



LYNDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Lynden School District #504

Ensure that all students graduate college, career, and citizenship ready.

Special Meeting

Minutes

08/31/2023

Lynden School District
Board Room
516 Main Street, Lynden, WA 98264

1. Call to Order, Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

Meeting called to order by CJ Costanti at 7:00pm. Board of Directors in attendance were CJ Costanti, David Vis, Cindy Petersen, and Ken Owsley, and Tonya Hickman. Superintendent David VanderYacht and Student Director Cooper Graddon were also in attendance.

2. Meeting Minutes

David Vis motioned to approve the August 10, 2023, board meeting minutes. Seconded by Ken Owsley. Motion carried by voice vote.

Board Vote: 5-0; Advisory Vote: 1-0

3. Consent Agenda

23/24 General Fund- \$42,299.17 warrants 166909-166931 dated August 15, 2023.

23/24 ASB Fund- \$4,657.69 warrants 166932-166933 dated August 15, 2023.

22/23 General Fund- \$258,742.79 warrants 166934-166985 dated August 15, 2023.

22/23 ASB Fund- \$1,039.88 warrants 166986-166989 dated August 15, 2023.

22/23 ACH- General Fund- \$2,327.57 warrants 222300562-222300569 dated August 15, 2023.

22/23 ACH- ASB Fund- \$846.42 warrants 222300570-222300571 dated August 15, 2023.

Personnel Recommendations dated August 31, 2023

Out of Endorsements- 23/24 dated August 31, 2023

Donations dated August 31, 2023

23/24 Whatcom CTE Dual Credit Consortium

23/24 Interscholastic Activities

23/24 Substitute and Event Worker Salaries



Tonya Hickman motioned to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Ken Owsley Motion carried by voice vote.

Board Vote: 5-0. Advisory Vote: 1-0

4. Information from the Audience

5. Reports

a. Superintendent-

School Finance and Local Funding Initiatives-

Trevor Carlson with Piper Sandler was in attendance to present a tax rate analysis to the board regarding a potential bond. Discussion was held on understanding bond and levy impacts on the community. The presentation included historical information, the mechanics of elections and election results, as well as historical passage rates for levies and bonds. He presented the 2022 and 2023 Washington School Bond Election Results. He also shared historical election results specific to Lynden. He covered the impact of McCleary in 2019 which capped the tax amount increases. Mr. Carlson shared comparable tax rates with other districts in Whatcom County. He then gave an overview of bonds and capital project levies which included what each can be used for, the difference between the two, and the voting requirements for passing each of them.

His presentation continued with information on interest rates, tax-exempt yield curves, and assessed value. He concluded his presentation by sharing projected tax rate impacts based on different bond amounts.

b. Teaching and Learning

c. Finance and Operations

6. Board Workshop

Superintendent VanderYacht gave a brief introduction regarding capital facilities work. This included a brief description of the work that has been done by three separate community facility planning groups- a facility planning committee, a long range facilities planning committee, and a bond planning task force. He shared the goals, mission, and results of each group that have previously been submitted to the board.

The discussion tonight focused on the bond planning task force. A recommendation of a bond resolution was presented to the board on August 10th. Superintendent VanderYacht briefly summarized the key findings of the bond planning task force.

Director Costanti facilitated a board discussion focused on scope (needs of district), timing (campaign, election, design, construction), and costs (value proposition for our students, families, and the community) of a bond resolution. The board discussed the scope of work vs. cost. A question was asked about whether we should consider not including the elementary



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schools in this bond, thereby asking the community to approve a lower cost. The BPTF felt very strongly that our increasing enrollment patterns at the elementary schools needs to be addressed immediately and included in this bond. We currently have 25 portables in the district, and 18 of those are at two elementary schools.

Director Vis made several comments on the scope of work and whether we could cut some items off of the list. He suggested considering paying for some of those projects with the district's operating budget instead so we can use that money toward a bigger high school with more square footage.

One member of the group clarified that decommissioning Judson Hall and converting the old gym at Fisher to a district warehouse were not in their original scope of work.

Further discussion was held about what our community tax payers would be willing to pay.

The Board had lengthy discussion on education and providing information to the community that is clear and transparent.

Ashley McClaran was also in attendance and shared information on construction management models.

The board then discussed timing- most agreed that late September or early October would be ideal for approval of a bond resolution. The time needed to form a Citizens Group to promote the bond and have time to get information out to the community is essential. September 28th is a possibility for resolution if the plan is to move forward with putting a bond on the February 2024 ballot.

General consensus was that there is no interest in delaying the timing or significantly adjusting the recommendation of the Bond Planning Task Force.

7. Public Comment

The public was invited to provide comments and feedback regarding the capital facilities discussion that they observed during the board workshop.

A community member discussed the importance of asking for the full amount so that we can accomplish what needs to be done. That will need to include reaching out to community members that have students in Lynden Christian.

A community member and BPTF member clarified that the building conditions are not going away or getting better. The board will need to work fast. These needs are immediate. Outreach to the community should include PTA meetings, senior center, and attendance of community meetings such as Kiwanis and Lions Club.

A community member expressed appreciation to the bond planning task force for their work and the level of detail they included in their report. He also appreciated the board asking questions that were fiscally responsible. He expressed the importance of coming up with a plan and the



creation of a committee to help pass this bond. He also expressed the importance of a backup plan if it fails.

Superintendent VanderYacht shared that there are community members who have reached out with interest in leading the citizens group. Clarification was given by Ashley McClaran regarding communication about the bond to the community before the resolution has been adopted by the board and confirmed this is allowed within certain parameters.

A community member shared information on the economy and RCW's and WAC's regarding state-funded schools. She also shared ideas on how the district may be able to save money in their operating budget.

A community member acknowledged the support of our community for education. He also wanted to make the board aware of the plans of local private schools that will be happening simultaneously with the district's bond resolution.

8. Information from Board Members

The Board discussed the upcoming WSSDA General Assembly scheduled for September 22-23rd. Director Hickman will be attending the event virtually.

She shared her goals as the legislative representative for the district. She asked the board members to read the General Assembly handbook and decide on what measures the board would like to vote on. She expressed that this is a big opportunity for us to have a voice. Further discussion regarding General Assembly will be on the agenda for the 9/14 board meeting.

9. Adjourn Meeting to go into Closed Session

CJ Costanti motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:47pm.

10. Closed Session

An update was provided to the board regarding the collective bargaining negotiations.

CJ Costanti, President

David VanderYacht, Superintendent