



LYNDEN

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Lynden School District #504

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

Board Meeting

Minutes

12/11/2025

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

2. Oath of Office

Superintendent VanderYacht administered the Oath of Office to newly elected board director Nick Sawka.

3. Approval of Agenda

Director Martinez motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Director Sawka. Motion carried by voice vote.

Board Vote: 5-0

4. Meeting Minutes

Director Brar motioned to approve the November 6, 2025 board meeting minutes. Seconded by Director Martinez. Motion carried by voice vote.

Board Vote: 3-0; Hickman and Sawka abstained

5. Annual Organization Meeting

President:

Director Verburg called for nominations for president to serve a one-year term. Director Martinez nominated Director Verburg to serve as president. Seconded by Director Hickman. Director Verburg accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

Roll call vote:

Sawka- yay

Hickman- yay

Martinez- yay



Brar- yay
Verburg-yay

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Motion carried by roll call vote. Director Verburg will serve a one-year term as board president.

Vice President:

Director Verburg called for nominations for vice-president to serve a one-year term. Director Hickman nominated Director Martinez to serve as vice president. Seconded by Director Verburg. Director Martinez accepted the nomination. Director Sawka nominated Director Brar for vice-president. Seconded by Director Brar. Director Brar accepted the nomination.

Roll Call Vote:

*Sawka- Brar
Hickman- Martinez
Martinez- Martinez
Brar- Brar
Verburg- Martinez*

Motion carried by roll call vote. Director Martinez will serve a one-year term as vice president.

Legislative Representative:

Director Verburg noted that this position is usually a two-year term, but due to an update in Policy 1210 approved by the board in June of 2025, it was agreed at that time that Director Hickman could choose to serve an additional year as legislative representative until December 2026, or the board could elect a new legislative representative tonight to serve a one-year term. President Verburg then shared that Director Hickman would like to continue serving in this role. As a result, no vote was taken.

6. Consent Agenda

*25/26 General Fund- \$361,342.20; warrants 173339-173433 dated November 14, 2025.
25/26 Capital Projects Fund- \$153,563.28; warrants 173434-173434 dated November 14, 2025.
25/26 ASB Fund- \$6,214.99; warrants 173435-173453 dated November 14, 2025.
25/26 Transportation Fund- \$116,979.61; warrants 173454-173454 dated November 14, 2025.
25/26 ACH General Fund- \$4,552.14; warrants 252600083-252600100 dated November 14, 2025.*



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25/26 ACH ASB Fund- \$291.98; warrants 252600101-252600104 dated November 14, 2025.

25/26 General Fund- \$247,094.22; warrants 173474-173536 dated November 26, 2025.

25/26 ASB Fund- \$17,552.84; warrants 173537-173553 dated November 26, 2025.

25/26 ACH General Fund- \$1,367.97; warrants 252600105-252600113 dated November 26, 2025.

25/26 ACH ASB Fund- \$552.85; warrants 252600114-252600116 dated November 26, 2025.

Payroll Direct Deposits in the amount of \$2,469,137.15 dated November 26, 2025.

Payroll Taxes Transfers in the amount of \$834,465.32 dated November 26, 2025.

Payroll Vendor DRS Transfer in the amount of \$546,224.78 dated November 26, 2025.

Payroll Vendor Warrants #173455-173473 in the amount of \$838,871.10 dated November 26, 2025.

Personnel Recommendations dated December 11, 2025.

Out of Endorsements- 2025/2026

Overnight Field Trip Request- Community Transitions

Director Hickman motioned to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Director Brar. Motion carried by voice vote.

Board Vote: 5-0

7. Information from the Audience

A community member addressed the board regarding impact fees, the local flooding, and the proposed levy.

8. Information from Board Directors & Student Representatives

Director Martinez shared about the board's attendance at the WSSDA conference and his key takeaways.

Director Verburg also shared his key takeaways from the WSSDA conference.

Director Brar shared about her experience at the law pre-conference she attended at the WSSDA conference. She also inquired about whether we can ask attendees who address the board to state their address.

Director Sawka expressed his thanks for being voted to serve on the board and shared a brief vision of his work with the board.

Student Board Representative Ashley Acton shared updates related to LHS and students.

9. Reports

Teaching & Learning

Dr. Julie van Wijk and Michelle Nilsen presented information to the board about the district's teaching & learning framework and teacher evaluation process.



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Finance & Operations

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

10. Board Workshop

Board-Superintendent Operating Principles 2025/2026

The board continued discussion on the development of the Board-Superintendent Operating Principles for 2025/2026 which will be used as a guiding document for their collaborative work.

Resolution #15-25: Facilities, Safety & Technology Levy

Superintendent VanderYacht and Director Verburg facilitated discussion on how to address the district's facility needs through a potential capital levy.

11. Public Comment- Resolution #15-25: Facilities, Safety & Technology Levy

A community member shared support of the proposed levy.

A community member shared concerns that voter fatigue should be considered, but supports the levy in general.

A community member posed the question about whether there have been any studies on the reasons the last three bond attempts have not reached the required threshold.

12. Action Items

Resolution #15-25: Facilities, Safety & Technology Levy

Director Hickman motioned to approve Resolution #15-25: Facilities, Safety & Technology Levy. Seconded by Director Sawka. Motion not carried.

Advisory Vote: 0-1: Acton opposed; Board Vote: 2-3; Brar, Martinez, and Verburg opposed.

Approval of For and Against Committees

Director Verburg motioned to strike this item from the agenda due to Resolution #15-25 not being passed. Director Brar seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Board Vote: 4-0. Martinez abstained.

Director Brar motioned for a 5-minute break. Director Martinez seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Board Vote: 5-0

Student Board Representative Ashley Acton exited the meeting.



13. Policy

First Reading

- *Policy 1620- Board-Superintendent Relations*
Moved to second reading.

Second Readings

- *Policy 1210- Annual Organizational Meeting*
Director Brar motioned to approve updated Policy 1210- Annual Organizational Meeting.
Seconded by Director Sawka. Motion carried by voice vote.
Board Vote: 5-0
- *Policy 2170- Career and Technical Education*
Director Martinez motioned to approve updated Policy 2170- Career and Technical Education.
Seconded by Director Sawka. Motion carried by voice vote.
Board Vote: 4-0; Brar abstained.
- *Policy 3230- Searches of Students and Student Privacy*
Director Brar motioned to amend Policy 3230 by removing the sentence that begins with "State law provides that at certain ages, students attain the right to decide for themselves what records will remain confidential...." from its current location and inserting the following revised sentence as the first sentence of a new paragraph immediately after that section: "State law provides that at certain ages, children attain the right to consent to certain healthcare services."
Seconded by Director Sawka. Motion carried by voice vote.
Board Vote 5-0

Director Brar motioned to amend Policy 3230 by removing the paragraph that begins with "Students over fourteen years of age have the right to...." from its current location and inserting the following revised language in the paragraph immediately after that section: "Students fourteen and over have rights to testing or treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. Students thirteen and over have rights to drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment. As such, the treatment records associated with the testing and treatment of drug, alcohol and sexually transmitted diseases remain confidential and may not be disclosed by a health care provider without the patient's authorization. Additionally, state law provides for family planning and abortion rights for all individuals."
Seconded by Director Martinez. Motion carried by voice vote.
Board Vote 5-0

Director Brar motioned to amend Policy 3230 by adding the following paragraphs:

"The Lynden School District is not a healthcare facility or provider. The Lynden School District does not provide health care services such as abortion, family planning, drug,



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alcohol or mental health treatment as well as testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.”

“The Lynden School District is subject to FERPA.”

“Parents/guardians have the right under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to request their student’s educational records and, if requested, the District will provide the student’s educational records to the parent/guardian according to Policy 3231 and Procedures 3231P.”

“Under FERPA, education records are records that are directly related to a student and that are maintained by an educational agency or institution or a party acting for or on behalf of the agency or institution. These records include but are not limited to grades, transcripts, class lists, students course schedules, health records (at the K-12 level), student financial information (at the postsecondary level), and student discipline files. The information may be recorded in any way, including, but not limited to, handwriting, print, computer media, videotape, audiotape, film, microfilm, microfiche, and e-mail.”

Seconded by Director Martinez. Motion carried by voice vote.

Board Vote 5-0

Director Brar motioned to approve updated Policy 3230- Searches of Students and Student Privacy as amended. Seconded by Director Sawka. Motion carried by voice vote.
Board Vote: 5-0

14. Action Item

Approval of Board-Superintendent Operating Principles

Director Martinez motioned to approve the Board-Superintendent Operating Principles for 2025/2026. Seconded by Director Hickman. Motion carried by voice vote.

Board Vote: 5-0

15. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business, Director Verburg motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 pm.

Jim Verburg, President

David VanderYacht, Superintendent