



**Ingrid Gale-Olson** ±She read a letter on behalf of a co-worker who FRXOGQ ¶ W D W W H the meeting because she was working at her third job. She cannot afford to pay rent and is living with her in-laws, and she is working a total of 93 hours this week.

**LaVera Langeman** ±She is a paraeducator in the Bridges program at Lowell. She sees her job as a paraeducator as a career, but she needs to have a second job. Paraeducators very often get hurt, go home exhausted and do not feel valued for much of the time. Paraeducators give their entire heart to students. She hopes that the contract is opened.

**Doug Lafferty** ±His daughter attends Shuksan Middle School, and he spoke to the board concerning correspondence related to social justice. He met recently with Jay Jordan, Executive Director, Teaching and Learning; Amy Carder, Shuksan principal; and Summer Stoner, Shuksan teacher, regarding political posters that are on display in classrooms at Shuksan. He is disappointed that the posters have not been removed. He has spoken with/corresponded with Mr. Jordan on several occasions to let him know th DW WKH SRVWHUV DUH LQ YLRODWLRQ RI WK assured by Mr. Jordan that this is a process and that alternative posters would be available to principals but that has not yet happened.

**1.4 Superintendent's Announcements and Report:** Summary of ' U % D n h h t s / Dr. Baker acknowledged the great employees with great hearts who just spoke. School districts across the state are being faced with this same issue after negotiating QHZ FRQWUDFWV ZLWK HWHDFKHUV ¶ W W R F S D W L R Q V Superintendent of Public Instruction and six other superintendents, and many districts feel they have been put into a tough financial position. Additional one-time funding was given to districts from the State, but the funding is not sustainable. Dr. Baker is asking for time to continue to work towards a solution, but re-opening contracts and the negotiation process will take time for our other employee groups. The state superintendent has presented some ideas recently, which include a capital gains tax as well as changes to funding for special education, counseling, mental health and nursing. A state budget proposal will likely come out in December, and it likely will take the legislature

for park use. The school should be finished by the fall of 2022, which is consistent with our original timeline.

**Alderwood Elementary** ±Ron shared that in 1955 when Whatcom County conveyed the [Alderwood Elementary property](#) to the district there was a condition placed on the conveyance whereby only 20 percent of the property could be used for structures, with the remaining 80 percent to be used for playgrounds. Because of that restriction and additional areas considered as wetlands, it would be challenging to build a new school while students are attending school in the current building. Legal counsel has indicated that the Whatcom County Council can extinguish that condition. Ron and Dr. Baker will be meeting with representatives from the county to ask them to consider removing the condition. In the meantime, our architects are looking at how the plans could be adjusted in the event the condition is not removed.



#### **4.0 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

##### **4.1 School Board Directors' Reports: Highlights of comments:**

Ms. Diaz Hackler and Mr. Benjamin attended the fall Area 1 regional meeting at Everett Public Schools and the following was shared:

Ms. Diaz Hackler noted that the 62 percent of ( Y H U H W W 6 F K R R O ' L V W U L students continue to college; their student population is 52 percent white; 92 percent of their ELL students graduate in four years; they have 26 schools with 140 portables; 38 percent of their students qualify for free/reduced lunch, and the student population is close to 20,000. Mr. Benjamin stated that he appreciates that the size of our schools is much smaller and more intimate. Meridian, Mount Baker and Ferndale school districts were all in attendance. WSSDA is looking for input and feedback regarding how the negotiation process went for districts. There were many stories from other districts that were in a much more difficult situation than we were.

There are district 1 openings on the following committees: Legislative Committee; Resolutions Committee; Nominating Committee; and Interscholastic Activities Committee.

Ms. Diaz Hackler attended the open house at Carl Cozier Elementary and met the new principal, Ari Feeny. There was a potluck which drew a large crowd.

Mr. Benjamin acknowledged Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations Jackie Brawley and her team for their assistance with the WSSDA Boards of Distinction application.

Mr. Benjamin shared that he, Ms. Bashaw and Ms. Mason attended the Bellingham Public Schools Foundation dinner on Sept. 21, and it was an inspiring event.

Mr. Benjamin attended a meeting held at a private home with several other people, including a Sehome High School senior, and an interesting discussion was held regarding political action. He noted that many of our seniors are 18 years old and able to vote.

Ms. Mason attended a rally to support victims of sexual assault and noted that many of the students who were involved in the student walkout last year were in attendance.

Ms. Bashaw attended an early learning brunch in Anacortes, and the keynote speaker was from Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.

##### **4.2 GP-7.2 – 2018-19 Annual Board Agenda, Revised ±General review.**

#### **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

##### **5.1 School Board Committee Reports:**

At the Sept. 26, 2018 school board retreat, Mr. Benjamin and Ms. Mason were tasked with looking at how the school board communicates with the public and how they arrive at decisions. A very productive meeting was held with Mr. Benjamin, Ms. Mason, Dr. Baker and Jackie Brawley. [Notes](#) from that meeting, which outline some ideas, are attached. Mr. Benjamin does not believe any formal action needs to be taken at this time, but he highlighted some specific portions of the notes from the meeting. He noted that

