



# LYNDEN

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 6:30 PM

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

#### 1. Call to Order Regular Meeting, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

*Meeting called to order by Director Verburg at 6:37pm. Board of Directors in attendance were Directors Verburg, Martinez, Brar, and Sawka. Superintendent David VanderYacht and Student Board Representatives Ashley Acton and Sebastian Uribe were also in attendance.*

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda.

*Moved by: Khush Brar*

*Seconded by: Nick Sawka*

**Yes** Jim Verburg, Danny Martinez, Khush Brar, and Nick Sawka

**Carried 4-0**

#### 3. Good News

- The district was awarded a \$150,000 grant to install early learning bathrooms at Isom Elementary. Our goal is to have those installed by the start of the 2026/2027 school year.*
- Fisher students are making great use of the PBIS student store! Tevaya Johnson earned enough Lion Tickets through her safe,*

*respectful, and responsible behavior to become Principal for a (half) Day! Tevaya shadowed Mrs. Long and learned how the principal supports both students and staff. She joined meetings, shared her ideas, helped problem-solve, and supported the school as a whole. We appreciate Tevaya's insight and leadership- well done!*

- *Lynden Academy is celebrating community helpers this month by welcoming special guests who are sharing how they serve and support our community. K-5 students are meeting with guest speakers in small groups, while middle and high school students are hearing from guests during lunch. We are so grateful to our community helpers for taking the time to connect with our students.*
- *Bernice Vossbeck Elementary just wrapped up their winter data days where grade-level teams sat down and talked through every single student by name, celebrating growth in reading and math and digging into what comes next. That work directly shapes the next round of WIN (What I Need) time, so supports are very intentional and responsive. It's a great example of how deeply the staff knows their students and how committed they are to making sure every child gets exactly what they need.*
- *In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Lynden High School students attended a powerful assembly led by the new Que Onda Club, highlighting the theme of belonging and the idea that there is always more to a person than what we see on the surface. Student speakers connected the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with leaders like Cesar Chavez and challenged the school community to choose curiosity over judgment through small acts of service. The assembly was meaningful and student-centered, showcasing the courage and voice of students with their peers.*
- *Bernice Vossbeck Elementary students have been learning what it means to persevere in their counseling specialist period and in the classroom. Perseverance is the Character Strong word of the month and it has been great seeing the students growing and developing their willingness to persevere through challenges!*
- *Lynden Middle School's staff recently reviewed discipline data and noted a few positive trends:*
  - *92% of LMS students have only zero or one referral during the first trimester.*
  - *When compared to the same period last year, they had a 5.6% decrease in behavior referrals.*

*This is credit to a strong Tier I program (PBIS) being implemented with fidelity by all staff members at LMS. We appreciate their efforts to build a positive school culture!*

**4. [Meeting Minutes- January 8, 2026](#)**

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 8, 2026.

*Moved by:* Nick Sawka

*Seconded by:* Danny Martinez

**Yes** Jim Verburg, Danny Martinez, Khush Brar, and Nick Sawka

**Carried 4-0**

**5. Consent Agenda**

Motion to approve consent agenda.

*Moved by:* Nick Sawka

*Seconded by:* Khush Brar

**Yes** Jim Verburg, Danny Martinez, Khush Brar, and Nick Sawka

**Carried 4-0**

5.1 [AP/Payroll- January 15, 2026](#)

5.2 [Personnel Recommendations- January 22, 2026](#)

5.3 [Donation- Be The One](#)

5.4 [PO# 1212500077- Havenwood](#)

5.5 [Acknowledgement of Resignation- Tonya Hickman](#)

**6. Information from the Audience**

*A community member addressed the board in support of livestreaming board meetings.*

*A community member addressed the board regarding civility during public comment.*

**7. [Information from Board Directors & Student Representatives](#)**

*Director Brar shared that Chehalis School District conducted a parent survey regarding the academic calendar.*

*Director Brar informed the board that Initiative IL 26-638 to support girls sports got certified today. She has also been sending weekly legislative reports to the full board.*

*Director Brar shared that she discussed opt out forms with Superintendent VanderYacht earlier this week.*

*Director Sawka shared that he reviewed the middle school social studies curriculum this week during the community viewing opportunity.*

*Student Board Representative Ashley Acton shared that today is the last day of the first semester. She also met with Director Martinez about the high school's cell phone policy earlier today.*

*Student Board Representative Sebastian Uribe shared that the Knowledge Bowl team is currently the top team in the 2A Region. Sebastian also shared that there has been a decrease in access to teacher's classrooms when they are not there. He informed the board that the FBLA leadership conference is this weekend in Stanwood and that the Prince of Egypt musical will be performed by the LHS theater department in February.*

## **8. Reports**

### **Superintendent**

#### **8.1 [Board Vacancy Process and Timelines](#)**

*Superintendent VanderYacht provided details on the process and timeline to appoint a new director due to Director Hickman's resignation.*

#### **8.2 [Disclosure of Conflict of Interest](#)**

*Pursuant to Board Policy 1610, Superintendent VanderYacht informed the board that Director Sawka's spouse is employed by the district under the Lynden Classified Employees Association collective bargaining agreement and noted he will*

*be unable to vote on the authorization, approval, or ratification of any contract in which he is beneficially interested.*

## **Finance & Operations**

### **8.3 Presentation- Technology & Transportation**

*Shane Stanfill and Mark Brossow presented information to the board about the district's transportation and technology departments.*

### **8.4 Finance Report- December 2025**

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

## **9. 2026 Board Committee Assignments**

*President Verburg announced his appointment of the following directors to the board committees that were approved on January 8, 2026:*

- *Facilities- Sawka & Martinez*
- *Finance- Verburg & Martinez*
- *Teaching & Learning- Sawka & Brar*
- *Superintendent Evaluation- Verburg*
- *Legislative- Brar*

## **10. Action Items**

### **10.1 Election of Legislative Representative**

*Due to Director Hickman's resignation, a new legislative representative will need to be elected to serve the remainder of her term until December 2026.*

*Director Sawka motioned to nominate Director Brar to serve as the legislative representative. Seconded by Director Martinez. Director Brar accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made.*

*Motion to elect Director Brar to serve as legislative representative until December 2026.*

*Moved by:* Nick Sawka  
*Seconded by:* Danny Martinez

**Yes** Jim Verburg, Danny Martinez, Khush Brar, and Nick Sawka

**Carried 4-0**

10.2 [2026 Board Meeting Schedule](#) 

*Motion to amend the regular meeting schedule to 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month with exception to December, July, and August which will remain single-meeting months as noted in current Board Policy 1400.*

*Moved by:* Nick Sawka  
*Seconded by:* Khush Brar

**Yes** Jim Verburg, Danny Martinez, Khush Brar, and Nick Sawka

**Carried 4-0**

## 11. Policy

### First Readings

11.1 [Policy 1400- Meeting Conduct, Order of Business, and Quorum](#) 

Motion to approve updated Policy 1400.

*Moved by:* Danny Martinez  
*Seconded by:* Khush Brar

**Yes** Jim Verburg, Danny Martinez, Khush Brar, and Nick Sawka

**Carried 4-0**

11.2 [Policy 2106-Program Compliance](#) 

Motion to approve updated Policy 2106.

*Moved by:* Khush Brar  
*Seconded by:* Nick Sawka

**Yes** Jim Verburg, Danny Martinez, Khush Brar, and  
Nick Sawka

**Carried 4-0**

11.3 [Policy 2108- Learning Assistance Program](#) 

Motion to approve updated Policy 2108.

*Moved by:* Danny Martinez  
*Seconded by:* Nick Sawka

**Yes** Jim Verburg, Danny Martinez, Khush Brar, and  
Nick Sawka

**Carried 4-0**

11.4 [Policy 6220- Bid or Request for Proposal Requirements](#) 

*Moved to second reading*

11.5 [Policy 6910- Construction Financing](#) 

*Moved to second reading.*

11.6 [Policy 6955- Maintenance of Facilities Records](#) 

*Moved to second reading.*

**Second Readings**

11.7 [Policy 1733- Board Member Compensation](#) 

Motion to suspend Policy 1733.

*Moved by:* Nick Sawka  
*Seconded by:* Khush Brar

**Yes** Khush Brar and Nick Sawka

**No** Jim Verburg and Danny Martinez

**Not Carried 2-2**

**12. Board Workshop- Board Meeting Recording Options**

*Superintendent VanderYacht facilitated discussion about board meeting recording options to include video.*

**13. Adjourn**

*There being no further business, Director Verburg adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.*

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President

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Superintendent