



Lynden School District #504

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

Board Meeting

Minutes

01/08/2026

Lynden School District Office Boardroom
516 Main Street, Lynden, WA 98264

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

Meeting called to order by Director Verburg at 6:30pm. Board of Directors in attendance were Directors Verburg, Martinez, Hickman, and Sawka. Director Brar was absent with prior notice. Superintendent David VanderYacht and Student Board Representatives Ashley Acton and Sebastian Uribe were also in attendance.

2. Approval of Agenda

*Director Hickman made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Director Sawka. Motion carried by voice vote.
Board Vote: 4-0*

3. Meeting Minutes

*Director Sawka motioned to approve the December 11, 2025 board meeting minutes. Seconded by Director Hickman. Motion carried by voice vote.
Board Vote: 4-0*

4. Consent Agenda

*25/26 General Fund: \$523,265.72; warrants 173554-173669 dated December 19, 2025
25/26 Capital Projects Fund: \$99,517.64; warrants 173670-173671 dated December 19, 2025
25/26 ASB Fund: \$51,627.85; warrants 173672-173706 dated December 19, 2025
25/26 Custodial Fund: \$340.57; warrants 173707-173707 dated December 19, 2025
25/26 ACH- General Fund: \$5,888.79; warrants 252600117-252600142 dated December 19, 2025
25/26 ACH- ASB Fund: \$1,830.06; warrants 252600143-2526000149 dated December 19, 2025
Payroll Direct Deposits in the amount of \$2,430,353.60 dated December 19, 2025
Payroll Taxes Transfers in the amount of \$830,363.98 dated December 19, 2025*



Payroll Vendor DRS Transfer in the amount of \$546,796.22 dated December 19, 2025
Payroll Vendor Warrants #173708-173727 in the amount of \$838,774.45 dated December 19, 2025
Personnel Recommendations dated January 8, 2026
Donations- January 8, 2026

Director Martinez motioned to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Director Sawka.
Motion carried by voice vote.
Board Vote: 4-0

5. Information from the Audience

None

6. Information from Board Directors and Student Representatives

Director Hickman shared that she will be submitting her resignation in the near future. She expressed her thanks to Superintendent VanderYacht, her fellow board members, and the staff for their work in serving the students of our community.

Director Martinez shared that he visited Ferndale School District with Director Sawka to learn about the implementation of their cell phone policy.

Director Sawka shared about the Fund Schools Now event held on January 6th. He also expressed an interest in livestreaming board meetings.

Jan 29 – legislative day on the hill. Considering.

Student Board Representative Sebastian Uribe shared that students returned to school this week after winter break.

Student Board Representative Ashley Acton expressed interest in being involved in cell phone policy. She also shared that Tolo will occur on January 17th. Additionally, finals are happening in the next few weeks- there will be one more Saturday homework help before the end of the semester.

7. Reports

a. Superintendent

Presentation- Be The One

Dennis and Nancy McHarness shared information with the board on the Be The One mentoring program. Three mentors were also present to share their experience in



mentoring students at the high school and middle school.

- b. Teaching & Learning
None

- c. Finance and Operations
Presentation- Safety & Security

Jake Leland and Ben Thomas presented an update to the board on activities related to safety & security.

Finance Report- November 2025

Director of Finance & Operations, Ben Thomas provided a financial report for November 2025 which included an executive summary, enrollment, budget status, and revenue & expenditures, and projection.

8. Policies

- a. *First Readings*
Policy 1733- Board Compensation
Moved to second reading.

- b. *Second Readings*
Policy 1620- Board-Superintendent Relations
Director Martinez made a motion to approve updated Policy 1620- Board-Superintendent Relations. Seconded by Director Sawka. Motion carried by voice vote. Advisory Vote: 2-0; Board Vote: 4-0

Director Sawka motioned to take a 5-minute recess. Director Verburg seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. Board Vote: 3-1. Martinez opposed.

9. Action Items

Approval of 2026 Board Committees

Director Sawka motioned to establish a Board Communications Committee. Seconded by Director Hickman. Motion not carried. Advisory Vote: 0-2; Board Vote: 1-2. Hickman and Verburg opposed. Martinez abstained.

Director Hickman motioned to approve the 2026 Board Committees as presented in the packet.



*This would include Finance, Facilities, Teaching & Learning, Superintendent Evaluation, and Legislative committees. Seconded by Director Martinez. Motion carried by voice vote.
Advisory Vote: 2-0; Board Vote: 4-0*

Approval of 2026 Board Meeting Schedule

Director Hickman motioned to continue with the current meeting schedule of first and third Thursdays at 6:30pm. Seconded by Director Sawka.

Director Hickman motioned to amend the regular board meeting schedule to the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 6:30pm (excluding December, July, and August which will remain unchanged as currently set). Seconded by Director Sawka.

Director Martinez motioned to table this item until the January 22nd meeting. Director Sawka seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Advisory Vote: 2-0; Board Vote: 4-0

10. Executive Session

at 9:25pm, President Verburg announced that the board would be meeting in executive session to discuss the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 until 9:45pm.

At 9:45pm Director Verburg announced that the executive session would be extended until 9:50pm.

11. Call Regular Meeting Back to Order

Director Verburg called the regular meeting back to order at 9:50pm.

12. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business, Director Verburg motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:50pm.

Jim Verburg, President

David VanderYacht, Superintendent