



Bellingham
Public Schools
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GRADS Advisory Group Meeting

May 24, 2016

Present: Kristi Dominguez, Jeff McKenna, Michelle Wilhelm, Geraldine Coleman, Barb Cummins, Tracy Dahlstedt-Rienstra Meagan Dawson, Darcie Donegan, Meghan Dunham, Julie Flint, , Byron Gerard, , Vicki Lee, Sophia Morales, , Carolina Olza-Kelsh, Sandra Perez, Kim Peterson, Beth Schille-O'Connor, Johanna Williams, Debbie Haney

Members Excused/Absent: Tracey Jaeger, Stephanie Schroeder, Michelle Malone, Darci Peterson, Raine Dozier, Makenzie Foster, Maureen Hodge, Erin Schuldt, Erin Shaffer, Susan Hymas, Sarah Moran

Minutes: Kris Newberry

Agenda Items	Discussion/Decisions
Minutes	Minutes from the April 26 th meeting were distributed
Top Priorities	Hopes and visions from last meeting were categorized as follows: Outreach, Program Development, Beyond GRADS, Family Engagement, Health and Wellness. The committee brainstormed actions and ideas in each category. (see below)
The Promise	A copy of the Bellingham Promise was distributed. Members were asked to find where GRADS fit into the Promise. One member said "Where doesn't it fit!" The Promise develops respect and equity for the teen parents. It is our core belief – every child can learn at high levels. GRADS may be housed in Bellingham schools but should be owned by Whatcom County schools.
Options HS – Byron Gerard	Byron reported that GRADS will be woven into the building and not just a tenant. The new building will have infant, toddler and preschool classrooms. The preschool classroom will also serve as a lab for students taking early childhood ed classes.



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Tour childcare	Michelle gave the members a tour of the Squalicum site. She also showed them the recently purchased Baby Box bassinets that will be given to the new parents. Nurse Barb taught a class recently on When and when not to go to the emergency room. It was very helpful.
Reports: Childcare	SqHS site has 5 graduating, SHS site has 2 graduating. The prom experience was very successful for the students who attended. The board gave each \$50 for dinner. Clothes and corsages were purchase by donors for each student.
Financial	<p>\$13577.61 Scholarship Fund –Board approval needed (total includes 4 pending scholarships) \$1796.54 Friend Raising – Board approval needed \$467.30 Lois Wahl – no prior approval necessary \$0.00 Diaper fund – no prior approval necessary \$91.81 Checking</p> <p><u>Expenditures:</u> Lois Woll \$110.11 Prom Meals \$150.00</p>
Announcements	BPS has received a donation of a new 10 person van as well as car seats to serve GRADS and help eliminate the transportation barrier. GRADS has also received \$10,000 donation to purchase formula and diapers.
Next meeting	4 th Tuesday of September 26 @ 2:30pm Location: TBD



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<p>Outreach:</p> <p>Jo & Gerry</p>	<p>“Recruitment” bring more parents into GRADS</p> <p>Transportation</p> <p>Spread word – through agencies seeing pregnant teens</p> <p>Alumni network/mentoring/promotion</p> <p>Connecting parents to community; medical offices, W.C. Health Dept., Nurse Family partnership</p> <p>Summer meet-ups: Elizabeth park concerts, library concerts, spray park</p> <p>Guest speakers/field trips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal “clinic”• Opportunity Council – housing• Other social service agencies• NWYS – independent living• Early Childhood/STARS – WCC, BTC• Whatcom Center for Early Learning – Spa N Do, Par 2 Par• Planned Parenthood – Teen Council, peer sex ed• Food Bank• WIC/DSHS• La Leche League• Library• Bellingham Moms Club• MOPs/MOMs• Co-op care• Suicide prevention• Catholic Community Services• Brigid Collins – Darkness to Light• DVSAS offers groups• Financial planning, money management
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Outreach cont'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug & Alcohol prevention• San Juan Islands camping• NCI
Program Development: Bryon Meghan Julie Tracy D-R Darcie D	<p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All students identified/referred for SpEd services• Functional skills (living on your own, 21st century skills, consumer math, CTE/PBL)• District graduation requirements• Intentional internships (H.S. & Beyond plans, post-secondary, work/career interests)• Child psychology course• Early childhood ed course• Parenting course• Credit retrieval courses (lab) in lieu of extended day• Funding for supplies• Conflict resolution• Relationship building• Family Planning• National leaders• Documentary• Blog• Radio• Mental health and sex education <p>Child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High quality goals• Early intervention (assess for special needs)• TS Gold to monitor <p>Expand Center hours so students can do after school activities Extend childcare for students to work a part-time job after school hours</p>



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Beyond GRADS:

Sophia
Meagan
Jeff

How do we bring “beyond GRADS” to GRADS? Considering socio-economics, family schedules, etc
Data collection – Who will run the data system? Who will be in charge? Update?

Education

- Higher learning
- Continue classes for parenting
- What to expect? Being a single parent or co-parenting
- Credit retrieval program

Work

- Resume, applications, interviews
- Networking
- Search engine
- Balancing work/kids
- Internships

Children:

- How are they doing?
- How to find what your child needs (schools, special services)

Alumni:

- Staying connected
- Mentors
- Drop in support

Social Networking:

- Other Moms
- Creating “families” “neighborhood support”



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Beyond GRADS cont'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of inventories/interest surveys to help identify interest/styles of learning, etc.• Fund reunion gatherings• Scholarship for BTC programs (Child & family studies)
Health & Wellness Beth Debbie Haney Vicki Sandra P Barb	Mental health services – to discuss stigma self-esteem issues Healthy relationships Medical services/dental Infant/toddler developmental screenings Benefits of exercise, meditation, yoga for stress-reduction and health How to play with your baby at different stages How to access help if you're concerned about child's development Positive behavior re-enforcement Discipline not punishment Guidance Mental health drug/alcohol Suicide First aid classes Mom 7 Baby exercise play classes Daddy classes Sexual health relations ships birth control Peer-led sex ed Nutrition education for teens & children ("Food Rules") Pediatrician Family planning Child birth education Brain research ACES Peer mentors Living healthfully & eating for you and your family on low income



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Health & Wellness cont'	Cooking with WIC Finding help for your health when you need it Finding ways to be active with your child Engaging in a variety of activities with the children not just screens Executive function for both parents & children's brain development. Vaccine clinics (parent and child)
Family Engagement Michelle Kris Kim Carolina	Parenting Education ACES training Early Childhood Development, use co-op model Preschools – co-op parent driven, babysitting Multi Generation Dynamics Family of origin Student Family of choice creation Society Bureaucracy Cultural issues around roles and expectations Judgement consequences – make bridge solution Equip students with tools/strategies for effective decision making Diversity – individual to each family How to engage students defined support system Student input – survey, listen student voices What do they need Student advocates – peer student mentor