

Community Linkage Meeting Connecting with Parent Organizations

Under the [Policy Governance model](#), the [Bellingham School Board](#) is conducting “linkages” as a way to connect with the community and listen.

The School Board’s community outreach linkage on Oct. 6 focused on listening to and learning from our parent leaders about the current and desired role of parent organizations in relationship to Bellingham Public Schools. One parent leader from each school’s PTA/PTSA/PTO was encouraged to attend.

The Board of Directors uses information gathered at community linkages to reshape its policies to reflect the values of the community in meeting the desired ends or outcomes for students. The essential questions the Board explored with the group were:

- What is working well for your parent organization in partnership with your school?
- What concerns do you have regarding your parent organization in partnership with your school?
- How do you view the current role of parent organizations and their relationship to our schools and district, and what’s your vision for the future?
- How does your vision align with the School Board’s commitment and belief statements as listed in this [policy](#)? What suggestions do you have to improve the belief statements to better reflect our district’s fundamental values and character?

“Our School Board is very appreciative of the parent leaders who attended and shared their insights,” says School Board member Dr. Scott Stockburger.

Linkages are expected to help the School Board with policy work and the Superintendent with operational work on topics of community interest. The Board plans to hold linkages regularly on a variety of topics related to improving student achievement.

For meeting minutes and reflections from the Oct. 6 community linkage, [click here](#).