Bellingham Public Schools
a collective commitment

POLICY GOVERNANCE® & SCHOOL BOARD COMMUNITY LINKAGES

In September 2009, Bellingham Public Schools Board of Directors embarked on a new method of governance – Policy Governance® (PG) – an integrated board leadership model created by Dr. John Carver.

In the PG model, the board governs the school district by focusing on results or "ends" – what graduates should know, understand and be able to do, as well as what life skills, personal attributes and ethics they should have developed. By governing at this level, the board avoids micro-managing the work of the district.

The school board holds the superintendent accountable for implementing the board's vision as described in *The Bellingham Promise* by monitoring results through the use of data, reports and focused discussions, including listening to the public about our goals, standards and progress. These vital feedback sessions with targeted members of our community are what we call Linkages. Over the years we have held Linkages with:

2010–11 School Year	**LINKAGE GROUP**
16-Nov-10	Elementary Program and Schedules
24-Feb-11	Early Childhood Education
12-May-11	Latino Families & Students
2011–12 School Year	
6-Oct-11	Parent Leaders-PTSA/PAC
3-Nov-11	Community Business Leaders
26-Jan-12	Community Nonprofits and Service Organizations
8-Mar-12	District Employee Groups
2012–13 School Year	
27-Sep-12	Highly Capable Learner Families
24-Jan-13	Bellingham Mayor & City Council
3-May-13	Home Schooled Families
2013-14 School Year	
26-Sep-13	Special Education students & parents
24-Oct-13	English Language Learner Families & Students
30-Jan-14	LGBTQA Community, Students, Parents & Staff
27-Mar-14	Senior Citizens
28-May-14	High School Seniors
2014-15 School Year	
23-Oct-14	Club Sports
22-Jan-15	Faith-Based Community
23-Apr-15	Neighborhood Associations

- See school board section of district website for Minutes of past linkage sessions:

  https://bellinghamschools.org/communityboard-linkage

It is all well and good for the board to set goals for student achievement & development, but those goals must be shaped and vetted by our entire community who are the owners of the school district – not the staff alone or the parents alone or any other interest group. Every constituency within our community provides the board with a unique prospective on the education goals for our students.