



Bellingham
Public Schools
a collective commitment

GRADS Advisory Group Meeting

March 22, 2016

Present: Jeff McKenna, Michelle Wilhelm, Stephanie Schroeder, Geraldine, Coleman, Barb Cummins, Meagan Dawson, Darcie Donegan, Raine Dozier, Meghan Dunham, Julie Flint, Maureen Hodge, Susan Hymans, Tracey Jaeger, Vicki Lee, Michelle Malone, Sophia Morales, Sarah Moran, Carolina Olza-Kelsh, Sandra Perez, Darci Peterson, Kim Peterson, Beth Schille-O'Connor, Erin Schuldt, Erin Shaffer, Johanna Williams

Members Excused/Absent: Tracy Dahlstedt-Rienstra, Kristi Dominguez, Makenzie Foster, Byron Gerard,

Minutes: Kris Newberry

Agenda Items	Discussion/Decisions
Introductions	The new group members introduced themselves.
Minutes	Minutes from the January 12 st meeting were distributed.
Bellingham Promise	Michelle gave an overview of the Bellingham Promise and how the GRADS program fit into the strategic plan.
GRADS <i>then and now</i>	Jeff gave an overview of the history of the GRADS program and how it has grown from a GED focus program to a high school diploma and beyond program.
Small Groups: Our Hopes/Visions	The committee broke into small groups. Questions and visions were gathered. Notes are attached.



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Financial	<p>\$13577.61 Scholarship Fund –Board approval needed (total includes 4 pending scholarships) \$1946.54 Friend Raising – Board approval needed \$577.41 Lois Wahl – no prior approval necessary \$0.00 Diaper fund – no prior approval necessary \$91.81 Checking</p>
Announcements	A scholarship application was received and will be reviewed by the committee for approval.
Next meeting	4 th Tuesday of April 26 @ 2:30pm Location: School District Office Room 205



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Small Group Hopes and Vision:

- Long-term outcomes
- Outreach to those not served
- Impact of lack of “one room school house”
- Alumni group
- Access to other specialized, groups (DVSAS)
- Informal gatherings; after school (e.g. crockpot cooking), continue cooperative parenting relationships
- Past students, what would help, what else can be done?
- Career fairs (health, etc.)
- Resources – offering gift cards, free x or y, for girls
- Develop mentoring – past students with current
- Regular developmental screenings: latch delays, early and parent education
- Can they expand the hours of the daycare to provide homework/sports/activity time?
- Legal clinic for parenting plans, wills, advance directives, etc.
- Data collection
- H.S. counselor partnership/ownership
- When growth to Birth-5 happens create a co-op program with the colleges (WCC)
- Maximize the use of outside programs/resources, aspect of Michelle & Stephanie’s positions
- Increase use of mental health resources
- Aces & Resil
- Data collection; perceptions, achievements, barriers leaving the program
- Students, Children, Current & over time



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- Mentoring program; former teen parents taking part in the process over time
- What is the recruiting process? How do potential students know about accessing program?
- What kind of partnering do we have with childcare centers to make sure children have spaces in quality programs? Head start programs?
- Support after the program
- Mental Health Support: 1/wk in house – teen student operating as adult parent, pressures, stress
- Nutrition Education: wholesome, body building options, breastfeeding, teen health
- Collect follow up data
- Mentoring system: parent coaches, peer support, prev. teen parent mentor
- Learning lab (like co-op preschool model)with parents, children & mentor/educators/community resources together
- How do we fill the gap right now for kids who are about to age out?
- How to reach out to the unidentified parent teens
- Proactive approach to health/sex ed/ teen programing
- Is there a cultural issue that is not addressed?
- How can we address and support families of teen parents
- BSD staff education about the program
- Leaver survey: GRADS graduates, pulling data form system (WCC,BTC)
- Community Internships: career experiences & opportunities, career interests, connecting to NW Tech
- Engaging in extracurricular activities: YMCA (t-ball, gymnastics, swim lessons, soccer, etc); grants or resources
- Transportation: future out of district GRAD students (WTA, school bus, car, etc)
- Summer? Programs, options for daycare so parent can be employed to attend summer school.