

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) to the Superintendent: Key Communications
April 20, 2017 – Alderwood Elementary

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 take information back to each of our schools, share it, and bring 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

- **Early Dismissal Schedule for 2017-18:** We have new school start and end times, an expanded day for high school and a new high school schedule, all of which impact school schedules. We recognize the impact on families and are always looking for ways to minimize disruption while improving instruction through staff professional development. Please click here to watch the [What's Up Doc?](#) video that explains why our staff value Staff Learning Days (Purple Fridays).
- **Middle school dismissal next school year:** Middle schools will dismiss at 3:45 p.m. and buses will arrive between 3:45-4 p.m. This will allow for parent pick-up congestion to be less disruptive for our buses and time for students to connect with staff and socialize. Student supervision will be provided.
- **Budget Planning:** A new high school schedule is one of our biggest investments. We are also planning to add counseling to our middle and high schools.
- **Life Skills Elementary and High School Programs:** Life Skills is a program that serves students in special education. We currently have a Life Skills program at Carl Cozier, Cordata and Wade King, and will be adding this program to Columbia. We also have a program at Sehome and will be adding one at Squalicum.
- **Attendance Area Update:** The committee has completed its recommendations that have been approved for adjusting Cordata's and Squalicum's attendance areas. The committee will continue to meet to work on longer-term needs and recommendations.
- **Facilities Planning Task Force:** Begins meeting today in preparation for our next bond.

One Schoolhouse – Supporting Our Students – Panel

- Panel: Micah Smith, Alderwood Principal; Isabel Meaker, Special Assistant to the Superintendent for Family Engagement; Kathe Koruga, Family Engagement liaison; Kim Lund, Bellingham Public Schools Foundation Executive Director and Kelsey Peronto, Northwest Youth Services representative.
- The panel shared some examples about our families living in crises – in cars, sleeping in substandard housing, not having running water, kids not eating on the weekends or having laundry soap and access to services, etc., and the impact this has on children's brain development, learning and social-emotional needs at our schools. The Foundation and community partners have supplied more than \$30,000 in beds for students and families in the last couple years.
- Please see attached flyers for ways you can help.

Next Meeting: June 1, 2017 at District Office, Board Room

