



March 9, 2015

Dear Dr. Baker,


We are pleased to submit the recommendations developed by the Gordon Carter Environmental Learning Center Vision Advisory Group. The recommendations represent the result of active engagement by a diverse stakeholder group whose perspectives and experience provided rich discussions and debates around how the district's conservation site can be used to help fulfill the Bellingham Promise.

The origins of this group are in June 2013, when Bellingham Public Schools held a meeting of district administrators, teachers, and community partners to discuss the possibility of including the Gordon L. Carter Environmental Education Site on the upcoming Capital Projects Bond. Those committed stakeholders, as well as new members, have shown ongoing commitment to a collaborative process that puts the enhanced education of children at the center of every discussion. Many of these group members are planning to stay connected to the ongoing planning and use of the site. As you read the recommendations, you will see how important this site is to the members of our community both within and around our schools.

The enclosed includes the recommendations, including an appendix with the Guiding Principles that were developed as a complement to The Bellingham Promise to explicate how the experiential nature-based education at the environmental learning site supports and furthers our community's commitment to empowering every child to discover and develop a passion.

The co-chairs, Rob McElroy and Anda Adams, as well as the entire advisory group, are available for any clarifying or follow up questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration. At our last meeting on January 23, 2015, we extended your sincere thanks for the group's work on your behalf.



Anda Adams



Rob McElroy