

The Board of Directors of Burlington-Edison School District No. 100 met on March 24, 2008 in the Cafeteria of the Burlington-Edison High School at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: President, Liza Bott; Vice-President, Marty Lopez; Members, Mike Dynes, Dick Spink, and Bill Wallace.

Staff Members Present: Dr. Rick Jones, Superintendent; Laurel Browning, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Jeff Drayer, Director of Assessment and Human Resources; Don Hanson, Director of Special Programs; Wanda Hoffecker, Assistant Finance Director; and Vicki Kelley, Deputy Board Secretary

President Bott called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and immediately recessed the meeting into Executive Session to review personnel matters, specifically employee performance. Mrs. Bott stated the Executive Session would be approximately 30 minutes long, and no decisions would be made upon return to regular session.

At approximately 6:44 p.m., the Board met again in regular session, no decisions were made, and Mrs. Bott announced the Board would take a 15-minute break.

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

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

President Bott asked if there were any visitors to be introduced to the Board. Dr. Jones stated visitors would be introduced later in the program.

President Bott opened the floor to any members of the audience who wished to address the Board. She asked that their comments be limited to three minutes due to the large group of people in attendance at this meeting; comments were to be directed to the Board and written comments may be submitted to the Deputy Board Secretary (or mailed in).

The minutes from this section were taken as close to verbatim as possible as there was a great deal of testimony surrounding rumors about the future of B-EHS Principal, Beth VanderVeen.

The following addressed the Board:

Jay Powers
12574 Eagle Drive
Burlington, WA 98233

Mr. Powers is a B-EHS teacher (15 years of soccer and math). He read the attached statement in support of Mrs. VanderVeen from the certificated union (B-EEA) and the classified union (PSE).

Joel Semanko

3409 Shelly Hill Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98274

“Both my sons are in B-ESD by choice. We chose this district because we believe in it. I am addressing the Board and Superintendent as positions, not persons. I got to know Mrs. VanderVeen when my son was expelled from school and gained respect for her leadership of B-EHS. Things are not adding up when you look at a principal that received the Principal of the Year Award and is one of 15 in the country selected for a National Task Force. My son hated authority and had a chip on his shoulder. Today he will say he has chosen not to do alcohol and drugs because the stakes are too high. The principal, vice-principals, band teacher, drama teacher, coaches, and Mr. Zeiser would not be able to do their jobs so well if they did not have the leadership of Mrs. VanderVeen. Fourteen people were on staff before Mrs. VanderVeen came. Now she has brought 75 percent of the staff here. You need to make sure there is not some silent majority or group that is trying to make something happen. I am seeking positive results.”

Cliff Pollatz

1211 E. Gilkey Road
Burlington, WA 98233

“You folks (the Board) represent us as citizens. We want you to remember that kids come first and do whatever it takes to make it work. That is what you should do in any decision you make.”

John Blake

207 Pioneer Drive
Burlington, WA 98233

Mr. Blake is retired, and was a teacher at B-ESD for 29 years. He stated that there are a few “old timers” left at the High School. During the time they have been at B-EHS, they have seen administrators come and go as well as teachers with varied skills and abilities. Mr. Blake has substituted in other school districts in the valley, and in his opinion, B-EHS made some significant changes when Beth came (along with Assistant Principal at the time, Stan Relyea). He stated, “I think Burlington is the best run high school in the valley. Mrs. VanderVeen’s impact at the high school is enormous; her honesty, common sense, and straightforward discussions calmed me down, and she never held anything against me. She was a consummate professional, and what she has done here is better than any other administrator I have dealt with. I strongly hope Burlington will make a good decision. She is an excellent principal. (Mr. Blake used the analogy of the fall of Vicksburg in the Civil War.) Make the decision to allow her to use her youth and intelligence. I merely ask you to think why would you get rid of someone with such a track of excellence? I think the climate is better at the high school than at any other school. Don’t endanger it and reconsider this. Allow her to excel.”

Jake Updegraff
1200 Stirling Place
Burlington, WA 92833

“I am a senior and did not get to know Mrs. VanderVeen until the beginning of this year because I am on the ASB. I talk to her at lunches and started having a relationship with my principal. She is passionate, humorous, and does so much for athletics, academics, and activities. We could not have such a great school with poor leadership. She is obviously doing something good. I think a lot of students come to B-ESD because of Mrs. VanderVeen and our great high school.”

Sarah Berentson
11180 Walker
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

“I am the senior class president, and I am involved in a lot of things in the schools with a variety of kids. Last year, I was trying to get my P.E. credit issued, and I did not get it. I complained to my teachers, and did not get a response from any teacher that did not respect Mrs. VanderVeen. I never got a single response that she did not do a good job. Each person told me what a great job she does....never heard one negative thing about her. I had a significant disagreement with her, and I feel she should be here as she does such a great job. I can think of so many awesome things about our school and could not think of anything negative. I don't think this is the best thing for our school.”

Katie Pollatz
1211 E. Gilkey Road
Burlington, WA 98233

“I am a senior at B-EHS. During my sophomore year, I had a conflict with a teacher, and the teacher called my mom and we had to speak with Mrs. VanderVeen. I was very upset. Mrs. VanderVeen was awesome in handling the situation, and I am thankful to her. I slammed the door to her office, but I still have a good relationship with her and talk with her a lot. For me, she is an approachable person and she dealt the situation with me perfectly. All of the students at the high school are confused about the situation (newspaper articles, etc.). We want a clear explanation as why this is going on. The question is asked, and people want a straightforward answer. We need Beth VanderVeen at B-EHS. She knows that a high school should be filled with fun and learning.”

Laura (Reiss) Yanover
1994 S. Creek
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Two of her sons attended B-EHS. Thanks to Steve Clark and Mrs. VanderVeen, who is a strong advocate for special education, I was proud for both my children to be at B-EHS. I am of the old adage, “If it ain't broke, don't fix it!”

David Raish

15253 Josh Wilson Road
Burlington, WA 98233

“Everyone is talking about the great stuff Beth VanderVeen has done for our school. I am in her office every morning, and I got to know her very well. Every encounter with her has been positive. At the end of the day, it is to make the students and the school positive. I ask you to make sure this issue does not distract from the students and what we are trying to accomplish.”

Herb Lehman

6030 Ershig Road
Bow, WA 98232

His perspective of Beth VanderVeen is unique because he was a student at B-EHS during her first years as principal. He said they got to know one another very well. Mr. Lehman stated, “Mrs. VanderVeen is one of the reasons I am here at B-EHS. She hired me. When I left B-EHS, I thought she would be an amazing person to work with, and the school is a better place now than when I left. I have been here eight years, and staff and students have gained from the changes that have occurred here. She is an amazing person to work for; she is one of the reasons I am a teacher.”

Francis Roane

322 N. 3rd Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

“She has always been supportive of everything we do at B-EHS. I can’t wait to walk across the stage and shake her hand. I don’t see anything that should be taken from the high school. She has the Principal of the Year award and is now up for a bigger award. Don’t let her go!”

Jan Taylor

90 Chinook Place
La Conner, WA 98257

She is a former drama teacher at B-EHS (retired). She said she had a dream last night, and at 5:00 a.m., she woke up. William Shakespeare spoke to her and said, “Something is rotten in the state of Denmark!”

Liz Wallace

11163 Blue Heron Road
Bow, WA 98232

She is a parent of a high school student (one graduated). She also has children at Edison Elementary School. "When I came to the high school, I decided to volunteer and I contacted Lindsay Fiker and now help out each Wednesday. I am intrigued by the voices of respect for Beth VanderVeen. As a parent, I have never felt connected to the high school like I did at the grade school, but I have nothing but respect for the comments of John Blake and Jay Powers and their perspectives of the administration. I am speaking that it is important or perhaps it is time for the high school to maybe follow the elementary education mind set and include more parent participation (like at Edison Elementary). Parents need some way to become connected and involved at the high school. My daughter was successful here. You (School Board) are in a tough position. I would like to see more relationships built at the high school. People may not know how to be involved, and you need to secure people's trust and involvement for success."

Manny Chavez

13709 Rector Road
Bow, WA 98232

"Mrs. VanderVeen throughout my four years of High School has been nothing but great, and I can't say enough good things about her. I wanted to say that she has helped me out personally, and I look up to her as a second mom. I would go to the edges of the earth for her. There is nothing I would not do for her!"

Janet O'Neill

4402 Blank Road
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

"A lot of students that have talked are not residents of Burlington, and this is an indicator of how good B-EHS is. Mrs. VanderVeen has hired coaches that have taken our teams to State and a band director that has led our band to field shows, the first time in seven years! I moved a lot as a child, and I feared administrators and coming to Washington. I feel comfortable with Mrs. VanderVeen. I am upset that the work of my classes and that of other classes will be lost if Beth VanderVeen leaves the school."

Kirk Hamilton

20364 Revilo Drive
Burlington, WA 98233

"I am a graduate of B-EHS, and have taught here for nine years. I got to see the growth of B-ESD. I went to PLU and had an amazing leader, Frosty Westering. Beth VanderVeen has the same qualities. She is a 'diamond in the rough.' Don't let go of it. People come to B-EHS to teach because of her, and they would do anything for her. You do not have that anywhere else. You can't let go of it!"

Christie Peterson
16964 Peterson Road
Burlington, WA 98233

“This is my 35th year in the district, and I have worked under four principals and three superintendents. Without a doubt, our high school right now is better than the 35 years I have been here. I am going to retire, but when you put this much time in a district, it means a lot to you. I don’t think there is a staff person that has not had a run-in with her. Beth has always been behind our department (P.E.), and said yes you are important. You can have a disagreement with her, and she does not hold a grudge. She is here for all the kids, takes them on, helps raise them, and encourages them to get scholarships so they can go to college. There is such a networking of staff, students, and the community, and I would hate to see it end!”

President Bott thanked the speakers for their comments. She said it is the Board’s opportunity to listen to what people have to say, and that they appreciate their comments.

Mr. Lopez moved to approve the minutes from the inservice and the regular meeting of February 25, 2008 and the minutes of the work/study session of March 10, 2008. Mr. Spink seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Dynes moved to table Item VII. D. 2 (Donation to High School Band) from the Consent Calendar. This is an acceptance of the B-EHS Band Parents’ Booster Club funds into the music/band ASB account, and there is some disagreement about whether or not the Booster Club exists. The recommendation is that the funds remain in the account until the final results are in. Mr. Wallace seconded, and the motion carried.

Mr. Dynes moved to approve the consent calendar as amended. Mr. Lopez seconded, and the motion carried.

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 month. Items covered are the March 2008: General Fund Warrant Nos. 191421 through 191932; Capital Projects Fund Warrant Nos. 2554 through 2554; and Associated Student Body Fund Warrant Nos. 16734 through 16783.

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

The following travel item was approved:

- The travel of B-EHS Principal, Bet VanderVeen, to Washington, D.C. on April 26-30, 2008 and November 1-5, 2008 to represent the National Association of Secondary Schools Principal (NASSP) on the National Task Force on IDEA for secondary schools. There are four dates over two years. These dates are the first two trips. The trips relate to our School Improvement Plan by serving all students and assisting with reauthorization of IDEA from a principal’s perspective. Costs for the trip will be paid by the NASSP.

The following donations were accepted:

- The donation of \$5,000 to Bay View Elementary School from the Bay View PTA. The donation will be used to support technology and the development of a book room. Our policy requires that the Board officially accept donations (gifts) of \$500.00 or more.
- The donation of \$1,623.96 from the Bay View PTA to Bay View Elementary School (Bay View Food Services). The donation will be used to purchase salad bar equipment.
- The donation of \$1,623.96 from the West View Volunteers group to West View Elementary School (West View Food Services). The donation will be used to purchase salad bar equipment.

The Board adopted new Policy No. 1821/Evaluation of the Board.

The Board adopted amended Policy and Procedures No. 2161/Education and Related Services for Eligible Students.

President Bott asked the Board if they had any comments. Mr. Lopez thanked everyone for coming to the meeting to show their support for the high school. He said spring is here, Little League has started, and that it is great to see the younger boys and girls ready to go. Mr. Lopez stated they are the future in our academic and athletic arena.

Mr. Spink congratulated the Tigers for doing so well in basketball (Go Tigers and go Cougars!). He attended the Edison Carnival and stated that it was another success with a lot of people in attendance. He also thanked the people for coming to the Board meeting and speaking out on what they believe, and that the Board does listen to them.

Mr. Dynes thanked Mr. Niemann and Mrs. Welling for a great tour of Lucille Umbarger Elementary. He always enjoys touring LU as he went to school there, and his children attend that school. He congratulated the boys' and girls' basketball teams that went to State and for a couple of nice seasons. He also acknowledged the high school's great band and cheerleading team. Mr. Dynes said that B-ESD was represented well by the attendance of the Burlington community in Tacoma (state tournament). He thanked everyone who came to this evening's board meeting.

Mr. Wallace also thanked everyone for coming and sharing their comments with the Board (both in writing and in person). He stated that it has been done respectfully, and that the Board is listening to them. Mr. Wallace enjoyed the LU Board tour and complimented the LU staff. He said that every Board tour he has attended in the district so far has been wonderful. Mr. Wallace stated that LU is one of the newest schools, and that it is kept up very well with the credit going to the staff, students, the district's maintenance crew and John Leander. Mr. Wallace shared that the Board received a letter from an Archbishop Murphy parent complimenting B-EHS students and fans on their sportsmanship at the state tournament. Board members were pleased to get the letter.

Mrs. Bott congratulated B-EHS teams. She also complimented B-EHS drama teacher, Irene Simpson, and the 60 students that were involved in the recent play production. She said it was a lot of fun. Mrs. Bott also enjoyed the LU tour and her sixth grade tour guide, Raul Mejia. She commented that she attended an audit exit interview and thanked Wanda Hoeffcker and Greg Thrumer for the great job they did in tracking our finances. She recently attended a meeting with the Skagit Boundary Review Board in which the Board delivered a resolution to deny the application for a Chuckanut Park District, and the application was denied.

Mrs. Bott read a statement to clarify the position of the Board regarding the status of Mrs. VanderVeen.

At approximately 8:10 p.m., Mrs. Bott announced the Board would take a ten minute break. At approximately 8:30 p.m., the Board met again in regular session.

Assistant Finance Director, Wanda Hoeffcker, distributed and presented the monthly Fiscal Report and answered questions from the Board.

Mr. Spink moved to give first reading to amended Policy No. 3210/Nondiscrimination. Mr. Wallace seconded. Motion carried. Effective June 2006, legislation was passed making nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, including gender expression and identity, the law in Washington State. This policy has been updated to show this change in Washington State Law.

Mr. Lopez moved to give first reading to amended Policy No. 5010/Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action. Mr. Wallace seconded, and the motion carried. Same as above, this policy was updated to show the change in Washington State Law.

Mr. Spink moved to approve Friday, June 6, 2008, as the High School graduation date for the Class of 2008. Mr. Lopez seconded. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Kirkby Field.

It was decided that Board members, Bill Wallace and Liza Bott, will hand out diplomas at the B-EHS graduation.

Mr. Lopez moved to approve the travel of B-EHS staff member, Michael Sampson, along with two students, to Orem, Utah on March 27-29, 2008 to attend Utah's State Conference for Latinos in Action Program. Mr. Dynes seconded, and the motion carried. This conference will have over 1200 students from within the state of Utah who are involved in the Latinos in Action Program. Costs for the trip will be paid by the OSPI Cultural Competency Grant.

The next work study session will be held on Monday, April 14, 2008, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office.

The regular Board meeting scheduled for Monday, April 28, 2008, will start at 7:00 p.m. with a public hearing on the district's use of I-728 dollars for the 2008-2009 school year. The regularly scheduled Board meeting will follow.

Mr. Lopez will go over the warrants this month. The Board will also continue receiving the warrants in their monthly Board packet. If the Board has questions about the warrants, they are to contact Mrs. Hoffecker before the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Dr. Jones, Mrs. Bott, and Mr. Lopez will be attending the WSSDA Regional Meeting in Ferndale, WA on April 8. They will leave from Auxiliary Services at 5:00 p.m.

At approximately 8:45 p.m., there being no further business before the Board, President Bott declared the meeting adjourned.

Board President

Board Secretary

Dan MEMO: SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTORS

FROM: RICK JONES, SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: MARCH 24, 2008

RE: CONSENT AGENDA
PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR MARCH, 2008

Certificated Appointments

NAME	POSITION	FTE/HRS	REPLACING	LOCATION	CONTRACT	EFFECTIVE
Anna Chilcoat	TWE 5 th Gr.	1.0	Elizabeth O'Sullivan	West View	Permanent	2/25/08

Classified Appointments

NAME	POSITION	HRS/DAY	WORK DAYS	REPLACING	LOCATION	STATUS	EFFECTIVE
Nikki Solwold	Classified	6 hrs.	174	Student Need	Bay View	Temporary	3/1/08

Transfers

NAME	CLASS/CERT	HRS/FTE	POSITION	FROM	TO	EFFECTIVE

Leave of Absence

NAME	CLASS/CERT	HRS/FTE	POSITION	LOCATION	REASON	EFFECTIVE
Arie Werder	Certificated	.5	7 th /8 th Social Studies	Lucille Umbarger	Personal	2008-09 school year
Alisha Ortiz	Certificated	.5	5 th Grade	Lucille Umbarger	Personal	2008-09 school year
Jessica Klassen	Certificated	1.0	English	High School	Family	2008-09 school year
Becky Donnino	Certificated	1.0	ELL	Allen	Maternity	5/5/08 – end of school year
Dick Simpson	Certificated	1.0	PE/Health	West View	Personal	2008-09 school year

Retirement

NAME	CLASS/CERT	HRS/FTE	POSITION	LOCATION	REASON	EFFECTIVE

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Resignation

NAME	CLASS/CERT	HRS/FTE	POSITION	LOCATION	REASON	EFFECTIVE
Greg Thramer	Classified	1.0	Finance Director	D.O.	Took another position	02/29/08
Taylor Rhea	Classified	1.0	Netwk Support Spec II	Tech. Dept.	Took another position	03/07/08
Colleen Knutzen	Classified		7/8 District Track	Grade Schools		2/29/08
Trish Woiwod	Classified	N/A	Inst. Asst. Class Size	Lucille Umbarger	Nursing school	6/17/08
Dan Costanti	Classified		7/8 District Track	Grade Schools		3/3/08
Kristal Ovenell	Classified	5 hrs.	Inst. Asst. Class Size	Edison	Took another position	3/21/08

Extra-Curricular Appointments

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	EFFECTIVE
Travis Radich	High School	.7 Asst. Coach	2/12/08
Kyle Axelson	High School	Asst. Fast pitch	2/21/08
John McDermott	High School	Asst. Fast pitch	2/21/08
Dennis Brown	Grade Schools	7/8 District Track	2/29/08
Pauline Tarabochia	Grade Schools	7/8 District Track	2/29/08
Nick Wood	High School	Soccer "C" team	3/3/08
Mark Alway	High School	Soccer "C" team	3/3/08
Ben Davidson	Grade Schools	7/8 District Track	3/1/08
Cassie Pulley	Grade Schools	7/8 District Track (dependent upon student participation)	3/1/08
Trisha Wood	Grade Schools	7/8 District Track (dependent upon student participation)	3/1/08