

- High school homecoming celebrations.
- An orchestra event involving the three large high schools.
- Alderwood and Cordata elementary schools received new library books thanks to each receiving a \$5,000 Laura Bush Foundation grant award.
- A new sport, girls flag football, will be added at the high school level beginning in January.
- The district is looking at allowing strategic, non-permanent advertising to generate revenue. While Sehome High School is currently the only school with reader boards capable of electronic advertising, the income generated will be shared among all the high schools.
- Dr. Baker shared updated drawings of the future Community Transitions building.
- District staff continue to work with the City of Bellingham as it looks at the future of the Civic Complex. Those plans will have an impact on the location of the new Carl Cozier Elementary.
- Dr. Baker shared photos of recent playground improvements at Cordata Elementary School.
- Kulshan Middle School recently held their first after school event on the new field, and there will be an open house for the community to see the new field on Oct. 17.
- The College Fair is tonight at Squalicum High School.
- Monday, October 14, is Indigenous Peoples Day.
- There are two monitoring reports, EL-1 and EL-

2.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

Ms. Mason made a **motion** to approve the following consent agenda items:

- 2.1 Approval of Minutes of the September 12, 2024 Regular Meeting and October 1, 2024 School Visit**
- 2.2 Approval of Expenditures and Payroll September 2024**
- 2.3 EL-1 Monitoring Report Expectations of Superintendent**
- 2.4 EL-10 Monitoring Report Race and Equity**
- 2.5 Resolution 25-24, Transfer of Funds from Capital Projects Fund to General Fund**
- 2.6 Department of Commerce Community Decarbonization Grants (#2324-252B)**
- 2.7 Amendment to 2024-25 Whatcom Discovery Program Interlocal Agreement (#2425-005A)**
- 2.8 Bellingham Public Schools Foundation Agreement (#2425-073)**
- 2.9 Microsoft Enterprise Services Work Order (#2425-074)**
- 2.10 Soliant Health, LLC Client Services Agreement (#2425-077)**
- 2.11 ScoCon, LLC Construction Agreement (#2425-083)**
- 2.12 Active Internet Technologies dba Finalsite Order (#2425-085)**
- 2.13 Cascade Bicycle Club Contract (#2425-087)**

3.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3.1 GP-7.2 2024-25 Annual Board Agenda, Revised general review.

3.2 . Highlights of comments:

- Ms. Mason was able to walk onto the new field at Kulshan Middle School during the wheelchair accessible. The new school board video is very heartfelt. The Happy Valley visit was great. She loves sitting in a classroom and seeing the action. Principal Nick Hayes is a very impressive speaker.
- Ms. Rose agrees with visit was a great blend of presentation and classroom visits.
- Ms. Diaz Hackler attended the WSSDA General Assembly in September. The voting did not go the way she expected, which is a good reminder that we are a large, diverse group of people. The hybrid event this year went better than last year, with representatives voting electronically. They finished in one day so did not need to return on the second day. She suggested that the board consider submitting a proposal for next year. While at Happy Valley she visited a music class and was impressed by the teacher, and the students were very respectful.
- Mr. Benjamin was away for a good part of September, and he thanked Ms. Mason for chairing the last board meeting in his absence. He attended the Happy Valley visit and finds it interesting how different the format can be for each school visit. The visit was calm, focused and timely, and the new efforts of showing the board the work on EDI was great. The school board video is amazing. He will likely share the video when he presents at the WSSDA conference in November.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

- #### 4.1
- In light of the funding dilemma that districts are facing, Mr. Benjamin shared that the board has expressed interest in taking some kind of action. There appears to be a desire to viewpoint, or to write a letter that can be shared with the community. He asked individual board members to give their input on how best to proceed. While he is not here this evening, Mr. Ritchey has expressed an interest in serving on a two-person board committee to make a recommendation to the board. Ms. Diaz Hackler believes we would be remiss in our duties if we . Many districts, not just Bellingham, are or will soon be facing financial difficulties. She shared that WSSDA has a YouTube channel with helpful videos. She is leaning towards the board drafting a letter to the community. Ms. Mason thinks the board should adopt a resolution and write a letter to the community. The resolution would satisfy the formal board position, while a letter to the community would be more reader friendly. Ms. Rose agrees that the board should do both. The benefit of a letter is that it can be an open call to the community to join forces. After further discussion, all seemed to be in favor of preparing both documents. The board will meet for a short retreat while at the WSSDA conference in November, and Ms. Mason and Mr. Ritchey will then draft a resolution and a letter for the board . Ms. Rose believes there would be value in reaching out to community partners and PTAs, with the hope that many voices will share the same message. formation of a committee comprised of Ms. Mason and Mr. Ritchey.

5.0 CLOSING ITEMS

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

5.2 Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Approved:



Douglas Benjamin, Board President

Attest:



Greg Baker, Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved: November 14, 2024