

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) to the Superintendent: Key Communications April 26, 2018

Each school has two representatives on this committee. Laura Lawyer and Holly Miller are co-chairs:

- We are here to learn, have discussions and give input to the superintendent. **Please bring information back to each of our schools, share it, and take back questions or concerns from other parents.**
- Please arrange for a parent substitute to attend PAC if you are unable to attend.

Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair Holly Miller welcomed attendees and asked them to introduce themselves and share which after-school activities their child participates in. The room was nearly full.

Superintendent's Update

- **Leadership announcements:** [Miguel Perez](#) will be the new Principal at Squalicum High School.
- **Bond projects:** Sehome is slated to open fall 2019. We are currently working with three elementary schools (Alderwood, Parkview, Sunnyland) to determine order of rebuild and anticipate having them all open by 2022.
- **Budget:** We are finding out more about the state budget and it includes funds for future compensation (as mandated by the McCleary lawsuit); however, the plan includes cuts to the local levy in the future.
 - Dr. Baker asked participants to review the [Draft Budget Highlights](#) and discuss with others nearby. A summary of survey feedback will be sent out to families next week.

One Schoolhouse Evolution – Project Free Education

Steve Clarke, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Teaching and Learning, presented on [Project Free Education](#), which supports equity among schools and removes financial barriers for student participation. Since the project's inception in 2011, families are no longer obligated to pay for school supplies, student fees for enrichment activities, music, art supports and athletics. Project Free Education provides free AP testing for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Alderwood & Cordata Enrichment Coordinators (Discussion of their unique roles)

Paraeducator, Jasleen Aulakh, presented on after-school activities at Alderwood Elementary. They now have 13 clubs with approximately 50% student participation. Jasleen is presenting on behalf of Bethany Bender, Community Learning Center Coordinator, who is on leave.

Robyn Johnston, Community Learning Center Coordinator, described progress at Cordata Elementary School, which now has 12 clubs.

Breakout Groups – Which Programs are of Most Value?

Attendees broke out into groups of 4-5 for discussion.

Bellingham Public Schools Foundation Update

Bellingham Public Schools Executive Director Kim Lund and Executive Assistant Kathy Dooley provided updates. This year, the Foundation adjusted middle school fundraising to solicit donations directly instead of selling items. The Foundation recently completed their spring fundraising drive and will continue to work toward engaging more families in giving. [Grants](#) are available from the foundation. Please consider inviting the Foundation to your PTA meetings by emailing foundation@bellingshamschools.org.

Parent Shout Outs

- Holly Miller's term as PAC co-chair is ending this June. Please email Holly or Laura if you are interested in serving as co-chair.
- City Hall donated 35 pairs of new shoes that will go to Birchwood students.

- Birchwood and Alderwood recently obtained IB accreditation.
- Bellingham High School went to state for math and received third place for a team problem.
- The school board just passed a resolution on guns and safety in our community.
- PTA members from Happy Valley and Columbia met to share ideas on best practices for PTAs.
- Shout out to our district and leadership for the encouraging transparency and working together with families.

Final Meeting of 2017-18: May 31, 2018, District Office, Board Room