



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
January 13, 2021**

1.0 OPENING ITEMS

1.1 Meeting Date and Location:

January 13, 2021 ±via remote Zoom meeting.

1.2 Call to Order/Roll Call:

Ms. Mason called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. She acknowledged that this meeting, while attended from various locations, is being held on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish people. Present: Directors Kelly Bashaw, Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler, Jenn Mason (President), Katie Rose, Superintendent Greg Baker and Sheri
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1.3 Audience:

Ms. Mason noted that, because of our current emergency status due to COVID-19, public participation is limited to written submissions only, and all written comments received will be shared with the school board directors. Each board member has seen all messages received.

1.5

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x Second grade

In comparison to some smaller districts, we have been taking a slow approach. Larger districts, such as Seattle and Spokane, are taking an even slower approach. Dr. Baker responded to questions from board members.

x Vaccines for health care workers are being received across the state, and our school nurses have appointments for their vaccinations. The current vaccine schedule would likely mean that educators above 50 years of age will be eligible to receive the vaccine in Feb., with other employees likely not being vaccinated until sometime in April. There is strong advocacy for all educators to move up on the schedule so they can be vaccinated sooner. To accelerate the vaccination schedule, federal recommendations now advise that states not hold back second vaccine doses. There is a possibility that the district will work with the county to provide district space for vaccinations to occur.

x Grade 3 students could possibly begin in-person learning at the end of January. Because class sizes are larger in grades 4 and 5, it is more complicated to bring them back than for those in grades K-3. Elementary principals would like all students to be back in the classroom four days per week, although space may limit grade 4 and 5 students to two days per week. The district is looking at alternative locations that may allow the students to attend four days per week. Middle school students may not return until after all

elementary students are back, although there is a possibility, due to space constraints, that students in grade 6 would come back prior to grades 4 and 5. The most challenging level to bring back will be high school due to the number of students. Dr. Baker recently met with staff members from Bellingham High and Kulshan Middle schools to process what it will look like to begin bringing middle and high school students back. Dr. Baker responded to questions from board members.

- x Dr. Baker reviewed sample modified hybrid schedules (two days per week) for high school

4.0 BOARD RESPONSE TO MONITORING

4.1 Board Response to Monitoring ±EL-1, Expectations of Superintendent

There was discussion regarding the summary of the board responses to the EL-1 report that was prepared by Ms. Mason. Following discussion, Mr. Benjamin made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Rose, to approve the monitoring response document ([Attachment A](#)). Unanimous affirmative vote.

4.2 Board Response to Monitoring ±EL-5, Communication and Counsel to the Board

There was discussion regarding the summary of the board responses to the EL-5 report that was prepared by Ms. Mason. Following discussion, Mr. Benjamin made a **motion**, seconded by Ms. Bashaw, to approve the monitoring response document ([Attachment B](#)). Unanimous affirmative vote.

4.3 Board Response to Monitoring ±EL-7, Budget Planning and Execution

The board discussed the feedback contained in the combined monitoring responses for EL-7 ([Attachment C](#)). Ms. Mason will provide a final summary version of this document which will be submitted for approval at the Feb. 10, 2021 regular meeting.

4.4 Board Response to Monitoring ±EL-9, Asset Maintenance and Protection

The board discussed the feedback contained in the combined monitoring responses for EL-9 ([Attachment D](#)). Ms. Mason will provide a final summary version of this document which will be submitted for approval at the Feb. 10, 2021 regular meeting.

5.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5.1 HighWrights of Children

- x Ms. Bashaw expressed her gratitude for district staff who continue to work diligently for students and families.
- x Mr. Benjamin is planning to attend the upcoming legislative conference and inquired whether other board members would be attending. **7 R Q L J K W P V H V** was amazing, and he thanked Dr. Baker for his continuous communication with the board.
- x Ms. Diaz Hackler shared that it has been an extremely difficult time for her family. Many of her family members have been infected with COVID-19, with a number of them having passed away. She referenced some of her takeaways from the WSSDA conference.
- x Ms. Rose noted that national events of the past week have given us all a lot to think about, and she has noticed conversations occurring within her children **¶ V F O D V V H V**
- x Ms. Mason plans to attend a portion of the Whatcom Human Rights conference this weekend and will report back at a future meeting. She thanked Dr. Baker and staff for taking such good care of our school community and for bringing joy to our lives.

5.2 GP-7.2 ±2020-21 Annual Board Agenda, Revised ±General review.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

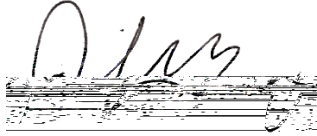
Mr. Benjamin shared that he and Ms. Rose were charged at the Dec. 11, 2020 regular board meeting with looking at some language in EL-5 (Communication and Counsel to the Board). They will be meeting soon with Dr. Baker and other staff members and should have a proposal to present at the next regular meeting.

7.0 CLOSING ITEMS

7.1 Board Assessment of Meeting: Ms. Mason assessed the meeting, with an overall rating of 4 (*commendable*).

7.2 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Mason", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, there is a faint, illegible stamp or text.

Jennifer I. Mason, Board President

Attest:

A redacted signature area consisting of a solid black rectangular box covering the text. To the left of the box, a small portion of a handwritten signature is visible.

Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved: February 10, 2021

Monitoring Response Document

Policy Monitored: EL-1, Expectations of Superintendent
Date Report Submitted: 11/4/2020

Board makes the following conclusions:

<u>Ends Reports:</u>	<u>Executive Limitations Reports</u>
<p>1. The Board finds that the Superintendent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. has achieved the goals established in the policy.b. is making reasonable progress towards achieving the goals.c. is making reasonable progress towards achieving the goals, but a greater degree of progress is expected in some areas.*d. is not making reasonable progress in achieving the goals established. *e. cannot be determined*	<p>1. The Board finds that the Superintendent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. is in compliance.b. is in compliance, except for items(s) noted.*c. is making reasonable progress toward compliance.*d. is not in compliance or is not making reasonable progress toward compliance.*e. cannot be determined*
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>*see comments below (No. 3)</i></p>	

Monitoring Response Document

Policy Monitored: EL-5, Communication and Counsel to the Board

Date Report Submitted: 11/4/2020

Date of

Monitoring Response Document

Policy Monitored: EL-5, Communication and Counsel to the Board

Date Report Submitted: 11/4/2020

Date of

5. Possible changes to the policy.

The Board has made a suggestion
superintendent shall not fail to: a. timely inform the board of circumstances of interest, which includes items that will reasonably be reported to the press or of a concern to a majority of the community A Board committee will do more research into this possible change.

Date Report Submitted: 12/9/2020

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Below are my responses in connection with the report

Ends Reports:	Executive Limitations Reports
<p>1. The Board finds that the Superintendent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. has achieved the goals established in the policy. b. is making reasonable progress toward achieving the goals. c. is making reasonable progress toward achieving the goals, but a greater degree of progress is expected in some areas d. is not making reasonable progress toward achieving the goals established. * e. cannot be determined* 	<p>1. The Board finds that the Superintendent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. is in compliance KB DB JM KR b. is in compliance, except for item(s) noted c. is making reasonable progress toward compliance* d. is not in compliance or is not making reasonable progress toward compliance e. cannot be determined*
<p>*see comments below (No.3)</p>	

2. Please note commendable progress over the last year.

KB:

- x Superintendent appointed Krisi Dominguez to work to strengthen relationships with community partners. BSD rose to the challenge when faced with the pandemic in working closely with community partners. BSD worked with the City and County and the Lighthouse Mission to open the doors of Bellingham High School to provide shelter to our homeless community. The Central Kitchen and many staff stepped up and continue to provide food boxes to our families in the community. All of these efforts have happened and are continuing based on staff coming together to come up with solutions to problems. It should be noted that while last year was a challenging time for a different reason no one could have ever predicted that this year would be even more difficult. The Board knows that these are challenging times and appreciates all that staff have done to continue to figure out ways in how to serve our students and budget is an important part of that.

DB:

- x The District has dedicated resources and participated on State workgroups to provide leadership and recommendations to the legislature on funding formulas.
- x Strong alignment with GFOA best practices.
- x As required by policy the District has received a clean audit most recently for the past

JM:

x 7KH 'LVWULFW¶V ZRUN WR EXLOG UHODWLRQVKLSV DQG
was hugely critical during the pandemic. Through this excellent work, many services and
programs were able to be developed, maintained, and/or adapted for our students in the 2019

Monitoring Response Document INITIAL COMPILATION

Policy Monitored: EL-9, Asset Maintenance and Protection

Date Report Submitted 12/9/2020

'DWH RI %RDUG ¶V 0RQLWRULQJ 5HVSRQVH

KR:

- x Impressive outcomes in a wild year appreciate the flexible staff focused on preventative maintenance while also finding innovative ways to adapt spaces for improved safety upon reopening