

Board Summary: Community Linkage Meeting Connecting with Leaders of Service and Nonprofit Organizations

The Bellingham School Board and Superintendent Greg Baker welcomed a group of leaders from local service and nonprofit organizations to a linkage meeting on Jan. 26, 2012 to discuss the education of our students.

The purpose of the meeting was for the School Board to engage in a discussion about the skill sets and personal characteristics that our community desires in our graduates. Attendees were divided into small groups with at least one Board member and one Executive Team member with each group. The Board asked the business leaders to explore the following questions:

- What are the ideal citizen characteristics and qualities that your service or nonprofit organization values in our students and graduates? What do you seek in our future community leaders?
- Belief statements to guide our work in Bellingham Public Schools: Please provide feedback on the draft of [The Bellingham Promise](#).
- How can Bellingham Public Schools strengthen its relationship with your service or nonprofit organization?

The leaders from service and nonprofit organizations shared numerous ways in which they are currently connected to and support Bellingham Public Schools, as well as ideas to strengthen connections. A common theme among their conversations was a desire for students to experience success in multiple ways and to recognize students for achievements and positive contributions to their schools and community. The local leaders expressed a desire for the district and schools to foster other skills in students, in addition to academic preparation, such as strong character, positive attributes and leadership qualities, as well as a sense of service to community

To view minutes from the meeting, [please click here](#).