

Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS)

March 31, 2011

Schools Represented:

Elementary Schools

Birchwood
Columbia
Geneva
Happy Valley
Lowell
Northern Heights
Roosevelt
Silver Beach
Wade King

Middle Schools

Fairhaven
Kulshan
Shuksan
Whatcom

High Schools

Sehome
Squalicum

Co-Chairs: Gennie Clawson and Sharon Stahl

District Staff: Tom Venable, Incoming Deputy Superintendent
Karst Brandsma, Acting Deputy Superintendent
Jim Facciano, Director of Curriculum
Pam Pottle and Dawn Christiana, Literacy Support Teachers
Tanya Rowe, Director, Communications and Community Relations
Roxanna Parise, Homeless Coordinator
Stephanie Korn, Alderwood Elementary Principal
Missy Ferguson, Lowell Elementary Principal
Michelle Kuss-Cybula, Fairhaven Middle School Principal

Note Taker: Margaret Gude, Communications and Community Relations Secretary

Welcome

Co-Chair Sharon Stahl opened the meeting and made the following announcements:

- The next meeting is May 5.
- Inter-School Conversations Scheduled for May 16 (see attached flyer)

Comments by Karst Brandsma

Deputy Superintendent Brandsma gave opening comments about his tenure in the Bellingham School District. He stated he has had an amazing experience in the district and it has been an honor to spend time here. He wants the community of Bellingham to know that the district is doing outstanding work and that Bellingham students are receiving an outstanding education.

Elementary Literacy Adoption Update

Jim Facciano, Director of Curriculum, gave a brief history of the elementary literacy program in the district, then introduced literacy support teachers Pam Pottle and Dawn Christiana who headed up the adoption process.

During the last two years, Bellingham Public Schools' [Elementary Literacy Advisory Committee](#) has reconvened to renew the focus on literacy instruction. As part of this work, the committee has been asked to select a common core resource for reading instruction. Representatives from all grade levels, K-5, many specialists and staff from all elementary schools have worked together to review the district philosophy of literacy, best practices and preview potential

resources for adoption. Implementing a common core curriculum (CCC) in literacy is a critical component for consistency and integration in the district. Intervention strategies in the district such as Response to Intervention (RtI), Readabout, tutors, and Back on Track will remain as support to this core curriculum. In addition, literacy professional development for teachers will give them time to collaborate and share strategies. Pam and Dawn reiterated that movement on the adoption of this curriculum is what is best for our students. (See committee website for PowerPoint presentation.)

Elementary school parents are invited to review the recommended resources for K-5 literacy instruction during a **Literacy Resource Open House** from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 19 at the District Office, Room 212. Following this open house and the advisory process, literacy materials for grades K-5 will be selected in the coming weeks for use beginning this fall.

School Supply Work Group Update

Roxane Parise gave an update on the work of the School Supply Work Group which met on March 28, 2011 (Minutes and Proposed Basic School Supply List for 2011-12 attached). The next step in the process is to bring the proposed Basic School Supply List back to elementary teachers for their input. Future work on school supplies may include district funding for some of these basic educational/curriculum items.

Comments from Incoming Deputy Superintendent Tom Venable

After a brief history of his time in the district, Tom thanked the group for their active engagement and noted the importance of their feedback and hard work in the district. He reiterated the districtwide vision as stated in Superintendent Baker's Entry Plan Report: 1) support for early intervention and 2) flexibility and innovation on the secondary level. Tom reviewed the elementary enrichment and support programs as they will be implemented next year. He also announced the reconvening of the Use of Time Task Force this spring to help tackle secondary level professional development and early dismissal/teacher workday decisions.

Small Group Work on Before- and After -School Activities

By level, the room divided into groups for a work session on before- and afterschool programs, identifying what is offered and by whom, sharing information on how these programs are set up and funded, and the numbers of students participating in these programs. With principals Missy Ferguson, Stephanie Korn and Michelle Kuss-Cybula joining these groups, the information from this work session will be taken back to administrative level meetings and discussed with all elementary and middle school principals.

Next Meeting

9:45 a.m. May 5, 2011, District Office Board Room

Attachments:

Minutes to School Supply Work Group, March 28, 2011

Proposed Basic School Supply List K-5

Inter-School Conversations May 16 Flyer

School Supply Committee Meeting

March 28, 2011

Attendance: Dave Adams, Missy Ferguson, Lurinda Ford, D'ann Schroeder, Mardi Solomon, Roxana Parise and Patty Hoff

1. Roxy handed out the paperwork with the individual elementary school supply tallies. Paperwork also included the total supply cost broken down by grade level in the three areas of curriculum, building and student and also the total student count by grade level. Cost per item was based on Wal-Mart pricing.
2. Mardi Solomon from Columbia Parents Association presented information on the bulk ordering process used when they went to the "basic school supply packet" system for each student at Columbia.
 - a. Many of the student supplies went into a common bin for classroom use.
 - b. Average cost of \$13 per student for basic supplies. Does not include a backpack, pencil box or lunch box.
 - c. Columbia's school supply cost was based on KCDA bulk pricing.
 - d. Partially funded by a \$2400 grant which the CPA applied for to start up the "school supply store".
 - e. Families were encouraged to pay the previous Spring to purchase Fall supplies. This gave them additional funds to bulk purchase the supplies. The remainder of the funds were collected in the Fall when school started. Every student received a school supply packet, regardless if they had paid. CPA followed up with the families to collect the money----this was more time consuming than anything. Scholarships were available for those who could not pay.
3. Why did they go to this type of supply purchasing?
 - a. Noticed that a fair number of items were used year to year----scissors, calculators, etc. Could the building actually purchase a set for each classroom and let the students use them as necessary? Looked at cost to the building budget to see if classroom purchases of one item (scissors) per year were affordable
 - b. Environmentally cuts down on packaging and waste---earth friendly
 - c. Cuts down on cost for parents
 - d. Getting back to the basic needed supplies
 - e. Look at what items can be carried forward and used year to year
4. What does Kenn want to do with this information ---what is the next step?
 - a. Develop a step by step process
 - b. Give lists back to the teachers with the optional items removed?
 - c. What could the district afford to purchase?
5. **Decision: Give basic school supply list (based on Columbia's list) back to the teachers at each building and ask them to review and see which items are missing from the list ---what do they consider to be a "basic essential list of school supply items".**
6. Next meeting---

Third Grade (\$43.18*)

- Backpack - large
- 3 ring binder
- Crayons
- Color pencils
- Composition book
- Calculator - basic
- Dividers
- Eraser - pink
- Folder - 2 pockets
- Glue bottle
- Glue sticks
- Markers - thick, washable
- Notebook - spiral, wide rule
- Filler paper - wide rule
- Pencil box
- Pencils - yellow #2
- Ruler - non bending
- Scissors
- Watercolors

What is missing?

Fourth Grade (\$45.18*)

- Backpack - large
- 3 ring binder
- Crayons
- Color pencils
- Composition book
- Calculator - basic
- Dividers
- Eraser - pink
- Folder - 2 pockets
- Glue bottle
- Glue sticks
- Highlighter
- Markers - thick, washable
- Notebook - spiral, wide rule
- Filler paper - wide rule
- Pencil box
- Pencils - yellow #2
- Ruler - non bending
- Sharpe or Flair pen
- Scissors
- Watercolors

What is missing?

Fifth Grade (\$45.18*)

- Backpack - large
- 3 ring binder
- Crayons
- Color pencils
- Composition book
- Calculator - basic
- Dividers
- Eraser - pink
- Folder - 2 pockets
- Glue bottle
- Glue sticks
- Highlighter
- Markers - thick, washable
- Notebook - wide rule
- Filler paper - wide rule
- Pencil box
- Pencils - yellow #2
- Ruler - non bending
- Sharpe or Flair pen
- Scissors
- Watercolors

What is missing?

INTER-SCHOOL CONVERSATIONS: SHARING IDEAS AND SUPPORTING EACH OTHER ACROSS SCHOOLS

The Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS) is hosting a dialogue between and among the Bellingham School District parents and parent organizations. The purpose is to share experiences, lessons learned, innovations and best practices from around the district. We invite you to join us in the conversation—giving and receiving both information and support.

What? This facilitated meeting will use an “open space” approach, meaning that the agenda will be determined by the people who attend. Topics should be relevant to parent organizations within Bellingham district schools. Come with your priorities in mind.

Who? Any person who has an interest in how our parent organizations (e.g. PTA, PTSA, PTO) could learn from and support each other across the various schools within the Bellingham School District.

When? Monday, May 16th 2011, 6:30 PM to 9 PM

Where? Bellingham High School Commons

Treats? Yes! Refreshments will be served.

Questions? Please contact Rachel Williams at racheljowilliams@yahoo.com or 961.3850.