

BELLINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Elementary Conferences Committee May 3, 2012

MEETING NOTES

Committee Members Present

Allison Alexander
David Barrett
Dawn Brand
Jill Caldwell
Amy Carder

Jane Emley
Jean Fleenor
Kirke Hestad
Stephanie Korn
Shirley Prichard

Monica Savory
Nancy Smith
Tom Venable
Kim Walbeck

Introductions

The meeting started with introductions. Each member shared their affiliation, why they wanted to serve on the committee, and their hopes and fears for our work as a committee.

Purpose of Our Work

Tom started by reviewing the committee information on the district website and we talked about the purpose of the committee, decision making process, responsibilities of the committee, and plan of work.

He talked about the research and survey results around family engagement and that the district is moving from a "Parent-Teacher Conferences" model to a "Family Engagement Model."

Discussion Topics Included:

Family Engagement Model

The Bellingham Promise

Decision making process

Timelines

Discussed the middle school conferences committee tiered model for family engagement.

Norms Set:

How will we work together?

- Be willing to give and receive feedback
- Assume the best intentions.

- Ensure all voices are heard.
- Open to perspectives held by others.
- Be present and fully engaged.
- Realize there are multiple strategies to capture all ideas.
- Process and produce.
- Honor start and end times.
- Contentious communication.

Reading and Dialogue Included:

Chapters 3, 4, and 5 from “Beyond the Bake Sale.”

Homework

Review chapters 3, 4, and 5 in “Beyond the Bake Sale.”

Next Meeting

May 10th from 12:30 to 3:30 in conference room 212.