

Board Mtg. BURLINGTON-EDISON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 100 February 22, 2021

The Board of Directors of Burlington-Edison School District No. 100 met on February 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. through zoom meeting due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the extension of the OPMA.

Board Members attended on Zoom Meeting: President, Roger Howard, and Vice-President, Troy Wright. Members, Holly Nielsen, David Lowell and Rich Wesen.

Staff members present: Laurel Browning, Superintendent; and Deputy Board Secretary, Jennifer Dalton.

Staff members online: Dr. Bryan Jones, Assistant Superintendent; Director of Finance & Operations, Valori Vargas; Executive Director of Learning & Communications, Todd Setterlund, Executive Director of Student Support Services, Jeff Brown; and Director of Human Resources, Jen Whitney.

President Howard, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

CALL TO
ORDER

This month the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Superintendent Browning.

PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE

President Howard asked the Board if they had any comments.

Board member, David Lowell, commented on the positive article in the Skagit Valley Herald on the woodshop teacher making students desks.

BOARD
COMMENTS

President, Roger Howard, also said it was a nice article.

Board member, Rich Wesen, stated that he was happy to see more students back in the classroom and it was great to have some athletics going for the students.

Board member, Holly Nielsen, said that she was wondering about grades 7 and 8 back at school and what the District needed from the board to have other grades get back in-person learning.

President Howard opened the floor to any members of the audience who wished to address the Board.

Mandy Englund stated that she encouraged the Board to bring students 6-12 grade back to full day hybrid learning.

PUBLIC
COMMENT

Alejandra Anderson was an IA for the SPED program at West View Elementary and resigned. She wanted to share with the Board her reasons for resigning.

Susan Slotemaker stated that she would encourage the Board to bring back students 6-12 grade and hoped that teachers would come back to school. The kids are really struggling out there with online learning.

Mr. Lowell moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 25, 2021, and the Board Work Session on February 8, 2021. Ms. Nielsen seconded; motion carried.

APPROVAL
OF MINUTES

Mr. Wright moved to approve the Consent Calendar and Mr. Wesen seconded, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF
CONSENT
CALENDAR

Items approved on the consent calendar are as follows:

Approval was granted for payment of warrants subject to review by the Board member designated by the Board President at the end of the month. Items covered are the February 2021: General Fund Warrant Nos. 351643 through 351851. Capital Projects Fund Nos. 351859 through 351872. Associated Student Body Fund Warrant Nos. 351852 through 351857. Trust Fund Nos. 351858 through 351858.

APPROVAL OF
WARRANTS

The attached appointments, resignations, and leaves of absence were approved/accepted.

APPROVAL OF
PERSONNEL
ITEMS

The Board approval of 2020 Affirmative Action Report as submitted. The Affirmative Action Report Program is a requirement of OSPI in cooperation with the Washington State Human Rights Commission.

AFIRMATIVE
ACTION

Director of Finance and Operations, Valori Vargas, presented the monthly fiscal report and answered questions from the Board. She stated that the District was at 435.781 FTE for staffing, 18 FTE lower than the year before. Enrollment was down 82 FTE less than budgeted and projected to be down 194 FTE by year-end.

FISCAL
REPORT

Director of Finance & Operations, Valori Vargas, sought Board approval to accept the bid from ATS Automation, Inc. for the Edison School Energy Management System Upgrade.

Mr. Lowell moved to approve the bid from ATS Automation, Inc. for the Edison School Energy Management System Upgrade and Mr. Wesen seconded, and the motion carried.

BID FROM
ATS AUTOMATION

Director of Finance & Operations, Valori Vargas, sought Board approval to update the fees for Facility Use. These new fees more accurately reflect the cost to the district for facility use. The last time the fees were updated was 2004.

Mr. Rich Wesen moved to approve to update the fees for Facility Use and Mr. Lowell seconded, and the motion carried.

FACILITY USAGE
FEES

Superintendent Browning stated that grades 6-8 returned to school today. Most of her Cabinet was out at buildings today. She was very pleased to see all the teachers, classified staff, and transportation department and how ready they were for this first day back to hybrid in-person instruction. She commented that there were long lines in parking lots at a couple of the schools but that should be better by tomorrow. She appreciated how hard the nurses and office staff have worked to make this happen. It was great to see the students back. She stated that only about 10% of the students did not return to in-person instruction.

Board member, Holly Nielsen, heard a lot of positive feedback from the teachers and students about coming back to in-person instruction. She was proud that B-ESD is one of the only districts to go back.

Superintendent Browning stated the County's COVID data is about 150/100,000 and those numbers were going in the right direction. The District has been following Health Department guidelines for return of grades 9-12. A survey will go out to high school families this week. The high school had more complexities to sort through between staffing and nearly a 1000 students. Superintendent Browning stated that no decision the District makes will make everyone feel perfect in the setting. She mentioned a couple of neighboring districts are returning.

She suggested that we look at having high school students start in-person after spring break and at the start of the new quarter. This decision will give time for staff to request accommodations, for the district to hire extra staff if needed, and to figure out the high school student schedules. She stated that they wanted to be safe and careful and she believed that an April return date would allow the COVID data to be even lower.

President Howard stated that we need to get all the kids back in school, but he understood the spacing issue, but he hoped to see all students back in school 5 days a week.

Superintendent asked the Board if they were in support of moving forward.

The next work session is scheduled for Monday, March 8, at 4:30 p.m. via zoom or the District Office.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 22, at 6:00 p.m. via zoom or the District Office.

Mr. Lowell will go over the warrants this month.

At approximately 6:31 pm, there being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned.

DocuSigned by:
Roger Howard
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Board President

DocuSigned by:
Laurel Browning
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Board Secretary