

Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent (PACS)

November 13, 2014 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Central Services Board Room

Parents: Parents attended representing 14 schools – 8 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 2 high schools.

Executive Team/District Staff:

Superintendent Greg Baker

Deputy Superintendent Mike Copland

Executive Administrator Rob McElroy

Assistant Superintendent Kurt Gazow

Executive Director of Communications and Community Relations Tanya Rowe

Doctoral Resident Anda Adams

Department of Teaching and Learning Director Brian Rick

Department of Teaching and Learning Director Charisse Berner

Note Taker:

Sheri O'Day, Executive Secretary to the Department of Teaching and Learning

Welcome:

Dawn Brand and Trisha Walton welcomed the group and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Superintendent's Update:

Dr. Baker welcomed everyone and briefly introduced the agenda items for the day.

Updates included:

- **Safety** and Security: He acknowledged the tragedy at Marysville Pilchuck High School in Marysville and gave a brief update of where our district is with regards to the safety of students and staff.
- **Priorities for Progress:** This document contains details about many of our work priorities connected to **The Bellingham Promise**. Tanya distributed copies to everyone and noted that copies can be found in each school office and more can be ordered if needed.
- **Class Size Initiative 1351:** The initiative is narrowly passing. The initiative does not contain much specificity, but it helps to put pressure on the Legislature to take action to fund more teachers and staff.
- **City of Bellingham Fire Boat:** The City of Bellingham is acquiring a new fire boat and is seeking to find a name for the boat. If you are interested in being a parent representative on the naming committee, please contact Tanya Rowe to receive more information. The first meeting of the committee is Thursday, Nov. 20 at 5:30.

Dr. Baker drew names from a basket to give parents an opportunity to ask any question:

Comment: It is great to have the Snow Goose field trip funded by the district for middle school students and also to have new math curriculum at elementary, middle and high school levels.

Will there be another opportunity to see the documentary “Go Public”, since the October 28 showing at the Pickford was sold out?

Kim Lund, Executive Director of the Bellingham Public Schools Foundation may have more information about opportunities to see the documentary.

Comment: Thank you to the district for the work being done to form the Family Partnership Program. It is great that the Larrabee building will be used by the district. Dr. Baker noted that an advisory group is in the study phase for forming a family partnership, and they are currently looking at partnership models around the state in order to discover best practices.

Comment: I am curious about the logistics of the Smarter Balanced online testing and the impact that it will have for students in special education and students needing accommodations.

Smarter Balanced Assessment:

Dr. Baker introduced Director of Teaching and Learning Brian Rick, who led the group through an online practice Smarter Balanced Assessment (the new name for the state tests). Students currently in grades 3 through 8 have been taking online tests for a number of years. In the spring, students in grades 3-8 will take the Smarter Balanced assessments in English and math, and grades 5 and 8 will continue to take the Measures of Student Progress (MSP) in science. Grades 10 and 11 will take the Smarter Balanced, and some students in grade 10 will also take End-of-Course (EOC) tests. The test is not timed, and students are allowed to have scratch paper available during the test.

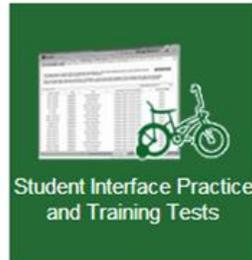
After several minutes spent on the practice test, time was spent in small groups talking about what they noticed and wondered, how they felt, and what they would share with others.

Contact [Brian Rick](#) if you have additional questions. Some links that may be helpful:

A) This link <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/> to the Smarter Balanced website includes a link to the practice test that PACS took today. When parents open the webpage at the URL above, they can look for this graphic (below) and click on it to get to the practice tests. This also gives easy access to more information about the Smarter Balanced assessment system.



- B) If you want a shorter cut with less information about Smarter Balanced, click here: <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>, and then click on this graphic (below) to launch the tests. This page also has info on accommodations plus scoring guides and answers to the test.



- C) “I just want to know more about it, I just want to take the test,” then use: https://login4.cloud1.tds.airast.org/student/V42/Pages/LoginShell.aspx?c=SBAC_PT, which brings you to the sign in page, which looks like this (this link will be most successful using Chrome or Firefox):

A screenshot of a web browser showing a sign-in page titled "Please Sign In". The page has a blue header with a logo on the right. Below the header, there are two sections: "Guest User" and "Guest Session". The "Guest User" section has a checked checkbox and two input fields: "Confirmation Code: GUEST" and "State-SSID: GUEST" (with a subtext "(ex: ST-9999999123)"). The "Guest Session" section has a checked checkbox and one input field: "Session ID: GUEST Session". A "Sign In" button is located at the bottom right of the form. Below the form, there is a note: "To log in to the Practice Test, simply select [Sign In], then navigate through the login screens." and a footer that says "Browser: Chrome v34".

K-12 Mathematics:

Rob McElroy, Executive Administrator for the Department of Teaching and Learning, asked parents to select one of three groups – elementary, middle or high – to learn about the new math curriculum and materials, and to have an opportunity to ask questions. Highlights from each session are as follows:

Elementary School – Janie Overman, Elementary Math Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) and Shelley Jefferson, Carl Cozier 3rd grade teacher, described the three components of the [Bridges program](#): (a) Problems and Investigations; (b) Work Places; and (c) Number Corner. A quick introduction was made to the resources available online on the [Math Learning Center website](#). They then had a quick lesson demo from the 3rd Grade Number Corner, which consisted of a Calendar Grid (looking for patterns),

Fraction Race (examining equivalent fractions) and Rounding Game (whole group) and had a few minutes for questions.

Middle School – Charisse Berner, Director of Teaching and Learning Charisse Berner and Chuck DeVange, Secondary Math TOSA, addressed the middle school math courses and questions from the parents in the session. Documents shared include the [Grade 5 parent letter](#). Parents were encouraged to read the [HS Mathematics in MS article](#) as well. This article is the foundation for many of the changes in our middle school math sequence. Chuck shared a math problem and then had participants share the various strategies they used to solve it and had them consider the [Standards for Mathematical Practice](#) (habits of mind) they used while working on the problem.

High School – Scott Smartt did a sample lesson on “the triangle inequality conjecture” from Agile Mind geometry. Participants used a computer to do an exploration and guided assessment problems. They also used the activity sheets for recording thoughts, re-writing conclusions after discussion, and solving problems related to the topic.

Announcements:

- Smart Trips provided some brochures that outline their program and the presentations that they can make to groups regarding bike safety, how to travel on a bus, etc. Feel free to take a brochure.
- The Squalicum High School football team has a first round state tournament playoff game Friday night in Orting.
- There is no PAC meeting in December - see you in January.

Next Meeting: January 29, 2015