

Aligning Advanced Courses in High School Task Force

March 8, 2017; 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

District Office, Board Room

Meeting started at 10:33 a.m.

Introduction

Bellingham Public Schools Doctoral Resident Prateek Dutta asked participants to share a celebration.

PowerPoint slides shared the work that has been done over the last year in the committee, which include creating shared criteria for what Bellingham Public Schools should value in advanced coursework, funding Advanced Placement (AP) classes, convening all *College in the High School* partners (happening on March 14) and today the conversation about revamping the district website and the Running Start program.

All participants brought laptops and spent 10 minutes looking for information on advanced coursework from the perspective of a parent searching for information. After the 10 minutes were done, a discussion between committee members ensued about the ease of accessibility.

Key takeaways:

- 1) There is no central place for information on advanced coursework on the district website
- 2) It is difficult for parents to understand the nuances of the different advanced programs.
- 3) The school district needs a central district webpage with the information on the different advanced coursework for parents and students.

Running Start

Prateek passed out a document that illustrates a large percentage of high school students from Bellingham Public Schools attending the Running Start program. Out of the 11 comparable districts across the state, Bellingham had the highest percentage of students leaving for Running Start.

The taskforce debated on why that was and what high schools can do to persuade students to not leave for the Running Start program.

Discussion ranged from the new 4x8 schedule, an increase in school engagement, and the influence of high school counselors.

Prateek concludes the meeting by thanking everyone for joining the task force. He states they have promoted positive policies and procedures for kids.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.