



City Council Joint Meeting with North Thurston Public School Board of Directors Approved Minutes

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Introductions

City Council Present

Deputy Mayor Malcolm Miller

Councilmember Carolyn Cox

Councilmember Nicolas Dunning (remote)

Councilmember Maren Turner

Councilmember Ryan Siu

Lacey Youth Council Deputy Mayor Isabella Valerio (River Ridge High School)

Lacey Youth Council Representative to the Human Services Commission, Jennifer Zheng (North Thurston High School)

City Council Excused

Mayor Andy Ryder

Councilmember Lenny Greenstein

North Thurston Public School Board Directors Present

President Esperanza Badillo Diorio

Vice President Michelle Gipson

Director Gretchen Maliska

Director Jeff Line

Director Sarah Tracy

Student Advisor Colten Bowman (Envision Career Academy)

Student Advisor Henry Bui (North Thurston High School)

Staff Present

Rick Walk, City Manager

Troy Oliver, District Superintendent

Jen Burbidge, Parks, Culture, and Recreation Director

Sue Falash, Recreation Manager

Sadie Siglin, Management Analyst
Brandy Legomina, Deputy City Clerk

3. Land Acknowledgement

Deputy Mayor Miller presented the abbreviated Land Acknowledgement.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Councilmember Siu moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Cox seconded. The motion carried.

5. Public Comment

Cortni Holthaus, Tumwater resident, commented about the federal amended complaint challenging policies of the Washington State Department of Corrections.

6. Agenda Items

A. Youth DEIB Summit Panel Report

Annie Hicks, Nisqually Youth Council
Isabella Valerio, Deputy Mayor, Lacey Youth Council
Makayla Lesane, Summit Planning Subcommittee Rep., Lacey Youth Council
Jennifer Zheng, Summit Planning Subcommittee Rep., Lacey Youth Council

Valerio and Zheng reported on the 2026 Thurston Forward Youth DEIB Summit Panel, held on May 1-2, 2026, at the South Puget Sound Community College Lacey Campus. The Lacey Youth Council, Olympia Youth Council, and Nisqually Youth Council collaborated to organize a youth panel and mental health workshop focused on issues affecting youth, including environmental, tribal, juvenile justice, and mental health concerns.

B. 5th Grade Activity Night

Sean Dotson, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Jen Burbidge, Lacey Parks, Culture, and Recreation Director

North Thurston Public Schools, Lacey Parks, Culture, and Recreation, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Thurston County have partnered to organize activity nights for fifth-grade students. The first event is scheduled for May 15, 2026, at the Kaila Celeste Branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Thurston County and will have a capacity for up to 200 students. Due to sponsorship support, there will be no fee for the initial event, though fees may be considered for future events. During this event, district staff will offer a parent education session at the district office focused on supporting students' transition from fifth grade to middle school. Discussion ensued.

C. Lacey Parks and Aquatics

Jennifer Burbidge, Lacey Parks, Culture, and Recreation Director

Sue Falash, Lacey Recreation Manager

Burbidge provided an overview of upcoming Lacey Parks, Culture, and Recreation (PCR) spring and summer events and shared updates on 2026-2027 projects including Greg Cuoio Park Phase 1A, Regional Athletic Complex (RAC) Improvements, and Rainier Vista Park improvements.

Burbidge highlighted the department's long-standing partnership with North Thurston Public Schools through a Joint Use Agreement, which supports shared use and operation of pools, athletic fields, gyms, classrooms, and buses for community programs and user groups.

Falash reviewed the aquatics program, including staff training, swim lessons, aqua fitness, pool rentals, and family open swim passes, and discussed the potential community impacts associated with the possible closure of The Evergreen State College pool. Discussion ensued.

D. Raj Manhas Activity Center

Sean Dotson, Assistant Superintendent of Operations

Dotson reported on the February 3, 2026, ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Raj Manhas Activity Center. The newly renovated facility houses the Ignite Family Academy homeschool parent partnership program, the North Thurston Public Schools Family and Youth Resource Center, student records and archives, the South Sound Reading Foundation, and office space for community partners.

E. LEAF Center

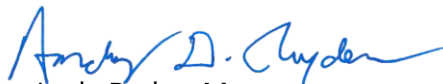
Sean Dotson, Assistant Superintendent of Operations

Dotson reported on the groundbreaking ceremony for the Lacey Education and Family (LEAF) Center, which took place on March 30, 2026. The preschool and family education facility will include 18 classrooms, a multi-activity space, a library, and a community playground. The center is expected to serve up to 600 students and is scheduled to open in fall 2027.

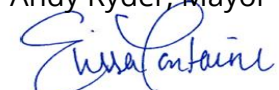
7. Adjourn

Deputy Mayor Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

MAYOR:


Andy Ryder, Mayor

ATTEST:


Elissa Fontaine, City Clerk

APPROVED: June 2, 2026