

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2024

This entire meeting can viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/935938971?share=copy>

### **Call to Order**

President Williams called the Regular Board Meeting of the Shoreline Board of Directors to order in the Board Room of the Administrative Offices at the Shoreline Center at 6:09 p.m. on April 16, 2024. This meeting was also available to the community via Zoom. (*This meeting was slightly delayed in starting due to traffic issues in the immediate area.*)

### **Roll Call**

Emily Williams President; Sara Betnel, Vice President; Sarah Cohen, Director (*attended remotely*); Sylvia Gil, Director; Meghan Jernigan, Director; Aiden Rouhani and Lily Fredericks (*attended remotely*), Shorecrest Student Representatives; and Mitchell Ichinkhorloo, Shorewood Student Representative. (*Superintendent Reyes also attended this meeting remotely.*)

Absent: Esme Harkess, Shorewood Student Representative.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

President Williams provided a brief land acknowledgement.

### **Celebrations, Recognitions, Introductions and Gratitude**

None

### **Agenda Review**

None

### **Comments from the Community**

President Williams read the instructions for the community comment process. The following individuals spoke in person regarding the change in the Shorewood mascot in 2021:

- 1) Brian Carroll, Shorewood Alumni and first active ASB President – Came to this meeting to represent the over 11,000 Shorewood alumni as well as the over 1,000 alumni who responded to the online petition in support of the Thunderbird. Worked in 1975 with student leaders, Bill Holm (Burke Museum and Shorewood parent) and the Suquamish Tribe in establishing the Thunderbird mascot. At that time, he coordinated and planned a naming assembly with then-principal, Gene Smith. At the assembly, members of the Suquamish Tribe sang the Thunderbird song and told the story of the Thunderbird to the students. Please support the 11,000 Shorewood Thunderbird alumni and their mascot in some meaningful way, as required by the state law process.
- 2) Anna Deliganis, Shorewood Alumni and Shorewood Parent – Asked the Board to add the federally-recognized Suquamish Tribe in future land acknowledgements. Read statement from Suquamish Tribe: “We believe that the use of the Thunderbird is appropriate and respectful. We also encourage further learning opportunities for your students and community to visit and learn more from the Suquamish Tribe.” Also read statement of support from Tulalip Tribes regarding use of the Thunderbird.
- 3) Emily Lin, Shorewood Senior and ASB Officer – Expressed frustration and disappointment regarding the missed learning opportunity to connect with the Suquamish Tribe. Her leadership class has been attempting to arrange for past ASB leaders and the Suquamish Tribe to speak to the class about their firsthand experiences with the selection of the Thunderbird as the school mascot. They have been prevented from doing so. Asked the Board why this has not been allowed.

- 4) Kristi Lin, Shorewood Alumni, Teacher, Parent of Three – Posed two questions: (1) Why did the Board and Administration disregard the intelligence and beautiful minds of these Shorewood High School students and not allow them to be part of the process of changing the mascot? (2) Will you allow for a wonderful, purposeful learning opportunity for the students of Shorewood with the closest Native tribe. The Suquamish Tribe didn't want the Thunderbird erased from our school. Please allow tribe members to interface with the students and bring back the heritage.
- 5) April Eslami, Indigenous Parent of Two Students – “The NCAI [National Congress of American Indians] has voiced the clear message for decades. Unsanctioned sports mascots are symbols of disrespect that degrade, mock and harm Native people, particularly Native youth. The NIEA [National Indian Education Association] called for the immediate elimination of Indian icons, mascots and names from educational institutions so that our children have the same opportunity as their non-Native peers to achieve academically without discrimination. We do not want our likeness nor our sacred symbols to be used as a mascot. I implore you to uphold Resolution 2021-19 to retire the Thunderbird as the Shorewood mascot.”
- 6) Rich Gustafson, Retired Shorewood Administrator – Spoke about packet of information that was provided for board members, student reps and superintendent, which included a letter from the Suquamish Tribe. The letter stated that the Tribe believes that the use of the Thunderbird is appropriate and respectful and without it, they lose any connection with the environment around them. The packet also included a letter from the Tulalip Tribes stating that they would not be opposed to the use of the Thunderbird in any way, especially since one of the adjacent tribes has come out in support of its use. Other items in the packet were addressed as well.
- 7) Paul Herrick, Community Member, Parent, Philosophy Professor at Shoreline Community College – The mascot does not violate the House Bill because it is not an inappropriate symbol and has the support of many in the tribes. Admitted to not being fully informed, but it seemed as though the decision was made in a top-down way without input from the bottom up. Respectfully asked that the matter be reconsidered in a more bottom-up manner.
- 8) Vicki Gorman, Former Shorewood Teacher, Coach, Athletic Director (43-year career in Shoreline) – Read the remainder of Rich Gustafson's letter, requesting that Superintendent Reyes and President Williams set a date, time and place to meet with the alumni group as well as members of the Suquamish Tribe in order to discuss how to have a positive relationship. In 1975 and 1976, the Suquamish Tribe played an integral role in working with Shorewood students, staff and community to select the Thunderbird as the Shorewood mascot. Also spoke to the cost involved (uniforms, etc.) in changing the mascot.

The following individuals spoke over Zoom regarding the change in the Shorewood mascot in 2021:

- 9) Michelle Harris, Parent of Two, Shorewood Alumni and Active Community Member – As a Shorewood alumni, retiring the Thunderbird has had zero effect on her wonderful memories or her high school experience. Rather, she has seen the positive effect it has had on Indigenous youth and their families. Knowing the harm that was previously caused, we decided, as a district, to model doing better for our children so that all of our families feel safe, accepted and valued. Thanked the Board for their commitment to inclusive and welcoming practices and building partnerships with families so that we can do this work together.
- 10) Anne Dame, Einstein Librarian – Thanked the Board for doing the right thing by letting the Thunderbird go as the Shorewood mascot. It was the right decision for our students and for our families. These mascots devalue the Natives and their culture. It is up to us to continue to teach our students. Thank you for continuing to stand by your decision.
- 11) Rayana White, Briarcrest Parent and Member of Title VI Parent and Student Group – Supports the decision of the Board to retire the Shorewood mascot. “Our culture and our stories, our history are not costumes, they are not mascots—they have real meaning to real people.”
- 12) Cameryn Hubbard, Shorewood Freshman and Member of Tlingit Haida Tribes – Loves this community, school and those who attend it; supports the decision to retire the Shorewood mascot.

- 13) Camille Hubbard, Shorewood Parent (of Cameryn) and Member of Tlingit Haida Tribes of Southeast Alaska – Supports the District’s original decision to retire the mascot. Taken aback by those that are trying to reinstate it but aren’t reaching out to involve Native Americans in the process.
- 14) Sadrina Dorn, Briaracrest Teacher and Former Student (K-12), Shorewood Graduate – Supports the original decision to retire the Shorewood mascot. She has worked with the Native families in the District to support the Title VI program that has just been initiated. Agreed with Camille Hubbard regarding not being reached out to about reenacting the Thunderbird. Referenced psychology papers that point out that is not in the best interest of Native students to have these types of mascots in any educational systems.

### **Action Items**

#### Second Reading and Recommended Adoption of Resolution 2024-1, Climate Justice and Sustainability (replaces Resolution 2023-16)

*Presenters:*

*Dr. Sarah Cohen, School Board Director*

*Aiden Rouhani, Shorecrest Student Representative*

Former board member Dr. Rebeca Rivera presented the first reading of this resolution (under the number 2023-16) at the Board’s November 14, 2023 regular meeting. The resolution number has been changed to 2024-1 to coincide with the new calendar year. Some edits to the original resolution have been made and were reflected with strikeouts and underscore notations for the Board’s review.

By way of review, the Climate Justice and Sustainability Committee was formed in 2021. At that time, it included Dr. Rebeca Rivera and Dr. Sarah Cohen, school board directors; Superintendent Susana Reyes; and then student representatives Yubi Mamiya (Shorewood) and Sky Stark (Shorecrest). Most recently, current student representatives Lily Fredericks and Aiden Rouhani (Shorecrest) and Esme Harkess and Mitchell Ichinkhorloo (Shorewood) have also been participating. Students expressed interest in connecting the adoption of this resolution with Earth Day, April 22, 2024.

Director Cohen shared some remarks and expressed gratitude. She stated that even though there are many challenges and an abundance of tasks facing the District at this time, this work is vital and needs attention. We join other districts around us, including Seattle School District, as well as municipalities like the cities of Lake Forest Park and Shoreline, and King County. We are not alone in formalizing these commitments.

Director Cohen praised Rebeca Rivera for her vision and determination in moving the district forward and engaging staff, students, community members—those voices are reflected in the text of the resolution. The noted changes are mostly in connection with the implementation and the dates associated with that work in an environment filled with many challenges. Additionally, one of the intentions was to formalize the beginning of the implementation process while current board members are still serving their terms in order to provide board continuity. She also recognized the commitment of our students to this work. “In some ways, we are following in the lead of our students.”

Student Rep Rouhani reiterated that student involvement has been key in this process and there have been numerous recommendations that came from students. The first reading draft of the resolution went through the District’s Student Advisory Committee (middle and high school students) and received a lot of positive input; no objections were voiced. Students are very motivated and would like even more to be done; however, they understand the constraints of school districts and are confident that the goals will be achieved in the specified timeframe to the best of the District’s abilities. The changes to the second reading are primarily related to the goals and reporting dates (years) pertaining to the implementation.

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Board members and student reps expressed their appreciation for the contributions made by Dr. Rivera, the climate resolution committee members, and all others involved in this process.

It was the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board adopt Resolution 2024-1, Climate Justice and Sustainability, as presented.

MOTION NO. 24: Director Betnel moved that the Board adopt Resolution 2024-1, Climate Justice and Sustainability, as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Jernigan and carried unanimously.

### **Adoption of Consent Agenda**

President Williams announced that the Board had an opportunity to ask questions on the consent agenda and have them answered prior to this meeting. The following consent agenda was presented for adoption:

- a. Approval of Minutes of the April 2 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Acceptance of Gifts, Grants, Donations
  - Shorewood High School - \$30,601.90 – Shorewood Boosters – Auction Proceeds to Teams and Activities
- c. District-Wide Roof Top Solar Photovoltaic Systems Project, Phase 3 – Award of Contract – Hargis Engineers
- d. Adoption of Resolution 2024-2, Delegating Authority to WIAA for 2024-2025
- e. Approval of Extended Field Trips
- f. Approval of Personnel
  - 1) Certificated
  - 2) Classified
  - 3) Administrative
- g. Approval of Payroll and Vouchers

MOTION NO. 25: Director Jernigan moved that the Board adopt the consent agenda, items 6a through 6g, which is attached hereto and becomes a part hereof. The motion was seconded by Director Betnel and carried unanimously.

As of April 16, 2024, the Board, by a unanimous vote, approved for payment, those vouchers described as follows: March 2024 Payroll Warrants #448498-448528 and Electronic Transfers totaling \$12,691,360.67; Reconciliation of Warrants Issued March 22 and March 29, 2024 – General Fund Warrants #104880-104906, 232400610, 104931-105059, and 232400612-232400657, totaling \$2,565,422.83; Capital Projects Fund Warrants #104907-104909 and 105060-105066, totaling \$1,014,310.76; and Student Body Fund Warrants #104910-104930, 232400611, 105067-105094, and 232400658-232400667, totaling \$83,865.16, for a grand total of \$16,354,959.42.

### **Reports and Presentations**

None

### **Legislative Update**

Director Betnel provided a brief update, which included information about a communication with the PTA and the 32<sup>nd</sup> District. Additionally, there had been a call for advocacy around special education funding at the federal level. She invited those interested to participate in that process. The WSSDA position proposals approved by the Board on April 2 had been submitted; the next step would be for the legislative and resolutions committees to consider all the proposals and provide a “pass” or “do not pass” recommendation, heading towards General Assembly in the fall. At the next board meeting (May 7), nominations for a new legislative representative (or two) will be considered.

**Board Requested Discussion and Future Topics**

None

**Reports and Communications – Board Members, Student Reps and Superintendent**

Board members, student reps, and the superintendent reported on various activities happening in our schools. Director Jernigan reported on the Government to Government Task Force activities. She would be traveling to Yakima for the April 19 Tribal Convening; 32 school districts will be in attendance. Two more convenings are planned for later in the spring.

Praise and appreciation was shared for the three committees and the work they have been doing this year: BAT, Strategic Planning, and School Capacity Review and Closure Consideration.

Upcoming events include study sessions on May 1 and May 28 on the topic of annual board goals and objectives/superintendent evaluation, and a community listening session on May 8 at Parkwood Elementary from 6:00-7:30. Spring Break would be April 22-26.

**Executive Session**

None

Adjournment: 7:22 p.m.

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Emily Williams, Board President

Attest: May 7, 2024

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Dr. Susana Reyes, Secretary  
Shoreline Board of Directors

**All documents referenced in the minutes may be viewed in the Superintendent’s Office during normal business hours.**