



**Board Business Meeting
Meeting Minutes**

The Tacoma Public Schools Board of Directors will meet for a Business Meeting on the date and time below in the 4th Floor Auditorium at the Central Administration Building. All regular board Business Meetings, Committee of the Whole and Study Session meetings are open public meetings and everyone is encouraged to attend. Executive sessions are closed to the public. Public parking and the main entrance are located on the west side of the building at South G Street.

-- NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC --

The elevator in the Central Administrative Building is currently out of service. If you require an accommodation to attend or participate in the board meeting, please contact the Board Secretary, Tracy Jones, at tjones4@tacoma.k12.wa.us or (253) 571-1443 as soon as possible.

Live Streaming Open Meeting	In-Person Open Meeting
Rainier Connect Channel 25, Comcast Channel 26 or Live Link: bit.ly/goktpstv	Central Administration Building 601 South 8th Street Tacoma, WA 98405 4th Floor Auditorium
Broadcast and Recorded at www.youtube.com	

Thursday, April 25, 2024 06:00 PM

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Tacoma Public Schools Board of Directors met for an Executive Session at 5:30PM for approximately 25-minutes on the above date in the 4th floor boardroom. The purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss with legal counsel, under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), district litigation or potential litigation to which the district is, or is likely to become, a party. Executive Sessions are closed to the public. No action was taken.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The Board met in regular session on Thursday, April 25, 2024 in the fourth-floor auditorium of the Central Administration Building located at 601 South 8th Street in Tacoma, Washington.

3. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Board President Keating read a statement to honor and acknowledge that we are on the traditional ancestral and historical lands of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians.

5. ROLL CALL

Directors Bonbright, Keating, Leon, McElroy, and Strozier were in attendance. There were no student representatives in attendance.

6. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

7. RECOGNITION OF STAFF, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY

7.1 RECOGNITION OF THE SHINING STAR COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD TO COMMUNITY PARTNER LAUREN BENTSON AND THE TACOMA NATURE CENTER STAFF

The Community Partnership Office presented the Shining Star Community Partner Award to community partner Lauren Bentson and the Tacoma Nature Center staff.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

8.1 WHOLE EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Director of Labor Relations Griek highlights different jobs within the district each month. He and Director of Schools Rich recognized Education Support Professionals (ESPs) for all they do in support of students and schools.

8.2 2024-25 SCHEDULE CHANGES FEEDBACK

Superintendent Garcia gave an overview of the potential 2024-25 schedule changes and the feedback they've received so far. Members of the public may email info@tacoma.k12.wa.us if they would like to give further input.

9. STAFF REPORT TO THE BOARD

9.1 TPS 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES RECAP

Charles Brown, president and founding partner of Cascade Government Affairs, gave a recap of the recently-finished legislative session. He discussed both critical issues (specific to Tacoma Public Schools) and issues of high concern (which affect many districts throughout the state), sharing the outcomes of each issue.

10. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Spoken public comment:

- o The following members of the public addressed the Board in support of the challenges, including physical violence by students, faced by Education Support Professionals and the need for a living wage:
 - Kari Madden
 - Susanna Hopkins
 - Liz Walle
 - Gwen Lewandoski
 - Annie Lambert
 - Heather McLean
 - Tina Taylor
- o The following members of the public addressed the Board in support of retaining Ms. Proudman as Assistant Principal at Birney Elementary School:
 - Meko Steinberg
 - Brooke Hertenstein
- o Ian Armstrong addressed the Board regarding SOTA students receiving no consequences for participating in anti-Semitic protests during school time and the need for them to be educated on the history of both sides.
- o Carol Jackson addressed the Board regarding the impacts and issues she believes that changing the transportation routing and bell times will cause.
- o Penny Cramer addressed the Board regarding a variety of issues including budget issues, staff support needed for handling the SEL needs of students, building conditions and security, changes to bell times. She also expressed solidarity for ESPs and the need for better pay.
- o Jeremy Cragin addressed the Board regarding budget cuts affecting school cleanliness.

Written public comment:

- o Amber Elbon wrote the Board regarding retaining Ms. Proudman as Assistant Principal at Birney Elementary School.
- o Kate Pearson wrote the Board regarding potential bell calendar changes and managing the budget deficit.
- o Jode Pulley wrote the Board in support of Education Support Professionals (ESPs).

11. CONSENT AGENDA

Director McElroy moved that the Board of Directors approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Strozier seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the chair declared the motion carried with a vote of 5 yeas.

11.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

11.1.a APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 21, 2024 BOARD LISTENING SESSION MINUTES

11.1.b APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 11, 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

11.2 APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

11.3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT)

11.4 INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL REQUESTS

11.5 FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

11.5.a APPROVAL OF FIELD TRIP REQUEST FROM SOTA TO PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA FROM FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 2, 2025

11.6 APPROVAL OF THE PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

11.7 OTHER

11.7.a APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARDS, GIFTS, OR DONATIONS

12. POLICY MATTERS

12.1 SECOND READING OF REVISED POLICY 2410 - HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND PARTICIPATION IN FORMAL GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Director Bonbright moved that the Board of Directors adopt the revised proposal of Policy 2410. Director McElroy seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the chair declared the motion carried with a vote of 5 years.

12.2 SECOND READING OF NEW POLICY 2416 - PERFORMANCE-BASED PATHWAY FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Director Bonbright moved that the Board of Directors adopt the proposal of new Policy 2416. Director Strozier seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the chair declared the motion carried with a vote of 5 years.

13. FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report was presented at the April 18, 2024 Board Study Session. The presentation shared at that meeting was included in this agenda item. The next financial report will be presented at the May 23, 2024 Business Meeting.

Monthly financial statements can be found on the district website at <https://www.tacomaschools.org/departments/businessandfinance>.

14. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

14.1 APPROVAL OF THE INTERLOCAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN BATES TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR THE 2024-2029 SCHOOL YEARS

Director Bonbright moved that the Board of Directors approve the Interlocal Agreement between Bates Technical College and Tacoma Public Schools from September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2029. Director Strozier seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the chair declared the motion carried with a vote of 5 years.

14.2 APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF START-UP COSTS FOR 23 ADDITIONAL TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS

Director McElroy moved that the Board of Directors approve the start-up cost of 23 Transition to Kindergarten classrooms in the amount of \$422,934.12. Director Bonbright seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the chair declared the motion carried with a vote of 5 years.

14.3 APPROVAL OF TACOMA HEAD START 5-YEAR NON-COMPETITIVE CONTINUATION GRANT APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF HEAD START

Director McElroy moved that the Board of Directors approve submission of the Head Start 5-Year Non-Competitive Continuation Grant Proposal to the Office of Head Start. Director Strozier seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the chair declared the motion carried with a vote of 5 years.

15. BUSINESS MATTERS

15.1 APPROVAL OF THE GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE (GMP) AMENDMENT #8 TO CONTRACT TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS NO 10 AND KORSMO CONSTRUCTION FOR THE SYNTHETIC FIELDS UPGRADES BUNDLE PROJECT

Director Strozier moved that the Board of Directors approve GMP Amendment #8 which states the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for scope of work at Peck Park Baseball Field, Hilltop Heritage, and Lincoln Lighting. The Chief Operating Officer also recommends the Board authorize the Superintendent or designee to sign said GMP Amendment #8 in the amount of \$10,903,362 for a total of GMP Amendments #1 - 8 of \$37,596,855 excluding sales tax. Director Bonbright seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the chair declared the motion carried with a vote of 5 years.

15.2 APPROVAL TO INCREASE THE VALUE OF CONTRACT TSD-23-102 THROUGH AMENDMENT #1 FOR MEDOSWEET

Director Bonbright moved that the Board of Directors authorize the Superintendent or designee to sign Amendment #1 to TSD-23-102 that increases the yearly expense for milk, juice, and other daily products from \$548,787 to \$1,450,000 per year. Total value of contract including all associated amendments is \$7,250,000, excluding tax. Director McElroy seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the chair declared the motion carried with a vote of 5 years.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

17. BOARD COMMENTS/REPORTS

Committee Reports:

- o Director Bonbright shared about the great conversations held at the April JMAC meeting. They focused on the Pierce Transit 6-year Transportation Plan, which discussed electrification of buses and what that entails. Superintendent Garcia shared with the committee about the conversations we're having as we try to move forward in fiscally-responsible ways while still being good environmental stewards. The group had great conversations about how JMAC partners can work together to help the community rather than each entity working in a siloed manner.

Community Events:

- o Director Keating and several other board directors, along with many TPS administrators, attended Metro Parks "Renaming of Gas Station Park" where they honored her by changing it to "Catherine Ushka's Gas Station Park" event on April 17th. Catherine previously served on the TPS School Board for many years and currently serves as a City Council Member. She thanked Catherine for all the dedication and work she's done over the years for the district and the community at large, especially Eastside Tacoma.
- o Director Keating and Superintendent Garcia attended the Health Department's "A Peaceful Tomorrow" event, which is a Pierce County community-driven plan around youth safety.

Updates/Comments:

- o Director McElroy shared, for the public's understanding, the reason why board members cannot respond to public comments in Board meetings, which is to both protect speakers and let them know they are being heard as well as to protect board directors so that they don't mistakenly break laws in how they respond or inflame situations/feelings. Our Board and the Superintendent and his Cabinet work really hard to help students, their families, and staff. She also reminded the public that serving as a board member is an unpaid, volunteer position. She encouraged members of the public to continue to show up and be heard, to advocate. The Board is listening.
- o Director Leon commended Stadium High School's Drama team on their performance of the *In the Heights* musical.
- o Director Strozier commended the Lincoln High School Drumline who attended the "Battle of the Sound 2024" competition. They won 1st place in the Battle Rounds, 2nd place overall, and awards in both Best Visuals and Crowd Favorite categories. He also gave shout-outs to teacher Peter Briggs and Lincoln's leadership team.
- o Director Keating shared that the Foss Mathlete's took State. The Math Team there have taken State in some division in 6 out of the last 7 years. -♦- She shared about the April 18th Board Study Session. Topics covered were the 2024-25 Budget Update on projected revenue and expenditures as well as an electric vehicle progress report to learn more about the feasibility of the district moving forward in this area. She reminded the public that learning more about this was one of the Board's three adopted goals (Transportation/Sustainability). The Study Session can be watched on the [TPS YouTube channel](#). -♦- She volunteered at Geiger as part of the IDEA Project assembly which was about sensory and disability awareness, highlighting dyslexia, vision, hearing, cognitive differences, etcetera. At each station, students were able to participate and feel what it may feel to have a certain disability. She led the group around hearing. -♦- She shared that Hunt Middle School lost one of their students whom she had been able to work with and who was very special to her. She acknowledged that there are many staff and students who are dealing with her loss. There will be a celebration of life for her soon.

18. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

May 9, 2024

6:00PM - Business Meeting

May 23, 2024

6:00PM - Business Meeting & Executive Session

June 6, 2024

6:00PM - Business Meeting

19. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Keating adjourned the meeting at 7:39PM.