



# LYNDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Lynden School District #504

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

## Board Meeting

### Minutes

09/28/2023

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, Ken Owsley, Cindy Petersen, and Tonya Hickman. Superintendent David VanderYacht and Student Board Representatives Kyle Tucker and Cooper Graddon were also in attendance.*

#### 2. Meeting Minutes

*David Vis motioned to approve the September 14, 2023 board meeting minutes. Seconded by Cindy Petersen. Motion carried by voice vote.  
Board Vote: 5-0. Advisory Vote: 2-0.*

#### 3. Consent Agenda

*22/23 General Fund- \$141,687.22; warrants 167113-167157 dated September 15, 2023.  
22/23 Capital Projects Fund- \$1,916.00; warrants 167158-167158 dated September 15, 2023.  
22/23 ASB Fund- \$15,115.39; warrants 167159-167166 dated September 15, 2023  
23/24 General Fund- \$266,450.67 warrants 167167-167210 dated September 15, 2023.  
23/24 ASB Fund \$20,607.84; warrants 167211-167223 dated September 15, 2023.  
23/24 ACH General Fund- \$2,062.09; warrants 232400001-232400013 dated September 15, 2023.  
23/24 ACH ASB Fund- \$525.07; warrants 232400014-232400015 dated September 15, 2023.  
Personnel Recommendations dated September 28, 2023.  
Interlocal Agreements- Teacher of the Visually Impaired:  
Nooksack Valley SD, Meridian SD, Blaine SD, and Mount Baker SD*



*David Vis motioned to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Cindy Petersen. Motion carried by voice vote.*

*Board Vote: 5-0. Advisory Vote: 2-0.*

#### **4. Reports**

a. Superintendent

b. Teaching and Learning

*Transitional Bilingual Instructional Education Program*

*Molly Mitchell, Director of Human Resources, shared a presentation with the board about the Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program. It was explained that funds are provided by the state to ensure educational opportunities for students whose primary language is something other than English. The Lynden SD uses those funds to supplement the education program to assist students in attaining English proficiency and meet the State's academic learning standards. Resources are used for program staffing, supplemental instructional materials, and professional development. The presentation also included projected estimates of qualifying students in each building and estimated grant allocation for the 23/24 school year.*

c. Finance and Operations

*Annual Policy Reports*

*Policy 6801- Capital Assets*

*A report was provided to the board, as required by Policy 6801, identifying equipment not accounted for in the annual inventory. It was noted the district did not require and/or dispose of any capital assets during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2023.*

*Policy 6500- Risk Management*

*A report was provided to the board, as required by Policy 6500, regarding the status of the risk management program. It was noted that the district maintains comprehensive property & liability coverage via the Washington School Risk Management Pool (WSRMP).*

#### **5. Information from the Audience**

- *A community member addressed the board about the bond and his concerns with the impact on financially struggling households.*
- *A community member spoke as a representative of the Northwest Carpenters Union workers in support of the bond and noted that construction costs will only go up. He further stated that in comparison to the recently built Ferndale High School, the estimated cost to build a new Lynden High School seems reasonable.*



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- *A community member discussed his property tax statements and what bonds are already being assessed. Even though he supports the program, he is concerned that there has been no communication about the bond and why it is needed.*
- *A community member spoke as a representative of the Northwest Laborers Union 292 in support of the bond.*
- *A community member addressed the board about some information she has learned about students withdrawing from public schools in large numbers and the same-gender physical sexual relationship that stemmed from it. She asked whether there is a cat litter box in the bathroom at the high school. She asked how many 3<sup>rd</sup> graders cannot read. She asked about how many students are doing drugs at school. She would like to know if there is a dress code and whether pride-themed clothes are allowed. She also expressed that she doesn't agree with the spending of monies to hire a person to guide the board on funding initiatives.*
- *A community member said that he is glad that there is now a long term facilities plan in place so that we will know when we need to ask for another bond and it won't be a surprise in the future. He added that it will only get more expensive if we wait to build a new high school.*
- *A community member indicated he thought that a school being 40 years old is not a good reason to replace it and that if we do replace a school we need to be thinking about longevity.*
- *A community member expressed that building a new school and being taxed on assessed value of his property seems like a lot of money since he bought his house many years ago for a much lower cost. He also expressed his concerns with the unknowns like where will the high school go and what are we going to do with the students?*
- *A member of the bond planning task force explained that the recommendation provided to the board was a well-thought decision and that there are numerous reasons why we need to rebuild the high school. He also expressed the many benefits to the community such as giving our kids an education they deserve so they can improve their lives and the community in the future. He encouraged the board to focus on the value.*
- *A bond planning task force member and parent expressed that he is concerned about his current high schooler and her emotional well-being given the lack of space for her and her friends to connect and feel safe on campus. He is also an educator and expressed the benefits of expanding the opportunities for career and technical education classes, specifically for kids that may be struggling academically. This would give them a place to belong and thrive.*

## 6. Policies

### a. First Readings

*Policy 3207- Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying of Students  
No action taken on this policy.*

*Policy 6212- Charge Cards  
No action taken on this policy.*



*Policy 6220- Bid or Request for Proposal Requirements*

*No action taken at this meeting.*

*Board Vote: 5-0. Advisory Vote: 2-0.*

*b. Second Readings*

*Policy 5051- Hiring of District Administrators*

*Cindy Petersen motioned to approve updated Policy 5051. Seconded by Tonya Hickman.*

*Motion carried by voice vote.*

*Board Vote: 5-0. Advisory Vote: 2-0.*

**7. Action Items**

*Resolution #10-23- General Obligation Bond*

*Superintendent VanderYacht presented Resolution #10-23 for board consideration which authorizes a bond ballot proposition in the amount of \$157,500,000 to be placed on the February 13, 2024, ballot.*

*David Vis made a motion to approve Resolution #10-23 authorizing a bond ballot proposition of \$157,500,000 be placed on the February 13, 2024 ballot as presented. Seconded by Ken Owsley. Motion carried by voice vote.*

*Board Vote: 4-1. Advisory Vote: 2-0. Director Hickman opposed.*

*Approval of the 23/24 Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program Grant*

*Following the Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program presentation earlier in the meeting, David Vis motioned to approve the 23/24 transitional bilingual instructional program grant. Seconded by Ken Owsley. Motion carried by voice vote.*

*Board Vote: 5-0. Advisory Vote: 2-0.*

*Interlocal Agreement- Whatcom County- Behavioral Health*

*David Vis motioned to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Whatcom County for Behavioral Health services. Seconded by Ken Owsley. Motion carried by voice vote.*

*Board Vote: 5-0. Advisory Vote: 2-0.*

*Interlocal Agreement- Meridian School District- Transportation*

*Ken Owsley motioned to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Meridian School District for transportation services. Seconded by Cindy Petersen. Motion carried by voice vote.*

*Board Vote: 5-0. Advisory Vote: 2-0.*

*Union Contract Ratification*



*Ken Owsley motioned to ratify the union contract with the Lynden Education Association (LEA).  
Seconded by David Vis. Motion carried by voice vote.  
Board Vote: 5-0; Advisory Vote: 2-0.*

**8. Information from Board Directors**

*Summary of WSSDA General Assembly*

*Tonya Hickman shared about her experience at WSSDA General Assembly that she attended virtually on September 22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> and provided feedback for how to participate moving forward. Discussion was also held about forming a committee for next year.*

**9. Adjourn Meeting**

*CJ Costanti motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:13pm.*

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CJ Costanti, President

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David VanderYacht, Superintendent