

HIGHLY CAPABLE LEARNERS PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 19, 2017

9:30am to 11:30am

Central Services

Attendees:

- Chris Airoidi
- Cathy Beecham
- Cathie Brown
- Dawn Christiana
- Mike Copland
- Veronica Douglas
- Prateek Dutta
- Chelsea Jackson

- Andreas Hajos
- Robert Kalahan
- Sharon King
- Maryann Kuhn
- Regan Levinson
- Michelle Morse
- Trish Neary
- Quenby Peterson

- Pam Pottle
- Vicky Reardon
- Carrie Schwarz
- Brad Stone
- Maia Thomas
- Sarah Walker
- Sara White

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION
Welcome	- Dawn Christiana, Director of Teaching and Learning and lead for Highly Capable, shared the agenda items to be covered during the meeting.	
Updates	- Robert Kalahan, Principal at Fairhaven Middle School, shared that Fairhaven Middle School teachers engaged with the University of Washington, Robinson Center counselor Kathryn Grubbs, who visited to offer professional development around being identified Highly Capable. The visit opened the door for further development and continued growth for Fairhaven Middle School teachers. - Robert also shared that Sarah Walker, Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) working with students identified Highly Capable, spends one day a week at Fairhaven Middle School working with teachers on differentiation and the positive feedback he has received about her work.	
First Highly Capable Orientation for Newly Identified Students	- Dawn reported turnout for the orientation was about twelve families and acknowledged this was most likely because of the time of year of the meeting, being that it was held in December. - Dawn shared the flyer given to families attending the orientation and asked for Parent Advisory Committee member feedback to help fill in any unanswered questions or concerns. - A parent shared a concern about planning for high school students and their future. The parent acknowledged her student might be receiving support but it is not being communicated out to parents.	* Blue box on front need to include links for the website. * What does this mean now for my child K-1, 2-8, 9-12 * Doesn't talk about what happens after eighth grade.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Another parent shared her high school student meets regularly Rhonda Schraeder-Young, the case manager who works with students identified Highly Capable, and discussed in depth her student career and beyond. The parent expressed she was very impressed with Rhonda's support. - A parent asked to possibly have a timeline shared so parents would know the process. 	* Add dates to the form so we know it's updated.
New High School Schedule Progress Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike Copland, Deputy Superintendent, shared information regarding the new eight period schedule (also known as 4x8) and encouraged members to look over the catalog for the 2017-18 school year and the many offerings for students. - Mike also shared the professional development for staff with upcoming choice days, where staff can choose from around 70 options mostly taught by district staff with expertise in various areas. 	
Math Menus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dawn explained the role of Kim Markworth's, Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education at Western Washington University, in helping to create math menus for Bellingham Public Schools. - An elementary parent commented on a positive response from teachers and students in their school and that it does not feel like an add-on but rather a built in part of their education. - Dawn explained how teachers assess pre-tests to make sure students are able to move forward while still making sure students have the foundation needed for math concepts. 	
Students Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike Copland shared how our district's comprehensive mid-year report is based on the outcomes The Bellingham Promise. The board has pushed the district to share both quantitative and qualitative data. We do not currently have the ability to compare with other districts because the state does not require this data on the highly cable report. -Dawn shared the end of year report with members to have them consider students' growth. - Dawn shared a video about Student Growth Percentile (SGP). - A parent member shared concerns that since the data is showing kids topping out we don't really know how far they can go. - Another parent observed that though they are topping out they are still scoring higher than the rest of the population of students and these students might be receiving access to higher academic experiences. - A member commented that student learning plans (SLP) in their previous district included state assessment scores so that families could see their student's growth. - A parent asked what we with this data? Should we be setting goals for future years? 	* Call Buena Vista school district regarding qualification process for highly capable.
Discussion regarding state legislation and Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dawn explained highly capable funds fall under categorical funding and that the state funds about 30% of the total highly capable budget and Bellingham Public Schools cover the remaining other 70%. - Dawn and Mike Copland both shared that regardless of what happens outside of Bellingham Public Schools, the dedication and commitment to our students identified Highly Capable, and all students, would not change. 	

FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Looking at what we are doing in high school for our students identified Highly Capable. Possible share out from Rhonda.
- Prateek Dutta, Harvard Doctoral Resident, my attend to give an update on the new high school schedule.