

**Board Summary: Community Linkage Meeting
Connecting with Families of Highly Capable Learners
September 27, 2012**

The Bellingham School Board and Superintendent Greg Baker welcomed parents and district staff to a linkage meeting on Sept. 27, 2012 to discuss the Highly Capable Learners (HCL) Program.

The purpose of the meeting was for the School Board to engage in a discussion about how [The Bellingham Promise](#) connects with the Highly Capable Learners' Program and the services provided for students and families. Attendees were divided into small groups with at least one Board member and one Executive Team member with each group. The Board asked parents and staff members to explore the following questions:

- What in The Bellingham Promise resonates with regard to HCL students?
- What in The Bellingham Promise could be improved as it relates to HCL students?
- What evidence or data would indicate the success or failure of an HCL program?
- What are the attributes of a high-functioning HCL program?
- What is one thought or item you want the Board to take away from this meeting?

Parents and staff members shared their support for The Bellingham Promise and suggested ways it could relate better to HCL students. Parents also suggested many ways that the HCL program could be enhanced to better serve students, including an emphasis on professional development/training for staff working with HCL students and that students be given more challenging work so they can reach their full potential. Parents suggested the word “challenge” be added to The Bellingham Promise. Parents expressed a need for the HCL program to be more than one day per week. They urged the Board to recognize students as future leaders and citizens and to realize the importance of the needs of the HCL learner through the allocation of resources, training and family engagement opportunities.

For more details, please [click here](#) to view the meeting minutes.