

**Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS) Meeting**  
**Oct. 22, 2015 - 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:**

- **Central Kitchen Planning:** A small group of staff recently visited Berkley, Oakland and Boulder public schools' central kitchens to learn how they serve thousands of students fresh, from-scratch food every day. We're working with [Chef Ann Cooper](#), a nationally recognized school kitchen expert, and we will be holding a community forum when she visits. We are currently forming a [central kitchen advisory committee](#), which comprises of staff, students, and representatives from local food/farm organizations, parents, and community members. They will be making recommendations to Dr. Baker about next steps for the central kitchen.
- **Sehome Visioning:** We are now working with architects and starting the process for gathering input from students, staff, families and community about their hopes and dreams for the new Sehome High School. We have planned [multiple meetings](#) and opportunities for people to submit their thoughts, hopes and dreams for the new school. Next week, we'll put out a call for applications for a Sehome educational specifications committee, which will take all the info from many various
- **Levies:** We are running two replacement levies in February which make up about 25% of our budget. One is a technology levy and the other is an operations levy. Dr. Baker is now working on a resolution to submit to the school board in November, which includes ballot language for the February election. We, as a school district, can help inform and explain what is included in the levy and why. PACS will get more information at upcoming meetings in Dec. and Jan.

**Technology in our Schools:**

A panel of some members of the [Student Technology Think Tank](#), spoke about their process this fall, and the group's learning and rationale behind their recommendations to Dr. Baker about what to include in the upcoming technology levy. The think tank looked deeply at how [past levy dollars](#) have been spent thus far and results from community, staff, parent and student surveys the communications department conducted in September, which showed strong support for increased technology in our schools. The panel then explained their eight recommendations that they will be sharing with Dr. Baker this week, which includes the group's endorsement for a 1:1 model (one device per student), and how they would like to see the 1:1 model implemented and rolled out.

Education Technology Executive Director, Kurt Gazow, Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Mike Copland, and other panel members, answered parents' questions and comments about replacement cycles for computers, timelines, safety, professional development, digital ink, consistent devices, the importance of face-to-face/interpersonal communication and skills, equity, lost/damaged devices, and parent education.

### **Announcements**

- Bellingham Public Schools Foundation *Hungry Minds* Breakfast fundraiser is Oct. 27 at Whatcom Middle School
- Washington state PTA is holding their annual legislative Assembly in Olympia Oct. 24

**The next PACS meeting is Dec. 10.**