

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) to the Superintendent Meeting
April 21, 2016 – Central Services Board Room
Key Communications

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

Superintendent's Update

- **Start/End Times:** Since we shared plans to adjust our schools' bell schedules in 2017-18, we have connected with a few parents by phone and had two parents attend a community meeting. We discussed the rationale, concerns and answered questions. Dr. Baker asked what parents had been hearing. *One parent expressed that she's hearing from middle and high school students who are disappointed that it's not beginning this fall. A parent asked question about the transportation needs; is this change contingent upon a transportation levy passing?* No, we would still be able to move forward with our new start and end times, but we would need to adjust our current level of bus service (field trips, activities, walking radius, etc.). We need more buses to maintain our current level of service and update an aging fleet. The [Transportation Levy Advisory Group](#) started meeting yesterday.
- **High School Schedule:** We've been working a common high school schedule that would give students more elective opportunities. We've decided on an eight-period schedule. Students will register for eight classes, but only four classes meet each day.
- **U.S. News and World Report** recently ranked high schools according to Advanced Placement (AP) course participation. (Options was not ranked): Squalicum is ranked 13th in the state, 1000 in the U.S. and has a 59% AP participation rate; Sehome is ranked 20th in the state, 1307 in the U.S. and has a 44% AP participation rate; and Bellingham is ranked 39th in the state, 1887 in the U.S. and has a 37% AP participation rate.
- **Leadership Update:** Thanks in part to our recently passed technology levy, Dr. Bill Palmer has been selected as our new director of Teaching and Learning focused on Technology Integration. Dr. Palmer will help coordinate our district's implementation of our future 1:1 student technology initiative, supporting the training and development of staff and the use of technology to improve student learning. Dr. Palmer is currently the Instructional Technology and Curriculum Leader in Bellevue School District. *Input from parents: Interested in digital citizenship education and internet safety.* Dr. Baker and Dr. Copland said, yes, this is key part of our work in partnership with families. In addition, Micah Smith will move from Cordata to Alderwood to serve as principal there next year. A search process for Cordata's next principal is underway. We also have high school assistant principal openings at Sehome and Squalicum high schools, and plan to make those announcements soon.

Update on Wellness & Recess Before Lunch – Jessica Sankey & Guests

- A [Wellness Policy Advisory Group](#) is working on a recommendation related to physical education, nutrition, food and wellness. We're on an exciting path to improve our food services program in preparation for opening a central kitchen in the future.
- Recess before lunch: This is considered best practice and we are working to overcome logistical issues to support all elementary schools in exploring and shifting toward model.

Conservation Site Update – Rob McElroy

- A presentation was shared regarding the history and suggested timeline for next steps for the Gordon Carter Conservation Site, which the district owns near the south end of Lake Whatcom. The presentation will be included in the minutes.

Next Meeting: June 2, 2016 at the district office board room