



FUNDRAISING SUMMIT MINUTES

9 a.m. to noon March 1. District Office Board Room, 1306 Dupont St.

Welcome and Introductions, Dr. Greg Baker

Dr. Baker outlined what to expect for the morning and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Why We're Here, Dr. Greg Baker and Assistant Superintendent Steve Clarke

Dr. Baker walked the group through the agenda and indicated that the topic of fundraising isn't a new conversation – and this won't be the last conversation. He said the summit is a thought partner moment and that there will be a broader conversation not just involving parent organizations. He said it feels like the right moment in time to continue this conversation and gave examples of how the conversation has been happening throughout our schools. One example is our middle school's joint fundraiser. [Link to Dr. Baker's PowerPoint slide show.](#)

Dr. Baker asked each table to share with each other what they are thinking right now.

Steve Clarke shared all of the fundraising purchases he has stored in his home currently and asked if anyone brought a white elephant gift. Several group members shared their own experiences with fundraising purchases.

Bellingham Public Schools Foundation Role and Purpose, Executive Director Kim Lund.

[Link to the Foundation Power Point](#) describing the history and role of foundations in general and The Bellingham Public Schools Foundation specifically.

Sharing the Middle School Success Story and School Adoption Bright Spots, Parent Elizabeth Boyle and Executive Director Rob McElroy.

Rob McElroy shared that this subject is not new to the leadership of BPS. He described a book "Our Kids," the leadership team and the parent advisory committee has been studying and shared a brief paragraph from the book.

Elizabeth Boyle shared the most recent and successful experience with middle school fundraising to discontinue the magazine drive and replace it with a more strategic ask.

Breakout Groups: *Designate timekeeper, note-taker and presenter.*

Elementary Room 205: Alderwood, Carl Cozier, Geneva, Lowell, Silver Beach, *Facilitated by Rob McElroy*

Elementary Room 212: Birchwood, Columbia, Family Partnership Program, Northern Heights, Sunnyland, *Facilitated by Executive Director Tanya Rowe*

Elementary (Board Room): Cordata, Parkview, Happy Valley, Roosevelt, Wade King, *Facilitated by Assistant Superintendent Bob Kuehl*

Middle (Room 200): Fairhaven, Kulshan, Shuksan, Whatcom, *Facilitated by Kim Lund*

High School (Dr. Baker's office): Bellingham, Options, Sehome and Squalicum, *Facilitated by Steve Clarke*

Breakout Group Guiding Questions:

- What resonates about what you've heard today?
- What are we fundraising for?
- What should we be fundraising for?
- Discuss draft chart of PTA/District/Foundation funding roles and give input.
- What do you think our next steps should be?

11:30 a.m.-noon Whole Group Sharing by Presenters and Closing Comments, Dr. Baker

Dr. Baker asked the groups to share a portion of their breakout group discussions.

Presenters described main takeaways from each small group discussion:

- Happy to continue the conversation.
- Looking for direction on – needs – roles – what are we fundraising for?
- Encouraged by the One-Schoolhouse philosophy.
- District wide jog-a-thon.
- Communication about giving/fundraising best from schools/principals rather than the district.
- Equity resonated.
- Desire for more and more frequent communication between principals, staff and parent organizations.
- Parents worn out by the time they get to the HS level.
- Communication from principals to booster clubs/ PTA/PTSA/PTO.
- Desire to get all parent groups together.
- Praise for Bellingham Public School Foundations responsiveness to needs.

Dr. Baker shared a book “Beyond the Bake Sale” and thanked the group for taking time to be part of the conversation.

Attendees completed an exit survey (results follow).