

**Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) to the Superintendent Meeting  
December 10, 2015 – Options High School  
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.

**Remaining 2015-16 meeting dates:** 1/21, 2/25, 3/24, 4/21, 5/19

**Superintendent's Update:**

- Bellingham Public Schools has **two [replacement levies](#) on the ballot in Feb. 2016**. One is an operations levy; the other is a technology levy. These levies help fund costs not covered by the state and federal government. The replacement operations levy helps pay for lower class size, staff and special programs, like music, art and athletics. The replacement technology levy covers expenses related to computers, software, technology staff and a 1:1 (one-to-one) model, which would provide a device for each student in grades 3-12. If approved, the financial impact would be an increase of about \$8.33 per month for an owner of a \$300,000 home (assessed value). Dr. Baker and staff answered questions about technology timelines, tax rate, life cycles of devices and levy/government funding processes.
- **Start/end times:** We're still working on refining changes to our start and end times, which would primarily impact elementary and high school schedules. Dr. Baker has [blogged](#) about start and end times twice this fall and has engaged in some exciting dialogue with families and staff. Its complex work and we're finding that there is no perfect schedule to suit every student, family and staff's needs. A key component in a new schedule is to increase flexibility and electives for high school students, which would likely mean going from a six-period day to a seven- or eight-period day. Dr. Baker answered questions and concerns about after-school care for elementary students; younger students riding the bus in the dark winter hours; and high school students riding WTA buses to help meet our transportation needs. Start and end times may be changed 2016-17 or 2017-18.

**Options High School**

- Principal Byron Gerard led a presentation about our fourth, lesser-known high school, [Options](#). Voters approved a facilities bond in 2013, which includes funding to build a new Options school. He shared a [video](#) about Options and answered parent questions about class offerings, how staff accommodates student needs and the future of the school after a new facility is built. The new space will compliment Options' new project-based learning (PBL) approach, inspired, in part, by [High Tech High](#). The new building will also include dental, medical and social services; GRADS program for teen parents; a gymnasium, kitchen, small theater, greenhouse; and aerospace/engineering program.

**Announcements**

- Todd Guiton shared with the group that he recently attended an addiction conference and learned that tobacco (not marijuana) is the key gateway drug. He encourages the school district to help educate students about the dangers of tobacco use.
- Art work from students in grades 6-12 will be displayed at the Lynden Library for the month of December.
- Quenby Peterson will be sworn onto the School Board tonight, Dec. 10.

The meeting adjourned at 11: 22 a.m.

**Next Meeting: January 21, 2016.**