DRAFT

Enumclaw School District

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday November 16, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Location
District Office - Nancy A. Merrill Boardroom

Directors Present
Ben Stouffer, Scott Mason (remote), Tara Cochran, Tyson Gamblin

Directors Absent
Paul Fisher

Guests Present
Elliott Cheney, Mark Wenzel, Preston Bauer, Stacey Whitten

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Tyson Gamblin called a meeting of the board of directors of Enumclaw School District to order on Monday Nov 16, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

B. Roll Call

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Tyson Gamblin led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

D. Land Acknowledgement

Board President Gamblin read the following statement, *We acknowledge we are gathered upon the ancestral lands of the Seattle area's Federally Recognized Indian Tribe, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, who historically lived throughout the areas between the Cascade Mountains and the Puget Sounds, what is also known as the Salish Sea.*

E. Approve Minutes

Ben Stouffer made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 10-19-26.
Tara Cochran seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

F. Approve Minutes

Ben Stouffer made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Study Session on 11-03-26.
Tara Cochran seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Board Director Updates and Celebrations

The Board of Directors shared the following updates and celebrations:

- We are hearing fantastic reviews on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. This EHS theater production continues through the weekend.
- Thank you to the district for all the ways veterans have been honored through assemblies and the many community events.
- Thank you to King County Councilman Reagan Dunn for the grant donation to the EHS Girls' Flag Football Team.
- Fifth graders in the district are taking field trips to the high school to watch the production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Thank you to the Enumclaw Schools Foundation (ESF) for providing this experience for students.

B. Student Representative Report

The student representative shared the following:

- The "Buff Puff" annual volleyball game took place last week. This fun event of senior boys playing against junior boys is a fundraiser for senior prom.
- Elliott Cheney stated that he was absent from the previous business meeting because of Homecoming Coronation. He was honored to represent his classmates in the Enumclaw parade.

- The National Honor Society is painting the student parking lots. They are expressing their school spirit and brightening up the environment. This program allows students to be creative through this fun and inspiriting art project.

C. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Wenzel shared the following in his Superintendent's Report:

- The many Veterans Day programs in the district had a lot of special moments. The EMS students meeting with senior citizens honoring veterans with singing and sharing stories were wonderful.
- Staff are preparing extensively for upcoming conferences. This is an important time to connect with families.
- The volleyball team competed in a hard-fought match, but lost against White River. Congratulations to the volleyball team for their great team success this season.
- Parent, staff, and student surveys will be launched this year to evaluate what is working well, identify areas for growth, and measure whether students feel appropriately challenged.
- The HR and Special Education audit will be beginning soon and there will be opportunities for parents and staff to provide their insights to the district.
- School Directors will be attending the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) Annual Conference this week. This is an opportunity for directors to learn together.

D. Update on District Goals

Superintendent Wenzel welcomed Kibler Elementary Principal Travis Goodlett and Associate Administrator Liza Grove stating they would be presenting their school report, which is directly aligned to the district goals.

Continuous Improvement Reviews are scheduled for December. Principals will have the opportunity to meet with the cabinet to present mid-year updates on their School Improvement Plans (SIPs) and share feedback on the support they are receiving from the District Office. Results will be shared in January.

E. Presentation - Kibler Elementary

Kibler Elementary Principal Travis Goodlett and Associate Administrator Liza Grove presented their school theme while sharing a few fun facts about themselves with the board.

The Building Leadership Team is prioritizing Math Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) outcomes by making strategic shifts in fifth-grade instruction, including departmentalized teaching and small group work. Staff added a dedicated math fluency curriculum and pivoted "What I Need" WIN intervention time from reading to math to strengthen overall instruction, expressing excitement for the work ahead.

A school attendance committee is meeting bi-weekly to review attendance data and plan for positive attendance incentives. Data indicated strong attendance in August, a slight dip in September, and a positive rebound in October. Family outreach is happening with targeted communications to families to support consistent attendance. The school's first surprise attendance day was held recently and more are planned throughout the year. There is a consistent focus on making school a place where students want to be by ensuring they feel valued, safe, and known.

The Board asked clarifying questions and thanked Mr. Goodlett and Ms. Grove for their positive mindset and willingness to try new things.

F. Evergreen Elementary Project Update

Consertus Project Manager Ryan Ota presented a brief project update on the Evergreen Elementary project. He shared a photo taken of the school building to showcase the build progress. Mr. Ota stated that site permit approvals and the King County Public Health permit have all been issued. The final pending permit with the city is for signage.

Construction updates were given and the project schedule was reviewed noting the project remains ahead of schedule. Mr. Ota reminded the Board of the requested action for approval of the furniture order.

Board Question: Where does the furniture proposal fall in terms of pricing/reliability range?
Answer: It is not top of the line, but a good mid-point product. The product is very durable, including student chairs.

Board Question: Have all of the MEP (mechanical, electric, plumbing) permits been issued?
Answer: Yes

G. 2027-28 Elementary Specialist Staffing Proposal

Director of Elementary Education Lindsey Marquardt and Director of Human Relations Stephanie Berryhill presented information concerning the elementary specialist staffing proposal for the 2027-28 school year. They outlined the district's annual process of reviewing enrollment projections, running staffing formulas, and establishing strategic priorities to develop a staffing recommendation. Historical data was shared on specialist staffing adjustments from 2002 to the present, explaining how enrollment-driven funding modules determine staffing allocations. They noted that the upcoming transition from five to six elementary schools will shift student distribution, resulting in lower enrollment at certain buildings.

Ms. Marquardt and Ms. Berryhill reviewed the guiding principles used to build master schedules, which include providing students a well-rounded education taught by content experts, creating whole teaching positions whenever possible, and minimizing staff travel between buildings. They explained how specialist schedules provide essential enrichment for students while protecting core instructional time and covering required teacher planning minutes within a 390-minute student day.

Ms. Marquardt and Ms. Berryhill demonstrated how applying these formulas to early roll-up projections for the six-school model highlights shifts in specialist staffing needs for the upcoming school year.

Board Question: Will classroom teachers need to take on more responsibilities with this proposed change to librarian specialist time?
Answer: The new standards and curriculum explicitly cover research and media literacy, though students might not get the deeper dive they would with dedicated library lessons.

Board Question: How much time is allotted/required in the new standard for media time?
Answer: The standard does not give time allocations, but they recommend utilizing instruction in essential areas.

Board Question: Has library, PE, and music always been called enrichment opportunities in the district?
Answer: The district refers to these positions as specialists.

Board Question: Have you been in the libraries to observe the specialists to see what they do in their work day?
Answer: (Ms. Marquardt) While I haven't observed them directly, I have worked with them closely on standards and report cards, and they do incredible work. I've enjoyed working with them. (Superintendent Wenzel) We consulted the principals closely in the process and relied on their feedback developing the schedule.

III. HEARING OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD AS A WHOLE

A. The following persons addressed the Board:

- Monica Mancini, Parent
- Shannon Paladini, Kibler Elementary Library Media Specialist
- Gwen Reed, Parent
- Kristi Landry, Black Diamond Elementary Library Media Specialist
- Rachel Johnson, Southwood Library Media Specialist
- Hannah Harding, Sunrise Elementary Library Media Specialist
- Greta Flores, Parent
- Victoria Shuler, Parent
- Amee Smith, Parent

- Jesse Young, Parent
- Traci Tantillo, Westwood Elementary Library Media Specialist
- Caroline Fouch, Student
- Jen Wallin, Parent

District library media specialists and community members shared common themes in remarks to the board. A summary of their comments are:

- Parents, staff, and students expressed concern over the proposed reduction of elementary library media specialists, emphasizing the negative impact on student equity, essential instruction, and school culture.
- Speakers noted that this discrepancy would deprive students of equal access to digital literacy programs, online safety, AI awareness, coding, and research skills—instruction that classroom teachers do not have the capacity to absorb.
- Speakers highlighted that libraries serve as vital safe spaces and the heart of school communities, where trusted specialists provide individualized support for learners, foster a love of reading, and lead enrichment opportunities such as book fairs and Battle of the Books.

Speakers also raised concerns regarding communication and long-term district planning, urging the board to reconsider the proposal. Attendees asked the board and superintendent to explore creative staffing or funding alternatives to preserve library specialists across all six elementary schools.

IV. ADMINISTRATION/BUSINESS

A. Evergreen Elementary FFE Proposal

Ben Stouffer made a motion to approve Evergreen Elementary FFE proposal.
Tara Cochran seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Policy Review - First Reading

The policies presented for first reading and review were:

- Policy #1400 - Meeting Conduct, Order of Business, and Quorum
- Policy #5001 - Hiring of Retired School Employees
- Policy #5280 - Separation from Employment
- Policy #6020 - System of Funds and Accounts

C. Policy Review - Second Reading

Ben Stouffer made a motion to approve the second reading of: Policy #2230-Transition to Kindergarten Policy #5401-Sick Leave Policy #6100-Revenues from Local, State, and Federal Sources Policy #4020-Confidential Communications (Retire).
Tara Cochran seconded the motion.

Director Tara Cochran asked a clarifying question regarding language edits for Policy #2230-Transition to Kindergarten. Superintendent Wenzel shared that the WSSDA model policy added verbiage authorizing a sliding fee scale for enrollment in TTK. At this time, there are no plans to charge for the district's Transition to Kindergarten program.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Financial Report

Director of Business Kyle Fletcher submitted the Financial Report to the Board of Directors in advance of the meeting.

E. Payroll and Vouchers

Ben Stouffer made a motion to approve payroll and vouchers as submitted.
Tara Cochran seconded the motion.
Director Stouffer inquired on two expenses for Voucher #14.

- Please explain the Cannabis excise tax. Director of Business Kyle Fletcher provided an overview of the funding source and its local application. He shared that this state funding has been in place for approximately ten years and is designated to ensure that a portion of cannabis sales revenue is reinvested into substance abuse prevention. The district receives roughly $15,000 annually from this source, which is used to support student events and activities aimed at preventing drug use. At the school level, these prevention initiatives and activities are actively promoted through the Thrive Club.
- What is the increase to the Washington Schools Risk Management Pool costs from the 2025-26 school year? Mr. Fletcher stated that the insurance cost of $843,000 is 50% of the annual premium. The other half of the cost will be paid in the spring. This is an increase of 37% increase from last year, and below the state average increase based on the district's history and profile in the risk pool.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Personnel Report

B. Field Trip Requests

C. Notice of Completions

D. Other

E. Vote on Consent Agenda Items

Ben Stouffer made a motion to approve the consent agenda as submitted.
Tara Cochran seconded the motion.

Board President Tyson Gamblin listed the many donations received by the district and offered appreciation to community members and grant writers for their support.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

VI. BOARD PROCESS DEBRIEF

A. Board Process Debrief

Board President Gamblin reminded the Board that there will not be a Study Session in December. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacey Whitten