.

4.2 GP-7.2 ±2020-21 Annual Board Agenda, Revised ±general review.

4.3 Annual Affirmative Action Progress Report ±no action needed.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

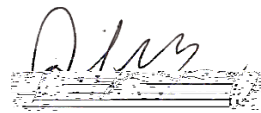
5.1 n/a

6.0 CLOSING ITEMS

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

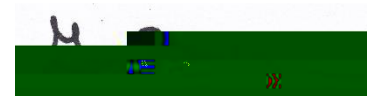
6.2 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Approved:



Jennifer I. Mason, Board President

Attest:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved June 9, 2021

Policy Monitored: Eds 2.1, Part 2, Student Competence  
Date Report Submitted 3/10/2021

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7KH %RDUG KDV UHFHLYHG DQG UHYLHZHG WKH 6XSHULQW  
)ROORZLQJ WKH %RDUG ¶V UHYLHZ DQG GLVFXVVLQRQV ZLWK  
Board makes the following conclusions

Ends Reports:

Policy Monitored: Eds 2.1, Par2

Monitoring Response Document INITIAL COMPILATION

Policy Monitored: EL-6, Academic Standards and Practice

Date Report Submitted 4/14/2021

Date RI % R D U G ↑ V 0 R Q L: 5/12/2020 J 5 H V

Below are my responses in connection with the report

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Ends Reports:

Executive Limitations Reports

CDH:

- x The board acknowledges the hard work the superintendent has done towards implementing hybrid learning experiences.
- x We commend the work done towards mental health and wellness efforts.
- x The board is impressed with the Promise K work. Having eight sites open this year is amazing!

JM:

- x Implementing new online teaching and assessment tools like Dreambox and Lexia to adapt instructional practices and standards to remote/hybrid learning.
- x Increased enrollment in Promise K and becoming a model for other districts in this kind of programming.
- x Massive amount of work by teacher and administrators to open schools remotely and have the technology, knowledge and planning to do so successfully.
- x Continued progress around EDI with the hiring of Dr. Valesca Turner.
- x Overall, 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. Much appreciation for all staff in this effort and the leadership it takes in these major system shifts.

3. Please note areas for additional improvement

4. Comments on the report itself.

KB:

- x





