

**Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) to the Superintendent: Key Communications
Feb. 23, 2017 – Central Services Board Room**

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

- We are here to learn, have discussions and give input to the superintendent. **Please bring information back to each of our schools, share it, and take back questions or concerns from other parents. Please send a parent sub if you are unable to represent your school at a future meeting.**

Superintendent's Update

- **Weather:** Thank you for your patience during our closures due to snow the week of Feb. 6. Our last day is June 16, 2017 (unless we get more snow days).
- **Attendance Areas Adjustments and Facilities Planning:** [This group](#) is developing a recommendation for Dr. Baker on how to address capacity issues at Cordata Elementary and balance enrollment between Squalicum and Bellingham high schools. Impacted families have received notification of these changes. Dr. Baker expects to make a decision based on the committee's recommendation in the coming weeks. After the attendance area adjustments have been made for the 2017-18 school year, we anticipate putting together a new facilities planning task force. This group would pick up where the 2012 task force left off to start planning for a new facilities bond, which could be on the ballot as early as Feb. 2018. The next bond would likely fund the next phase of high school improvements, including Sehome completion and field improvements at Bellingham, Sehome and Squalicum high schools, and focus on the next group of elementary schools that need significant renovations or rebuilding. The task force will also discuss building a new elementary school in the King Mountain area where the district owns property.
- **High School:** For the first time, starting in the 2017-18 school year, all four of our high schools will be on a common schedule and will use a [common course catalog](#). The new eight-period schedule (4 x 8), along with expanded academic offerings, will give students greater flexibility and more course selection opportunities.
- **Project Free Education Update:** We [announced](#) a few weeks ago that all high school families will have AP test fees reduced from \$93 to \$47 per test; and families who qualify for free or reduced meals at school will have their test fees fully covered.
- **Fundraising:** Each principal is bringing two parents/guardians to an upcoming fundraising summit to share current practices around fundraising and help determine ways we can improve processes. One goal of the summit is to define the roles the district, the Bellingham Public Schools Foundation and PTAs play in providing and raising funds for programs, enrichment, trips and more.

Book Discussion: OUR KIDS – The American Dream in Crisis by Robert Putnam

- The group divided into small groups to discuss the book and themes using the protocol called Stir the Classroom. The groups discussed a number of questions posed around themes of the book, including equity, opportunity gaps and parenting. The group shared reflections about the book and how its themes relate to our community and Bellingham Public Schools.

Next Meeting: March 23, 2017 at Kulshan Middle School