

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) to the Superintendent: Key Communications
Jan. 26, 2017 – Central Services Board Room

Each school has two representatives on this committee. Attendees introduced themselves and shared their connections with the school district. Holly Miller and Grace Munson are co-chairs:

- We are here to learn information, have discussions and give input to the superintendent. **Please bring information back to each of our schools, share it, and take back questions or concerns from other parents. Please send a parent sub if you are unable to represent your school at a future meeting.**

Superintendent's Update

- **Calendar:** Today is the end of semester, which means we are officially half way through our school year. We had some calendar changes due to two snow days in December, including the [last day of the year](#) and [graduation dates](#). The next cohort of Promise K starts Jan. 30. This program is for students who will attend full time kindergarten next year (2017-18) who have not had any preschool experience.
- **State legislature:** We're watching our lawmakers in Olympia to see how they plan to fix the levy cliff and their general plans to fund K12 education across the state.
- **Project Free Education:** We're working to bring together our 22 PTAs and the Bellingham Schools Foundation to dig into fundraising. A meeting is planned for March that will include representatives from all schools, the foundation and staff.
- **Attendance Area Committee:** [This group](#) is continuing to look at enrollment and growth around the district, including capacity concerns at Cordata Elementary and balancing enrollment between Squalicum and Bellingham high schools. The committee plans to make a recommendation to Dr. Baker in the coming weeks.
- **Innovation at High School:** Squalicum and Options high schools' staff are getting trained on devices and preparing to go 1:1 (one technology device per student) to integrate technology into teaching and learning next school year. There's a lot to look forward to next year, including later start and end times and the new eight period schedule.
- **Facility update:** Options High School is under construction and is on schedule. We plan to open the new school by the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. We plan to break ground and start construction on the new Sehome High School this spring/summer. Construction on the new turf football field at Bellingham High School begins this spring.

Dr. Baker answered questions about the 1:1 technology initiative and our preparations with staff and our schools.

School Counselor Panel Discussion

- Counselors from elementary, middle and high schools discussed their work and how they support and engage with students and families
- They also talked about safety, cyber bullying, self-harm and the importance of monitoring your children's social media.
- The counselors answered a variety of questions from parents.
- Parents are invited to the White Hatter event regarding cyber safety from 7 to 9 p.m. on Feb. 16 at Bellingham High School.

"Our Kids" for February's Meeting

We're starting a book study and will begin our conversation next meeting.

School Excitement: Parents shared positive news and events happening at our schools.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The next meeting is Feb. 23, 2017 at the district office in the board room.