



# LYNDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Lynden School District #504

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

## Board Meeting

### Minutes

02/15/2024

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 Tonya Hickman at 7:00pm. Board of Directors in attendance were Directors Hickman, Owsley, Brar, Martinez, and Verburg. Superintendent David VanderYacht and Student Board Representatives Kyle Tucker and Cooper Graddon were also in attendance.*

#### 2. Meeting Minutes

*Director Verburg motioned to approve the February 3, 2024 board meeting minutes. Seconded by Director Owsley. Motion carried by voice vote.  
Advisory Vote: 2-0; Board Vote: 5-0.*

*Director Brar motioned to approve the February 8, 2024 board meeting minutes. Seconded by Director Owsley. Motion carried by voice vote.  
Advisory Vote: 2-0; Board Vote: 5-0.*

#### 3. Consent Agenda

*Personnel Recommendations dated February 15, 2024.  
Donations- 02.15.24*

*Director Owsley motioned to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Director Brar. Motion carried by voice vote.  
Advisory Vote: 2-0; Board Vote: 5-0.*



#### **4. Information from the Audience**

*A community member/staff member/parent/Citizens for Lynden Schools member read a letter to the board regarding the bond that was not approved by voters during the February 13<sup>th</sup> election. She requested that the board be actively involved in moving forward with putting the bond back on the ballot in a future election.*

*A community member addressed the board regarding lack of support of the bond and expressed that he would like the bond to be presented to the community again with the board's active support.*

*A community member addressed the board expressing that the bond is not 'if' but 'when'. She asked that the board put the bond back on the ballot as soon as possible. She expressed thanks for the work done by the citizens group and asked the board for more help. She then expressed thanks to Tim Metz and Ben Thomas for their presentation at Vossbeck elementary regarding safety plans and protocols that are being implemented.*

*A community member addressed the board and reiterated that we do not need to apologize for wanting the best for our community's kids. He shared that there is a deficiency in education and that the community has indicated that safety & security has been the most important deficiency noted. He stated that we need to address the lack of safety immediately by putting the bond back on a future ballot.*

*A community member expressed that the bond should be put out to vote again as soon as possible and encouraged the board to be unified on good things for the schools. He asked that the board not change the ask- all of the items included in the bond are needed.*

*Members of the board expressed their thanks to the audience members for speaking about their concerns and desires for the future of the schools.*

#### **5. Reports**

##### **a. Superintendent**

*Superintendent VanderYacht shared information about the special election results. He expressed appreciation to the board of directors for their support in releasing information regarding the needs of our students and staff. He also thanked the Citizens for Lynden Schools group and their exceptional investment of energy and time for the students of Lynden leading up to the election. He shared that we received 57.1% approval for the operations levy. This was the first opportunity for the community to vote on the current services being provided by the district since COVID.*



*He shared that the bond did not pass with only 50.98% of voter approval- bonds need a 60% + 1 approval. He encouraged the board to come up with plan and path to discuss publicly the pros and cons of putting it back out to vote and whether to make adjustments to the bond amount and what projects it would cover. Discussion was held on dates and deadlines for future elections. Board members directed the superintendent to schedule a special meeting on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30am to discuss whether and when to pursue putting the bond back out for voting by the community. They also expressed an interest in including public comment during that meeting.*

*Director of Student Services, Tim Metz, presented the board with information on the district's nursing services. Also in attendance were nursing staff members Kathy Dodson, Aimee Speer, and Amber Spidell. Information presented included key responsibilities of school nurses, a summary of the scope of work provided by school nursing staff, and student data regarding students who are being served by district nursing staff. Mr. Metz also explained that the team is currently reviewing all board policies and procedures related to student health services and there will be some updates needed that will be presented to the board in the coming weeks. Discussion was held regarding authorization to administer medication, and the prevalence of and preparation for the opioid crisis. Discussion was also held regarding the mental health portion of their job responsibilities as well as whether parents are made aware of health concerns and protocols involving their child.*

- b. Teaching & Learning
- c. Finance and Operations

*Director of Finance & Operations, Ben Thomas, presented the board with information on the annual budget forecast for 23/24 as well as an update on the January 31, 2024 month-end close. He also reminded the board about the audit exit interview scheduled for Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

## **6. Action Items**

### Overnight/Out-of-State Trip Request

*Director Martinez motioned to approve the overnight and out-of-state trip request submitted by LHS Vice Principal, David Kish, for an AVID field trip to several colleges in eastern Washington and a college in Idaho on April 17-19, 2024. Seconded by Director Owsley. Motion carried by voice vote.*

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

## **7. Legislative Update**

*Director Hickman provided the board with updates on the current legislative session. She explained that she submitted a letter to legislators to provide written testimony on SB 5462*



*which would effect local control. Superintendent VanderYacht submitted a letter to legislation regarding SB 2494 which would increase state funding. Director Verburg will consider sending written testimony on 2494 as well. Director Hickman encouraged attendees to pay attention to bills regarding local control and share thoughts with legislators when appropriate. Director Brar shared that a town hall meeting with Senator Shewmake, Rep. Rule, and Rep. Timmons is scheduled for this weekend in Ferndale and encouraged community members to attend.*

*Superintendent VanderYacht explained that he has been working with Director Hickman on advocacy as the board's legislative representative. He encouraged the board to publicly discuss their positions regarding specific bills and being transparent in that process.*

*Following the conclusion of the legislative session, Director Hickman expressed interest in the board spending time and energy with WSSDA positions leading up to the General Assembly.*

#### **8. Information from Board Members**

*Director Owsley shared about his experience visiting Fisher Elementary today and observing interventions and WIN (What I Need) time. He applauded the staff on the work they are doing and the means by which they are tracking each student's progress.*

*Following the recent board retreat, discussion was then held regarding board meeting logistics and communications which included the development of adopting new and/or updated board policies. He recommended focusing on the content of the policies first, and then if writing conventions are needed, we address those during revisions between the first and second readings. Amendments should be proposed through individual motions during a second reading if needed and then a vote would take place, or moved to a third reading. Directors coming prepared ahead of time with suggested amendments is necessary for efficiency.*

*Discussion then continued regarding meeting minutes and how to add particular details and specific action items suggested by individual directors during meetings. Superintendent VanderYacht explained that during informational reports, Robert's Rules recommends that suggestions/questions by board members not be included in board meeting minutes and that only items listed as "action items" on the agenda should be entered into record through the minutes.*

*Superintendent VanderYacht shared areas that have come up post Bond Planning Task Force that may need to be addressed and brought to the board for action. Those needs include the pursuit of Impact Fees which will include the need to update our long-range capital facilities*



*plan, playground and technology needs at Lynden Academy, appropriately rated playground equipment for early learning, and options for construction delivery methods.*

*Discussion was held regarding Key Performance Indicators. The board expressed interest in revisiting those in greater depth than time allowed at the board retreat.*

*Discussion was held regarding legalities of individual board members expressing their personal opinions regarding ballot initiatives and legislative bills on social media.*

**9. Adjourn Meeting**

*Director Hickman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm.*

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Tonya Hickman, President

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David VanderYacht, Superintendent